

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL
MINUTES**

CL 9-2023

Thursday, June 15, 2023

**Council Chamber - In Person and Electronic Meeting
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Council: Bradley (Regional Chair), Bateman, Campion (via Video Conference), Chiocchio, Craitor, Davies, Diodati, Foster, Ganann, Grant (via Video Conference), Heit, Huson, Insinna (via Video Conference), Ip, Jordan (via Video Conference), Junkin, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby, Seaborn, Secord, Siscoe, Sorrento, Vilella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Easton, Gale, Steele, Ugulini

Staff: D. Barnhart, Chief of Staff, Governance (via Video Conference), P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning (via Video Conference), D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Public Works, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, M. Lewis, Client & Support Advisor, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator (via Video Conference), F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources (via Video Conference), B. Menage, Director, Procurement & Strategic Acquisitions, D. Morreale, Director, Development Approvals, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations (via Video Conference), M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy & Economic Development, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development (via Video Conference), A. Stea, Director, Community & Long Range Planning (via Video Conference), C. Stout, General Manager, Niagara Transit Commission (via Video Conference), F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, D. Woiceshyn, Director, Housing Services (via Video Conference)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

Councillor Bateman read the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1 Addition of Items

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Susan Murphy, resident, Town of Lincoln, and Gracia Janes, Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Council as individual delegates respecting Local Official Plan Amendment - 2360 First Street Louth, City of St. Catharines (Minute Item 5.1, Minutes PEDC 6-2023 (Agenda Item 11.4)).

Carried

3.2 Changes in Order of Items

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Siscoe

That the order of the agenda **BE AMENDED** to hear the delegations respecting Local Official Plan Amendment -2360 First Street Louth, City of St. Catharines (Agenda Item 7.1) last under the Delegations section and to consider the items related to this matter (correspondence and Minute Item 5.1, Minutes PEDC 6-2023, (Report PDS 18-2023) immediately following the Delegations section (Agenda Item 7).

Carried

Moved by Councillor Secord
Seconded by Councillor Sorrento

That Council Agenda CL 9-2023, **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

Carried

4. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Niagara Parks 2023 Updates and Initiatives

April Jeffs, Chair, and David Adames, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Parks Commission, provided information respecting Niagara Parks 2023 Updates and Initiatives. Topics of the presentation included:

- Operations and Funding
- Stewards of the Niagara River Corridor
- Post-Pandemic Tourism Landscape
- Economic Development
- Sport Tourism
- Niagara Parks Culinary
- Environmental Stewardship
- Launch of Niagara Parks Foundation
- Regional Connections
- Key Projects

6. CHAIR'S REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMARKS

The Regional Chair provided an update, respecting activities within the Region.

7. DELEGATIONS

7.2 Social Procurement (Minute Item 5.1, Minutes CSC 6-2023 (Agenda Item 11.3))

7.2.1 Martha Tatarnic, Niagara Community Benefits Network

Reverend Martha Tatarnic, Niagara Community Benefits Network, appeared before Council, in support of the development and adoption of a Social Procurement Policy and to request that Niagara Community Benefits Network have representation on the working group.

7.3 Reporting of Vaccination Status Data within the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2027 (Minute Item 6.1, Minutes CSC 6-2023 (Agenda Item 11.3))

7.3.1 Jeff Loucks, Business and Individual Freedom Association

Jeff Loucks, Business and Individual Freedom Association, appeared before Council, to request that Council direct staff to release the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion data publically.

7.1 Local Official Plan Amendment - 2360 First Street Louth, City of St. Catharines (Minute Item 5.1, Minutes PEDC 6-2023 (Agenda Item 11.4))

7.1.1 Wally Braun, Resident, Town of Pelham

Wally Braun, resident, Town of Pelham, appeared before Council, in opposition of the proposed addition to the New Hope Church and requested that Regional Council deny the application for the zoning amendment in its present form as it does not conform to the Greenbelt legislation.

7.1.2 Liz Benneian, Biodiversity and Climate Action Niagara

Liz Benneian, appeared before Council, on behalf of Biodiversity and Climate Action Niagara, to request that Regional Council deny the proposed Local Official Plan Amendment for the expansion of New Hope Church on Greenbelt land.

7.1.3 Reverend David Thomas Braun, New Hope Church Niagara

Reverend David Thomas Braun, New Hope Church, appeared before Council, to request that Regional Council approve the Official Plan Amendment for the New Hope Church expansion, highlighting the community impact of the proposed development.

7.1.4 Susan Murphy, Resident, Town of Lincoln

Susan Murphy, resident, Town of Lincoln, appeared before Council, to request that Councillors vote in favour of the staff recommendation to deny the Local Official Plan Amendment for 2360 First Street Louth, in the City of St. Catharines.

7.1.5 Gracia Janes, Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society

Gracia Janes, appeared before Council, on behalf of The Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS), in support of the staff recommendation to deny the proposed official plan amendment and zoning changes to accommodate development at 2360 Louth Street.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

That the following items **BE DEALT WITH** as follows:

CL-C 29-2023, respecting New Hope Church Expansion Proposal on the Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 30-2023, respecting expansion to New Hope Church at 2360 First St Louth, St Catharines, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 38-2023, respecting decision to expand development on the Niagara Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 39-2023, respecting The Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 40-2023, respecting urgent request to reject the decision to expand development on the Niagara Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 41-2023, respecting Request by New Hope Church, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 42-2023, respecting Proposal to expand building in the Niagara Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 43-2023, respecting urgent request to reject the decision to expand development on the Niagara Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 44-2023, respecting Niagara Region adapting a Social Procurement Strategy, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 45-2023, respecting the Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 46-2023, respecting Expand Development on the Niagara Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 47-2023, respecting Social Procurement, **BE RECEIVED**; and

CL-C 49-2023, respecting urgent request to reject the decision to expand development on the Niagara Greenbelt, **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION

11.4 Planning and Economic Development Committee

11.4.1 Minutes PEDC 6-2023, Minute Item 5.1 respecting Local Official Plan Amendment - 2360 First Street Louth, City of St. Catharines

The motion contained in Minute Item 5.1 was considered separately as follows:

That Report PDS 18-2023, dated June 7, 2023, respecting Local Official Plan Amendment - 2360 First Street Louth, City of St. Catharines, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Local Official Plan Amendment – 2360 First Street Louth - City of St. Catharines, **BE APPROVED**; and
2. That Report PDS 18-2023 **BE CIRCULATED** to the City of St. Catharines and the applicant.

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Davies

That the question **BE CALLED**.

Carried

Recorded Vote:

Yes (17): Champion, Chiocchio, Craitor, Davies, Diodati, Foster, Ganann, Grant, Heit, Junkin, Seaborn, Secord, Siscoe, Sorrento, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen.

No (9): Bateman, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby, Zalepa.

Carried

8. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

8.1 Council Minutes CL 8-2023

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Moved by Councillor Seaborn
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Minutes CL 8-2023 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, **BE ADOPTED.**

Carried

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Ganann

That the following items **BE DEALT WITH** as follows:

CL-C 44-2023, respecting Niagara Region adapting a Social Procurement Strategy, **BE RECEIVED**; and

CL-C 47-2023, respecting Social Procurement, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

10.1 CL-C 37-2023

Niagara Transit Commission Request for Operating Budget Adjustment

Moved by Councillor Siscoe
Seconded by Councillor Craitor

That Correspondence Item CL-C 37-2023, dated June 15, 2023, respecting Niagara Transit Commission Request for Operating Budget Adjustment, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That Regional Council **APPROVES** the adjustment to the Niagara Transit Commission operating budget as outlined in Report NTC 2-2023.

Carried

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION

11.1 Public Works Committee

Minutes PWC 6-2023, Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Minutes PWC 6-2023 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

11.2 Public Health and Social Services Committee

Minutes PHSSC 6-2023, Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Minutes PHSSC 6-2023 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

11.3 Corporate Services Committee

Minutes CSC 6-2023, Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes CSC 6-2023 being the Open Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

11.4 Planning and Economic Development Committee

Minutes PEDC 6-2023, Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Davies

That Minutes PEDC 6-2023 being the Open Session minutes of the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED** save and except Minute Item 5.1.

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That the rules of procedure **BE SUSPENDED** to permit Council to extend this meeting's curfew past 11:00 p.m.

Two-thirds majority having been achieved, the Regional Chair declared the vote

Carried

The Regional Chair called the vote on the motion respecting the Planning and Economic Development Committee minutes and declared it,

Carried

12. **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT(S)**

There were no Chief Administrative Officer's Reports.

13. **MOTIONS**

13.1 Lobbyist Registry Training

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Ip

WHEREAS a Lobbyist Registry is considered a publicly accessible accountability and transparency tool;

WHEREAS Council passed a by-law to establish and maintain a lobbyist registry for the Regional Municipality of Niagara on April 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS given the complexities of lobbying, additional formal education would benefit Councillors in how they interact with those engaging in advocacy activities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That a training session **BE HELD** for members of Council to provide education on Niagara Region's Lobbyist Registry and the responsibilities of Niagara Region Public Office Holders.

Carried

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Huson advised that she would be bringing forward a motion to the next Council meeting respecting strengthening the Code of Conduct for Members of Council.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Motions

As Niagara Region's representative at FCM, Councillor Huson advised Council that motions were passed at the FCM Conference on May 27, 2023, respecting establishing an urgent intergovernmental platform on mental health; a new growth framework for Canadian municipalities; and urgent action needed to address the crisis of homelessness.

16. CLOSED SESSION

Council did not resolve into closed session.

17. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

17.1 Confidential HR 1-2023

A Matter of Labour Relations under s. 239(2)(d) of the Municipal Act, 2001 - Ontario Nurses' Association and its Local 9, Public Health Tentative Agreement

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Sorrento

That Confidential Report HR 1-2023, dated June 15, 2023, respecting A Matter of Labour Relations under s. 239(2) (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001 - Ontario Nurses' Association and its Local 9, Public Health Tentative Agreement, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

18. **BY-LAWS**

Moved by Councillor Secord
Seconded by Councillor Ganann

That the following Bills **BE NOW READ** and **DO PASS**:

Bill 2023-41

A by-law to amend By-law 89-2000 being a By-law to Provide for the Regulation of Traffic On Regional Highways (Parking Prohibition Regional Road 81 Main Street West in The Town of Grimsby).

Bill 2023-42

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its meeting held June 15, 2023.

Carried

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk