

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

CL 3-2024

Thursday, February 22, 2024

**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, Chiocchio, Craitor, Davies*, Diodati*, Foster, Gale, Ganann, Grant, Heit, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Junkin*, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby, Seaborn, Secord, Siscoe*, Sorrento, Steele*, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa
- Absent/Regrets:** Easton, Insinna
- Staff:** E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning*, R. Ball-Condron, Government Relations Specialist, D. Barnhart, Chief of Staff, Governance, A. Basic, Legislative Coordinator, D. Carnegie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, R. Ferron, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services*, H. Furtado, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, S. Klair, Director, Children's Services*, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, R. McDougall, Commander of Logistics and Plannings, Emergency Medical Services*, S. McPetrie, Planner*, B. Menage, Director, Procurement & Strategic Acquisitions*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, S. Norman, Senior Planner*, T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy & Economic Development, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, A. Stea, Director, Community & Long Range Planning*, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, H. Vemuri, Manager, Internal Audit, N. Wolfe, Director, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services
- Others Present:** C. Stout, General Manager, Niagara Transit Commission*

* indicates members who participated electronically, all other members participated in person

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Huson read the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

3.1 **Addition of Items**

Moved by Councillor Sorrento
Seconded by Councillor Craitor

That Bryan Blue, Moises Vasquez and Daisy Rivadeneria, International Medical Graduates Support Group, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Council as a delegation respecting Physician Recruitment 2023 Annual Review (Minutes Item 4.1, Minutes PHSSC 2-2024 (Agenda Item 11.2)).

Carried

3.2 **Changes in Order of Items**

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Council Agenda CL 3-2024, **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

Carried

4. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Councillor Gale declared a conflict with respect to Report COM 5-2024, (Minute Item 6.3, Minutes PHSSC 2-2024 (Agenda Item 11.2)), respecting RFP-1542023 Emergency Shelter Negotiated Request for Proposal (NRFP) Award Results CC2, as he is an honorary Board member of Boys and Girls Club of Niagara, therefore, he did not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

6. **CHAIR'S REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMARKS**

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

7. DELEGATIONS

Councillor Foster rose on a point of order to regarding the sign being displayed by a member of the public in the gallery.

Moved by Councillor Sorrento
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That the sign displayed in the gallery disparaging staff **BE REMOVED** as it is a workplace harassment issue.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (28): Champion, Chiocchio, Craitor, Davies, Diodati, Foster, Gale, Ganann, Grant, Heit, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby, Seaborn, Secord, Siscoe, Sorrento, Steele, Ugolini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (1): Bateman.

Carried

7.1 Physician Recruitment 2023 Annual Review (Minute Item 4.1, Minutes PHSSC 2-2024 (Agenda Item 11.2))

7.1.1 Bryan Blue, Moises Vasquez, and Daisy Rivadeneria, International Medical Graduates Support Group

Moises Vasques, Daisy Rivadeneri and Bryan Blue, International Medical Graduates Support Group, appeared before Council to provide information on physician shortages in Canada, suggest solutions focused on addressing the shortage in Niagara Region and noted the main roadblock for internationally trained health care professionals is the need for recent practice.

8. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**8.1 Council Minutes CL 2-2024
Thursday, January 25, 2024**

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Minutes CL 2-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on Thursday, January 25, 2024, **BE ADOPTED**.

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Minutes CL 2-2024, being the minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on January 25, 2024, and the video of this meeting **BE REFERRED** to the Integrity Commissioner for review in order to deliver a training session in Q2 that would provide an opportunity to clarify and learn from the proceedings of this meeting.

Carried

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

10.1 CL-C 23-2024

Niagara Transit Commission Request - One-Time Levy Adjustment for Employee Future Benefit (Report NTC 3-2024)

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Correspondence Item CL-C 23-2024, dated February 22, 2024, respecting Niagara Transit Commission Request - One-Time Levy Adjustment for Employee Future Benefit (Report NTC 3-2024), **BE RECEIVED**;

That Regional Council **APPROVES** an amendment to By-law 2023-93, being a By-law to adopt the 2024 Niagara Transit Commission Budget and Requisition for The Regional Municipality of Niagara; and

That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Carried

10.2 CL-C 24-2024

Niagara Transit Commission Request - In-Year FTE Complement and Budget Adjustment - Chair-A-Van Assumption

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Grant

That Correspondence Item CL-C 24-2024, dated February 22, 2024, respecting Niagara Transit Commission Request – In-Year FTE Complement and Budget Adjustment – Chair-A-Van Assumption (Report NTC 4-2024), **BE RECEIVED**; and

That Regional Council **APPROVES** the Niagara Transit Commission request for the addition of nine permanent full-time equivalents (FTEs), totaling \$665,833 gross and \$0 net for 2024, to be fully funded within the 2024 Niagara Transit Commission operating budget.

Carried

10.3 CL-C 25-2024

Niagara Transit Commission Recommended Community Member Appointment to the Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor Grant
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Correspondence Item CL-C 25-2024, dated February 22, 2024, respecting Niagara Transit Commission Recommended Community Member Appointment to the Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the recommended community member appointment for the Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee, contained in Confidential Appendix 1 to Memorandum CL-C 25-2024, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION

11.1 Public Works Committee

Minutes PWC 2-2024, Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Moved by Councillor Gale

Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Minutes PWC 2-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

11.1.1 Minutes PWC 2-2024, Minute Item 6.1 respecting St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge (Structure 08125) Replacement Cost Sharing and Divestiture Agreement

The motion contained in Minute Item 6.1 was considered separately as follows:

That Report PW 4-2024, dated February 6, 2024, respecting St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge (Structure 08125) Replacement Cost Sharing and Divestiture Agreement, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to negotiate a cost sharing and divestiture agreement with Canadian National Railway Company (CNR) for the replacement of the St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge (Structure 081215);
2. That Regional Council **APPROVE**, in principle, the transfer of ownership including maintenance responsibility for the substructure and superstructure of the St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge to The Regional Municipality of Niagara (Region), subject to the execution of a Cost Sharing and Divestiture Agreement between the Region and CNR, and the receipt of related funding from CNR;
3. That financing in the amount of \$14,600,000 gross and \$5,954,010 net **BE INITIATED** from the approved 2024 capital budget for St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge (Structure 081215) and that the project **BE FUNDED** as follows:
 - Debt \$5,954,010
 - Development Charges – Roads \$517,740
 - City of St. Catharines \$528,250
 - CNR \$7,600,000;

4. That the Commissioner of Public Works **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the Cost Sharing and Divestiture Agreement between the Region and CNR, in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services;
5. That any future maintenance funding payments to be received by the Region from CNR as per the cost sharing and divestiture agreement **BE TRANSFERRED** into the General Capital Levy Reserve upon receipt; and
6. That the necessary by-law to authorize long-term debt financing in the amount of \$5,954,010, for St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge (Structure 081215) **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Regional Council for consideration in the form attached as Appendix 2 to Report PW 4-2024.

Carried

11.1.2 Balance of the Recommendations from the Public Works Committee

The Regional Chair called the vote on the balance of the recommendations from the Public Works Committee and declared it,

Carried

11.2 Public Health and Social Services Committee
Minutes PHSSC 2-2024, Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That Minutes PHSSC 2-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

11.3 Corporate Services Committee

Minutes CSC 2-2024, Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes CSC 2-2024 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

11.4 Planning and Economic Development Committee

Minutes PEDC 2-2024, Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Davies

That Minutes PEDC 2-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

11.5 Audit Committee

Minutes AC 1-2024, Monday, February 12, 2024

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Minutes AC 1-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on Monday, February 12, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT(S)

12.1 CAO 2-2024
Niagara Week 2024

Moved by Councillor Villella
Seconded by Councillor Grant

That Report CAO 2-2024, dated February 22, 2024, respecting Niagara Week 2024, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

13. MOTIONS

There were no motions for consideration.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Huson advised that she would be bringing forward a motion to the next Council meeting respecting a social and economic prosperity review.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Council did not resolve into closed session.

16. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

16.1 Confidential PDS 5-2024

A Matter Respecting Information Supplied in Confidence by Another Level of Government under s. 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Niagara Irrigation Initiative

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Ganann

That Confidential Report PDS 5-2024, dated February 22, 2024, respecting A Matter Respecting Information Supplied in Confidence by Another Level of Government under s. 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Niagara Irrigation Initiative, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

17. BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Junkin
Seconded by Councillor Jordan

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

Bill 2024-10

A by-law to authorize the borrowing upon amortizing debentures in the principal amount of \$4,645,000.00 for a capital work of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet.

Bill 2024-11

A by-law to accept, assume and dedicate Part 5 on 30R-16081; City of St. Catharines as part of Regional Road No. 81 (St. Paul Street West)

Bill 2024-12

A by-law to dedicate Part 6 on 30R-16081; City of St. Catharines as part of Regional Road No. 81 (St. Paul Street West)

Bill 2024-13

A by-law to accept, assume and dedicate Part 1 on 59R-17412; City of Niagara Falls as part of Regional Road No. 20 (Ferry Street)

Bill 2024-14

A by-law to dedicate Part 1 on 30R-16060, City of St. Catharines as part of Regional Road No. 71 (Sir Isaac Brock Way)

Bill 2024-15

A by-law to authorize long-term financing (1-30 Years) in the amount of \$5,954,010 for Niagara Region Capital Project St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge (Structure 081215)

Bill 2024-16

A by-law to amend By-law 2023-93 being a By-law to adopt the 2024 Niagara Transit Commission Budget and Requisition for The Regional Municipality of Niagara – Special Levy Tax for Transit.

Bill 2024-17

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the action of Regional Council at its meeting held February 22, 2024.

A request was made to vote on Bill 2024-15 separately. The Regional Chair called the vote on Bill 2024-15 and declared it,

Carried

The Regional Chair called the vote on the balance of the Bills, and declared it,

Carried

18. OTHER BUSINESS

18.1 Niagara Week 2024

Councillor Kaiser requested Council be provided with an updated list of potential delegations for Niagara Week 2024, reflecting suggestions made during the discussion of Report CAO 2-2024.

18.2 Role of Integrity Commissioner

Councillor Bateman enquired about the role of the Integrity Commissioner. Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, advised that the role of the Integrity Commissioner is to investigate Code of Conduct complaints, provide advice to Councillors with respect to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and provide training for Regional Council.

19. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk