

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

**CL 3-2025**

**Thursday, February 20, 2025**

**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, Diodati\*, Easton\*, Foster, Gale, Ganann\*, Heit, Huson, Insinna\*, Ip, Jordan\*, Junkin\*, Kaiser\*, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby\*, Seaborn\*, Secord\*, Siscoe, Ugulini, Villella\*, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa\*

Absent/Regrets: Craitor, Davies, Grant, Sorrento, Steele

Staff: B. Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy\*, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer, R. Ferron, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services\*, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, C. Habermebl, Director, Waste Management Services\*, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, H. Koning, Commissioner, Community Services, A. Korchok, Chief of Staff, Governance, P. Lambert, Director, Water & Wastewater Services\*, C. Lampman, Manager, Environmental Planning\*, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, D. Morreale, Director, Growth Management & Planning\*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Raquion, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer\*, T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works\*, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, A. Stea, Director, Corporate Strategy & Community Sustainability, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, C. Tia, Planner\*, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

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

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Huson 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**

There were no items added to the agenda.

**4.2 Changes in Order of Items**

There were no changes in the order of items on the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Huson

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Council Agenda CL 3-2025, **BE ADOPTED**.

**Carried**

**5. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Councillor Morocco declared a conflict with respect to the portion of Council Minutes CL 2-2025, being the Open and Closed Session Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, January 23, 2025 (Agenda Items 9.1 and 16.1) concerning Confidential Report PDS 1-2025 respecting A Matter of Litigation Affecting the Municipality under s. 239(2)(e) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Region's Participation in Two Ontario Land Tribunal Appeals Post Proclamation (Official Plan Amendment 147 and 8970 and 9015 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, as she owns a property near the subject lands; therefore she did not take part in any discussion or vote on this matter.

**6. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

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

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

**8. DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**9. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

9.1 Council Minutes CL 2-2025  
Thursday, January 23, 2025

Moved by Councillor Diodati  
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes CL 2-2025 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, **BE ADOPTED.**

**Carried**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

Moved by Councillor Ganann  
Seconded by Councillor Kaiser

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

CL-C 17-2025  
Notification of Voluntary Unpaid Leaves of Absence

CL-C 18-2025  
Revised Interim and Final Levy Payments and Dates (Appendix 5, Report CSD 6-2025)

CL-C 19-2025  
Town of Fort Erie Motion – Request Provincial Funding Remain Available to Support Fort Erie's Primary Care Initiative

CL-C 21-2025  
United States Tariff Update

A request was made to consider Correspondence Item CL-C 19-2025 separately.

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

**Carried**

10.3 CL-C 19-2025

Town of Fort Erie Motion - Request Provincial Funding Remain Available to Support Fort Erie's Primary Care Initiative

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Correspondence Item CL-C 19-2025, being a letter from the Town of Fort Erie dated October 22, 2024, respecting Request for Provincial Funding Remain Available to Support Fort Erie's Primary Care Initiative, **BE RECEIVED**;

That Regional Council **SUPPORT** the Town of Fort Erie in advocating to the Minister of Health for funding all necessary services at the new South Niagara hospital without the removal or reallocation of operational funding from Douglas Memorial for the Urgent Care Centre; and

That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Ford; the Ontario Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; the Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Justin Trudeau; the federal Minister of Health, Mark Holland; the four MPPs and MPs who represent Niagara; and the local area municipalities in Niagara.

**Carried**

11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

11.1 PW 3-2025

Award of Contract 2023-T-194 York Road Watermain Replacement, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Moved by Councillor Witteveen  
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Report PW 3-2025, dated February 4, 2025, respecting Award of Contract 2023-T-194 York Road Watermain Replacement, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Contract 2023-T-194 York Road Watermain Replacement in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake **BE AWARDED** to the lowest compliant bidder, Alfred Beam Excavating Limited, at their bid price of \$9,143,350 (including 13% HST).

**Carried**

11.2 CL-C 20-2025

Declaration of Vacant Regional Council Seat

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Memorandum CL-C 20-2025, dated February 20, 2025, respecting Declaration of Vacant Regional Council Seat, **BE RECEIVED**;

That, pursuant to Section 262(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, the seat held by Diana Huson, Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham, **BE DECLARED** vacant effective March 15, 2025; and

That Regional Council **REQUESTS** the Town of Pelham advise of its preferred method of filling the vacancy on Regional Council by April 18, 2025.

**Carried**

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION**

12.1 Public Health and Social Services Committee

Minutes PHSSC 2-2025, Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Moved by Councillor Chiocchio  
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Minutes PHSSC 2-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

12.2 Corporate Services Committee

Minutes CSC 1-2025, Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes CSC 1-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

12.2.1 Minutes CSC 1-2025, Minute Item 7.1 respecting 2025 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates

The motion contained in Minute Item 7.1 was considered separately as follows:

That Report CSD 6-2025, dated February 5, 2025, respecting 2025 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the following tax ratios and sub-class reductions for the 2025 taxation year:

Property Classification	Tax Ratio	Sub-Class Reduction
Residential	1.000000	
New Multi-Residential	1.000000	
Multi-Residential	1.970000	
Commercial	1.734900	
Commercial – Excess Land	1.734900	
Commercial – Vacant Land	1.734900	
Industrial	2.630000	
Industrial – Excess Land	2.630000	
Industrial – Vacant Land	2.630000	
Aggregate Extraction	2.140048	
Pipeline	1.702100	
Farmland	0.250000	
Managed Forest	0.250000	
Farmland Awaiting Development 1	1.000000	25.00%
Farmland Awaiting Development 2	Class Ratio	
Landfill Sites	2.940261	

2. That the interim and final Regional levy amounts and dates **BE APPROVED** in accordance with Appendix 5 to Report CSD 6-2025;
3. That the necessary by-laws **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Local Area Municipalities for information; and
4. That Report CSD 6-2025 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Local Area Municipalities for information.

Moved by Councillor Siscoe  
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That the motion **BE AMENDED** to add an additional clause as follows:

**5. *That, as part of the incentive review scheduled to take place in 2026, staff BE DIRECTED to review the New Multi-Residential Sub-Class as part of the incentive strategy.***

**Carried**

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

**Carried**

#### 12.2.2 Balance of Recommendations from Corporate Services Committee

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

**Carried**

#### 12.3 Planning and Economic Development Committee Minutes PEDC 1-2025, Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Moved by Councillor Witteveen  
Seconded by Councillor Siscoe

That Minutes PEDC 1-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

#### 12.4 Committee of the Whole Minutes COTW 1-2025, Thursday, February 6, 2025

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Minutes COTW 1-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, February 6, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

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

There were no Chief Administrative Officer's reports.

**14. MOTIONS**

**14.1 Supporting Niagara's Business Community and Advocating for Economic Resilience Measures**

Moved by Councillor Huson  
Seconded by Councillor Ip

WHEREAS Niagara is a critical hub for trade between the United States and Canada with our economy benefitting greatly from an historically positive trade relationship with the United States;

WHEREAS Niagara's business community has repeatedly shown its strength and resiliency navigating extreme economic uncertainty;

WHEREAS the U.S. market accounts for 72 per cent of total exports from Niagara businesses, with export trade directly supporting over 30,000 jobs in Niagara;

WHEREAS in 2023, 532 Niagara businesses exported \$5.9 billion in goods to the United States; and

WHEREAS Niagara's identity as a border community places the region at particular economic risk during periods of trade uncertainty.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **AFFIRMS** its strong support for the local Niagara businesses that rely on positive trade relationships with the United States to contribute to our local economy;
2. That Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to work alongside staff to undertake advocacy efforts calling on the Federal and Provincial governments to enhance the economic strength and resiliency of Niagara and other communities by:
  - a) Reducing barriers to interprovincial trade, enhancing internal trade and economic flow within Canada;
  - b) Encouraging the formation of local trade alliances to strengthen regional supply chains and ensure greater self-reliance;
  - c) Supporting export market diversification by promoting the intensification of foreign market development and opportunities in places such as the United Kingdom and European Union;



- d) Increasing investment to support economic resiliency, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) promotion, workforce development support and expedited development of strategic growth sectors;
  - e) Reinforcing the necessity of a strong and integrated Canada-U.S. trade relationship, emphasizing mutual benefits; and
  - f) Exploring the need for a border community economic alliance and trade strategy for the benefits of border communities across Canada;
3. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to Niagara's Area Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, Niagara's Chambers of Commerce and BIAs and the Niagara Industrial Association.

The following friendly **amendments** to Clause 2 of the motion were accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

- c) Supporting export market diversification by promoting the intensification of foreign market development and opportunities in places such as the United Kingdom and European Union **or other favourable markets**;
- g) ***Removing any impediments for municipalities to buy Canadian for capital projects***;

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

**Carried**

**15. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

**16. CLOSED SESSION**

Council did not resolve into closed session.

**17. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Council did not resolve into closed session.

**18. BY-LAWS**

Moved by Councillor Campion  
Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

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

Bill 2025-03

A by-law to set and levy the rate of taxation for Regional general and special purposes for the year 2025.

Bill 2025-04

A by-law to set tax ratios and tax rate reductions for the prescribed property subclasses for Regional purposes and area municipal purposes for the year 2025.

Bill 2025-05

A by-law to amend By-law No. 2024-81, being a by-law to establish fees and charges for the services and activities provided by the Regional Municipality of Niagara and for the use of its property.

Bill 2025-06

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its meeting held on February 20, 2025

**Carried**

**19. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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Jim Bradley  
Regional Chair

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Kelly Lotimer  
Deputy Regional Clerk

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk