

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

PEDC 1-2025

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

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

Committee: Bateman, Bradley (Regional Chair)*, Champion*, Davies*, Foster, Ganann*, Huson, Junkin*, Kaiser*, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby, Seaborn*, Siscoe, Ugulini, Witteveen*

Absent/Regrets: Jordan, Steele

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning*, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer*, E. Chou, Manager, Trade & Investment, R. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, A. Korchok, Chief of Staff, Governance*, B. Landry, Manager, Economic Research and Analysis, K. Lotimer, Deputy Regional Clerk, S. Madder, Manager, Corporate Strategy*, M. Marino, Associate Director, Economic Development, D. Morreale, Director, Growth Management & Planning, R. Muzzell, Manager, Program Financial Support*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works*, M. Robinson, Director, Partnerships & Communication, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, A. Stea, Director, Corporate Strategy & Community Sustainability, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Councillor Bateman read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. **SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

4.1 **Call for Nominations for Committee Chair**

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Councillor Huson **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

4.2 **Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Chair**

The Deputy Clerk called a final time for nominations for the position of Planning and Economic Development Committee Chair, there being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for the remainder of this term of Council, **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

4.3 **Voting for the Position of Committee Chair**

There being only one nominee for the position of Committee Chair, Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, announced that Councillor Huson would be the Planning and Economic Development Committee Chair for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

4.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Huson

That Councillor Kaiser **BE NOMINATED** as Vice-Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

4.5 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

The Deputy Clerk called a final time for nominations for the position of Planning and Economic Development Committee Vice-Chair, there being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Ugulini
Seconded by Councillor Bateman

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for the remainder of this term of Council, **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

4.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Vice-Chair

There being only one nominee for the position of Committee Vice-Chair, Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, announced that Councillor Kaiser would be the Planning and Economic Development Committee Vice-Chair for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Huson assumed the chair.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

6. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1 PDS-C 3-2025

Recommendation for Consideration from the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee held on November 29, 2024

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee **REQUEST** that Regional Council support requesting the Regional Chair sending a letter to the Province and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for funding to support additional full-time Public Health Inspectors.

Carried

8. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 PDS 2-2025

2024 Niagara Employment Inventory Results

Cynthia Tia, Planner, and Blake Landry, Economic Research and Analysis Manager, provided information respecting 2024 Niagara Employment Inventory Results. Topics of the presentation included:

- Employment Inventory Overview
- How is the Data Used?
- 5-Year Participation/Business Rate Trend
- 5-Year Full-time/Part-time Trend
- 2-Year Closed Businesses by Sector
- Top 5 North American Industry Classification System Sectors: Businesses/Jobs
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Demographics & Primary Sector Breakdown
- Engaging the Business Community
- Key Highlights

Moved by Councillor Ugolini
Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

That Report PDS 2-2025, dated February 5, 2025, respecting 2024 Niagara Employment Inventory Results, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

8.2 ED 2-2025

Economic Development Foreign Direct Investment (FDi) Update

Eric Chou, Manager, Trade and Investment, provided information respecting Investment Attraction Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Purpose
- 2024 in Review
- Investment Attraction Activities
- Asahi Kasei Ground-breaking
- Site Visits with Partners
- 2025 Q1 and Q2 Investment Attraction Activities
- Q4 2024 Foreign Direct Investment Pipeline

Moved by Councillor Ganann
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report ED 2-2025, dated February 5, 2025, respecting Economic Development Foreign Direct Investment (FDi) Update, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide the total dollar value of incentive grants provided to attract the \$1.565 billion total investment in Niagara in 2024. Councillor Bateman.

Consider including the dollar value of incentive grants provided in future reports respecting investment in Niagara. Councillor Kaiser.

8. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Junkin
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

PDS-C 1-2025
Regional Environmental Impact Study Guidelines

ED 1-2025
Economic Development Update Q3 and Q4

Carried

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Councillor Huson
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk