

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

CL 15-2024

Thursday, October 24, 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, Chiocchio, Craitor*, Davies, Diodati, Easton, Foster, Gale, Ganann, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin*, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby, Seaborn, Secord*, Sorrento, Steele*, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Campion, Grant, Siscoe, Villella

Staff: D. Barnhart, Chief of Staff, Governance*, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer, S. Crocco, Legal Counsel*, R. Daw, Associate Director*, Wastewater Operations, Maintenance & Laboratory Services*, S. Dunsmore, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering, S. Fraser, Associate Director, Transportation Planning*, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, S. Hendrie, Chief Information Officer*, M. Iafrate, Financial & Special Projects Consultant*, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, S. Klair, Director, Childrens Services*, H. Koning, Acting Commissioner, Community Services, P. Lambert, Director, Water Wastewater Services, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, D. Morreale, Director, Growth Management & Planning, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works, M. Robinson, Director, Strategic Transformation Office, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, A. Stea, Director, Community & Long-Range Planning*, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, D. Yousif, Manager, Waste Policy & Planning*

Others Present: Niagara Regional Housing Board Members: B.A. Baker*, B.-L. Souter*

* indicates participants who attended the meeting electronically, all others participated in person

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Kaiser read the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

3. **SINGING OF 'O CANADA'**

Regional Chair Bradley asked all in attendance to stand for the singing of 'O Canada'.

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

4.1 **Addition of Items**

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Alicia Marshall, Niagara Advocates with Lived/Living Experience, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Council as a delegate respecting Endorsement of Ontario Big City Mayors' "Solve the Crisis" Campaign (Agenda Item 15.1).

The Regional Chair informed Council that as the delegation request was received after the deadline, it would require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present to pass.

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

Carried

4.2 **Changes in Order of Items**

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That the order of the agenda **BE AMENDED** to move the consideration of the motion respecting Endorsement of Ontario Big City Mayors' "Solve the Crisis" Campaign (Agenda Item 15.1) to immediately following the delegation on this matter (Agenda Item 9.1.1).

Carried

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Council Agenda CL 15-2024, **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

Carried

5. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

At this point in the meeting, Regional Chair Bradley turned the Chair over to Councillor Zalepa, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing Board, to call the Annual General Meeting of the Niagara Regional Housing Corporation to order.

6. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NIAGARA REGIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION**

6.1 **Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum**

Councillor Zalepa, Niagara Regional Housing Board Chair, called the Niagara Regional Housing Annual General Meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. and confirmed that quorum for the meeting was achieved.

6.2 **Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Jordan
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Niagara Regional Housing Corporation **BE ADOPTED**.

Carried

6.3 **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6.4 **Adoption of Minutes**

Annual General Meeting held October 19, 2023 (Excerpt from Regional Council Minutes CL 14-2023)

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That the Minutes of the October 19, 2023, Annual General Meeting of the Niagara Regional Housing Corporation, **BE ADOPTED**.

Carried

6.5 Confirmation of Financial Statements and Auditor's Report

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the fiscal period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, as approved by the Board of Directors at their April 19, 2024 meeting, **BE CONFIRMED**.

Carried

6.6 Appointment of Auditor for 2024 Fiscal Year

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That KPMG **BE APPOINTED** as the Auditor for Niagara Regional Housing for the fiscal year of 2024.

Carried

6.7 Ratification of 2023 Motions

Moved by Councillor Seaborn
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments, elections, resolutions, special resolutions, by-laws and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the last Annual General Meeting of Niagara Regional Housing on October 19, 2023, up to and including those of October 7, 2024, are hereby **RATIFIED** and **CONFIRMED**.

Carried

6.8 Niagara Regional Housing Board Member Re-Appointments

Moved by Councillor Davies
Seconded by Councillor Huson

That Regional Council **RE-APPOINTS** those Community Based Directors whose terms expire in 2024, specifically Betty Ann Baker, Betty-Lou Souter, David Mole, and Drew Toth, to the Board of Directors for Niagara Regional Housing for a term ending on October 31, 2025.

Carried

6.9 Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That the Annual General Meeting of the Niagara Regional Housing Corporation, **BE ADJOURNED**.

Carried

There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting of the Niagara Regional Housing Corporation adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

7.1 Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) - Awards of Excellence Presentation

Bev Hendry, Immediate Past President, Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA), appeared before Council to present Niagara Region with the Award of Excellence – Collaboration with External Organizations, on behalf of CAMA for the Niagara Region Transit Consolidation Project.

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

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

9. **DELEGATIONS**

9.1 Endorsement of Ontario Big City Mayors' "Solve the Crisis" Campaign (Agenda Item 15.1)

9.1.1 Alicia Marshall, Niagara Advocates with Lived/Living Experience

Alicia Marshall, Niagara Advocates with Lived/Living Experience, appeared before Council to express concern with the motion respecting Endorsement of the Ontario Big City Mayors' "Solve the Crisis" Campaign, highlighting the importance of including those with lived/living experience in the decision/policy making process involving homelessness, mental health and addiction, because of the valuable insight they can provide.

15. MOTIONS

15.1 Endorsement of Ontario Big City Mayors' "Solve the Crisis" Campaign

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Davies

WHEREAS an unprecedented number of Ontarians are homeless, living in encampments and other unsafe spaces, and too many are dying from addictions and mental health issues;

WHEREAS the province has provided additional funding for mental health, addictions, and homelessness programs, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province;

WHEREAS, together with various community partners, the Region of Niagara has been tackling this issue head on, funding various programs and spaces to find solutions;

WHEREAS despite the success of many of these programs, the crisis continues to grow and regions and municipalities need help; and

WHEREAS all of these issues fall primarily under provincial jurisdiction, and regions and municipalities should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Region of Niagara, through a letter written by the Regional Chair, **JOIN** Ontario's Big City Mayors in calling on the Provincial Government:
 - a) To appoint a responsible Ministry and Minister with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions, and wrap around supports; and
 - b) Have this Minister strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community, and the tourism industry to develop a Made in Ontario Action Plan;
 - c) To provide municipalities with the tools and resources to transition those in encampments to more appropriate supports, when deemed necessary;

- d) To commit to funding the appropriate services these individuals need, community by community, where there are gaps in the system; and
 - e) To invest in 24/7 Community Hubs / Crisis Centres to relieve pressure on emergency centres and first responders; and
2. That the Regional Chair's letter and this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; Niagara's 12 local area municipalities; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM); and the St. Catharines Downtown Association.

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That clause 1 b **BE AMENDED** as follows:

- 1. b) Have this Minister strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community, the tourism industry **and those with lived/living experience**, to develop a Made in Ontario Action Plan;

The Regional Chair called the vote on the amendment to the motion.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (14): Bateman, Chiocchio, Craitor, Diodati, Easton, Gale, Jordan, Junkin, Kaiser, Redekop, Seaborn, Ugulini, Whalen, Zalepa.

No (13): Davies, Foster, Ganann, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Morocco, Rigby, Secord, Sorrento, Steele, Witteveen.

Carried

The Regional Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, and declared it,

Recorded Vote:

Yes (27): Bateman, Chiocchio, Craitor, Davies, Diodati, Easton, Foster, Gale, Ganann, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby, Seaborn, Secord, Sorrento, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (0).

Carried

10. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

10.1 Council Minutes CL 14-2024
Thursday, September 26, 2024

Moved by Councillor Jordan
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Minutes CL 14-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on Thursday, September 26, 2024, **BE ADOPTED.**

Carried

11. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no correspondence items.

12. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no items for consideration.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION

13.1 Public Works Committee
Minutes PWC 9-2024, Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Minutes PWC 9-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED.**

Carried

13.2 Public Health and Social Services Committee
Minutes PHSSC 9-2024, Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Moved by Councillor Chiocchio
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Minutes PHSSC 9-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

13.3 Corporate Services Committee
Minutes CSC 9-2024, Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Secord

That Minutes CSC 9-2024 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

13.4 Planning and Economic Development Committee
Minutes PEDC 9-2024, Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Davies

That Minutes PEDC 9-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

13.5 Budget Review Committee of the Whole
Minutes BRCOTW 3-2024, Thursday, October 17, 2024

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes BRCOTW 3-2024 being the Open Session minutes of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

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

There were no Chief Administrative Officer Reports.

16. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

17. **CLOSED SESSION**

Committee did not resolve into closed session.

18. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

18.1 Confidential Report CAO 15-2024

Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual under s. 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Recruitment, Commissioner, Community Services

Moved by Councillor Chiocchio
Seconded by Councillor Sorrento

That Confidential Report CAO 15-2024, dated October 24, 2024, respecting Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual under s. 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Recruitment, Commissioner, Community Services, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendation contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

19. BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

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

Bill 2024-66

A by-law to authorize the execution of a loan and grant agreement for the Green Municipal Fund with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines.

Bill 2024-67

A by-law to authorize the execution of a loan and grant agreement for the Green Municipal Fund with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and The Corporation of the City of Welland.

Bill 2024-68

A by-law to establish a system for administering notices and other matters under the Trespass to Property Act., R.S.O. 1990, c.T.21.

Bill 2024-69

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its meeting held October 24, 2024.

Carried

20. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

21. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk