

Chair Bradley and Members of Regional Council,

May 20, 2021

For full disclosure, I am a member of Thorold City Council and it is not my intention to interfere in Regional politics. I am writing to you as a resident of the Region of Niagara and not as a representative of the City of Thorold. I want to elaborate on some information on an item in your special council meeting agenda of May 20, 2021.

I understand you will be provided, by Regional Staff, a Canada Games Legacy Facility Update. I'm assuming you will be informed that the Legacy Lease and Consortium agreement as it relates to Canada Games Park has been signed or will be signed by Regional representatives.

What you should know is that the bylaw adopted by the City of Thorold pertaining to this agreement has language that allows any party privy to the agreement to "consent to disclose" details of the agreement. This means any party can block disclosure of the details of the agreement from the public. This was made known at the most recent open Thorold City Council meeting. Therefore, as a municipal ratepayer, I and others may never know how much this project is costing or what we will have in equity at the end of the agreement, along with many other important considerations. I do not believe this is how any public body should operate. "Consent to disclose" should be removed from this agreement which would ensure open and transparent governance. I am requesting Regional Council revoke the consent to disclose clause if it is a stipulation in its own bylaw.

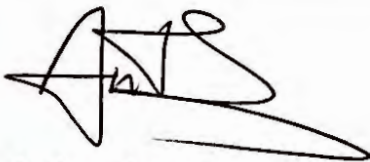
In my opinion open and transparent government is vital. It is beyond me how Thorold City Council under the leadership of Mayor Ugolini would agree to this, but unfortunately that is precisely what happened. I obviously disagree with their decision although I must respect it. Thorold residents are now at the mercy of the other consortium partners to "consent to disclose". The only other alternative if a party does not consent is a Freedom of Information request as I have been advised. The public has a right to know how their tax dollars are spent without fighting to find out.

I respectfully ask you how any open and transparent government should act as stewards of taxpayers money?

I am open to any questions or clarification of my comments.

Regards,

Anthony Longo [REDACTED]

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anthony Longo', with a stylized, elongated flourish extending to the right.

Anthony Longo

[REDACTED], Thorold

The Corporation of the City of Thorold

By-Law No. 62-2021

Being a By-law to Execute a Consortium Agreement and Legacy Lease Agreement for Canada Summer Games Park

Whereas Section 9 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under the Municipal Act, 2001, or any other Act; and

Whereas Section 23.1(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, authorizes a municipality to delegate its powers and duties to a person or body subject to certain restrictions; and

Whereas the Council of the City of Thorold has directed staff to work with the Consortium partners to finalize the definitive agreements at its December 3, 2019 Regular Meeting of Council; and

Whereas the Council of the City of Thorold directed the Clerk to bring forward a by-law to execute the "Consortium and Co-Tenancy Agreement" and the "Legacy Lease Agreement" at its Closed Session meeting held on November 10th, 2020, once these agreements have been finalized; and

Whereas all consortium partners have finalized the "Consortium and Co-Tenancy Agreement" and the "Legacy Lease Agreement" as of Monday May 17th, 2021,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Thorold hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby directed to execute under corporate seal the "Consortium and Co-Tenancy Agreement" and "Legacy Lease Agreement", included as Confidential Appendix A and Appendix B to this by-law; and
2. That upon execution of the documents by all Consortium partners and consent to disclose, included as Confidential Appendix A and Appendix B to this by-law, the "Consortium and Co-Tenancy Agreement" and "Legacy Lease Agreement," be released to the public on the municipal website; and
3. That this by-law shall be deemed to be in force and effect as of May 18th, 2021.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed by Council this 18th day of May, 2021.

Terry Ugolini, Mayor

Joanne Hyde, City Clerk