

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

CSC 8-2023

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

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

Committee: Bateman (via Video Conference), Bradley (Regional Chair) (via Video Conference), Campion, Davies (via Video Conference), Diodati, Foster (Committee Chair), Gale, Grant, Heit, Ip, Redekop, Secord (via Video Conference), Siscoe (via Video Conference), Whalen (Committee Vice-Chair), Zalepa (via Video Conference)

Other Councillors: Ganann (via Video Conference)

Absent/Regrets: Sorrento

Staff: A. Basic, Legislative Assistant, B. Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, S. Crocco, Legal Counsel, F. Fucile, Manager, Real Estate (via Video Conference), H. Furtado, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, S. Hannell, Manager, Records and Information Management Services (via Video Conference), T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, B. Menage, Director, Procurement & Strategic Acquisitions, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, D. Pasto, Risk Management Program Manager, A. Rotundo, Senior Tax & Revenue Analyst, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Request for Refund on Regional Portion of Development Charges - 4389 Beechwood Road, City of Niagara Falls

Lucas Bahdi, Resident, City of Niagara Falls, appeared before Committee, to request a refund of the Regional portion of development charges for the property located at 4389 Beechwood Road, in the City of Niagara Falls, as he believes they were improperly collected, as a single family dwelling had previously been on the property.

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Diodati

That the request for a refund of the Regional portion of development charges for the property located at 4389 Beechwood Road, in the City of Niagara Falls, **BE REFERRED** to staff to provide additional information on the development charges collected.

Carried

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 CLK 6-2023
Records Retention By-law and Schedule

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Report CLK 6-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting Records Retention By-law and Schedule, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the draft Records Retention By-law (Appendix 1 of Report CLK 6-2023) **BE APPROVED**;
2. That By-law 2013-063 being the Records Retention By-law **BE REPEALED**; and
3. That the necessary By-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council.

Carried

5.2 CLK 7-2023
Lobbyist Registrar Services

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report CLK 7-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting Lobbyist Registrar Services, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the single sourcing of Lobbyist Registrar Services to Boghosian+Allen LLP, to provide Lobbyist Registrar Services for The Regional Municipality of Niagara for a term concluding on October 31, 2024 with an option to extend from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2027;
2. That David Boghosian of Boghosian+Allen LLP, **BE APPOINTED** as the Lobbyist Registrar for The Regional Municipality of Niagara;
3. That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the necessary agreement with Boghosian+Allen LLP, in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal and Court Services; and
4. That the necessary by-law to appoint David Boghosian **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for passage upon execution of the agreement.

Carried

5.3 HR 2-2023
Vehicle and Equipment Use Policy

Moved by Councillor Davies
Seconded by Councillor Secord

That Report HR 2-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting Vehicle and Equipment Use Policy, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That updated Policy C-HR-023 Vehicle and Equipment Use (Appendix 1 to Report HR 2-2023) **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

5.4 CAO 11-2023

Request for Write-Off of Interest Payment, Town of Lincoln

Moved by Councillor Grant

Seconded by Councillor Diodati

That Report CAO 11-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting Request for Write-Off of Interest Payment, Town of Lincoln, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the write-off of interest charges on the 2022 tax installment arrears by the Town of Lincoln in the amount of \$208,692.21.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (13): Bateman, Bradley, Campion, Davies, Diodati, Foster, Gale, Grant, Heit, Ip, Secord, Siscoe, Whalen.

No (0).

Carried

5.5 CSC-C 18-2023

Referred Motion – Support for Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Municipal Code of Conduct Recommendations

Moved by Councillor Campion

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Correspondence Item CSC-C 18-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting Referred Motion – Support for Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Municipal Code of Conduct Recommendations, **BE RECEIVED** and the following **BE APPROVED**:

WHEREAS Bill 5, known as the “Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act”, was an important piece of legislation to strengthen accountability for council members, but failed upon second reading in the Provincial legislature in May 2023;

WHEREAS Bill 5 was endorsed by over 170 municipalities in Ontario including the Niagara Region, recognizing the importance of aligning council conduct policies with workplace violence and harassment policies;

WHEREAS a safe and respectful work environment is a basic expectation for all Ontarians;

WHEREAS serving our communities in a leadership role is a privilege and a responsibility;

WHEREAS improving local public discourse will improve public confidence in local government and increase respect for our municipal institutions and the work we do;

WHEREAS democracy suffers when the public loses confidence in their representatives and institutions; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs launched consultation on strengthening municipal codes of conduct in March of 2021 without any further update.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **SUPPORTS** the recommendations made by AMO that:
 - a) Codes of Conduct should be updated to include workplace safety and harassment policies;
 - b) Codes of Conduct should have an escalating enforcement mechanism through administrative monetary penalties that recognize local circumstances;
 - c) Integrity Commissioners should have better, standardized training to improve consistency of decisions across the province;
 - d) In the most egregious cases, such as harassment or assault, municipalities should be able to apply to a judge to remove a sitting member if recommended by an Integrity Commissioner;
 - e) A member removed under this process should be unable to sit in another election during the term of office removed and the subsequent term;
2. That Regional Council **URGES** the Ontario Government to table and pass legislation to make these changes as soon as possible;
3. That Regional Council **REINFORCES** that the time to act is past due as articulated and expressed by AMO; and
4. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to AMO and Niagara members of provincial parliament and local area municipalities.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 CSC-C-17-2023

Intent to Respond to City of Niagara Falls RFP for Enterprise Resource Planning Solution

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Correspondence Item CSC-C 17-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting Intent to Respond to City of Niagara Falls RFP for Enterprise Resource Planning Solution, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Budget Information Request – Fleet Vehicles

Councillor Redekop requested information regarding the Region's fleet vehicles including the number of vehicles, assigned department, purpose, age and the expected replacement date as well as any policies related to fleet vehicle replacements.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gale
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That the Corporate Services Committee **DO NOW MOVE** into closed session for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature respecting:

A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor Client Privilege and Respecting Litigation – Summary of Civil Lawsuits Commenced Against The Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region), Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) and Niagara Regional Housing (NRH)

Carried

Committee resolved into closed session at 9:55 a.m.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Committee reconvened in open session at 10:31 a.m. with the following individuals in attendance:

Committee: Bateman (via Video Conference), Bradley (Regional Chair) (via Video Conference), Campion, Davies (via Video Conference), Diodati, Foster (Committee Chair), Gale, Grant, Heit, Ip, Redekop, Secord (via Video Conference), Siscoe (via Video Conference), Whalen (Committee Vice-Chair), Zalepa (via Video Conference)

Absent/Regrets: Sorrento

Staff: A. Basic, Legislative Assistant, S. Crocco, Legal Counsel, F. Fucile, Manager, Real Estate (via Video Conference), H. Furtado, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, D. Pasto, Risk Management Program Manager, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

9.1 Confidential CSD 35-2023

A Matter Regarding a Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality under s. 239(2)(c) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Regional Road 81 in the City of St. Catharines

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Confidential Report CSD 35-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting A Matter Regarding a Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality under s. 239(2)(c) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Regional Road 81 in the City of St. Catharines, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

9.2 Confidential CSD 36-2023

A Matter Regarding Proposed Acquisitions of Land by the Municipality under s. 239(2)(c) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Regional Road 45, in the Township of Wainfleet

Moved by Councillor Davies
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Confidential Report CSD 36-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting A Matter Regarding Proposed Acquisitions of Land by the Municipality under s. 239(2)(c) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Regional Road 45, in the Township of Wainfleet, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

9.3 Confidential CSD 37-2023

A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor Client Privilege and Respecting Litigation – Summary of Civil Lawsuits Commenced Against The Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region), Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) and Niagara Regional Housing (NRH)

Moved by Councillor Diodati
Seconded by Councillor Secord

That Confidential Report CSD 37-2023, dated August 9, 2023, respecting A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor Client Privilege and Respecting Litigation – Summary of Civil Lawsuits Commenced Against The Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region), Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) and Niagara Regional Housing (NRH), **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Councillor Foster
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk