

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

**CL 6-2025**

**Thursday, April 24, 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, Craitor\*, Easton, Foster, Gale, Ganann, Heit, Insinna\*, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Morocco, Olson, Seaborn, Secord\*, Siscoe, Sorrento, Steele\*, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Davies, Diodati, Grant, Kaiser, Redekop, Rigby, Zalepa

Staff: D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer, S. Fraser, Associate Director, Transportation Planning, D. Gibbs, Regional Solicitor/Director, Legal & Court Services\*, C. Habermebl, Director, Waste Management Services, R. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, S. Klair, Director, Children's Services\*, H. Koning, Commissioner, Community Services, A. Korchok, Chief of Staff, Governance, P. Lambert, Director, Water & Wastewater Services\*, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, B. Menage, Director, Procurement Services, D. Morreale, Director, Growth Management & Planning, S. Norman, Senior Planner\*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations, M. Raquion, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer\*, B. Ray, Associate Director, Facility Project Assets & Energy\*, T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, A. Stea, Director, Strategic Initiatives\*, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, B. Wilson, Senior Legal Counsel

\* 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 6:30 p.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Ganann 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**

Moved by Councillor Bateman  
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That the order of the agenda **BE AMENDED** to move the consideration of Memorandum CL-C 26-2025, respecting Filling of Vacant Regional Council Seat (Agenda Item 11.1), to precede Presentations (Agenda Item 6).

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Seaborn  
Seconded by Councillor Siscoe

That Council Agenda CL 6-2025, **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

**Carried**

5. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**11.1 CL-C 26-2025**

Filling of Vacant Regional Council Seat

Moved by Councillor Junkin

Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Memorandum CL-C 26-2025, dated April 24, 2025, respecting Filling of Vacant Regional Council Seat – Town of Pelham, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That, further to the correspondence received from the Town of Pelham, dated March 27, 2025, respecting Town of Pelham Vacant Regional Council Seat, Regional Council **APPROVE** the recommendation of the Town of Pelham to appoint Wayne Olson to fill the vacant seat of Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham.

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Junkin

Seconded by Councillor Bateman

That Wayne Olson **BE APPOINTED** as Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham to fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the existing Council term (until November 14, 2026); and

That the Regional Clerk **ADMINISTER** the Declaration of Office to Wayne Olson at this time in order that Mr. Olson can assume his seat immediately after taking the Declaration of Office.

**Carried**

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, administered the Declaration of Office to Mr. Wayne Olson who then took his seat in the Council Chamber.

Moved by Councillor Witteveen

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Councillor Olson **BE APPOINTED** to the Public Works Committee, Public Health and Social Services Committee, Corporate Services Committee, Planning & Economic Development Committee, Audit Committee, and Agricultural Policy and Action Committee, effective immediately, for the remainder of this term of Council; and

That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Terms of Reference **BE AMENDED** to provide for representation from up to seven (7) members of Regional Council.

**Carried**

**6. PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1 Niagara Parks Commission 2025 Updates and Initiatives**

Bob Gale, Chair, and David Adames, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Parks Commission, provided information respecting Niagara Parks Commission 2025 Updates and Initiatives. Topics of the presentation included:

- Operations and Funding
- Environmental Stewardship
- Cultural Stewardship
- Tourism Landscape
- Capital Projects
- Benefits to Local Communities
- Regional Connections
- Collaboration with Niagara Region and Metrolinx
- Niagara Parks Marina
- Redevelopment of Toronto Power
- Sustainable Tourism Growth
- Niagara Parks Foundation

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

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

**8. DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Vision Zero Road Safety Strategic Plan (Minute Item 6.1, Minutes PWC 4-2025 (Agenda Item 12.3))**

**8.1.1 Bryan Blue, Resident, City of St. Catharines**

Bryan Blue, resident, City of St. Catharines, appeared before Council, to advocate for road safety, specifically enforcement and infrastructure and to request a review of pedestrian crosswalks with the intent of upgrading safety measures.

**9. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

9.1 Council Minutes CL 5-2025  
Thursday, March 20, 2025

Moved by Councillor Sorrento  
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Minutes CL 5-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, **BE ADOPTED**.

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information on the Region's Business Licensing unit functions, tow truck licencing and the tow rotation list. Councillor Gale.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

Moved by Councillor Bateman  
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

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

CHR 2-2025  
Niagara Week 2025 Scheduling Changes

CL-C 28-2025  
Appointment of Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers

CL-C 29-2025  
2025 Budget Amendment - Report PW-16 2025 Vision Zero Road Safety  
Strategic Plan – Transportation Services

**Carried**

**11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**11.2 CSD 26-2025**

Public Procurement and Reciprocal Tariffs: Considerations and Potential Impacts

Moved by Councillor Jordan  
Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

That Report CSD 26-2025, dated April 24, 2025, respecting Public Procurement and Reciprocal Tariffs: Considerations and Potential Impacts, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION**

**12.1 Audit Committee**

Minutes AC 1-2025, Monday, March 24, 2025

Moved by Councillor Whalen  
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Minutes AC 1-2025 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on Monday, March 24, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

**12.2 Committee of the Whole**

Minutes COTW 3-2025, Thursday, April 3, 2025

Moved by Councillor Ganann  
Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Minutes COTW 3-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, April 3, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

12.3 Public Works Committee

Minutes PWC 4-2025, Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Moved by Councillor Witteveen  
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Minutes PWC 4-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

12.4 Public Health and Social Services Committee

Minutes PHSSC 4-2025, Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Moved by Councillor Chiocchio  
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Minutes PHSSC 4-2025 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

12.5 Corporate Services Committee

Minutes CSC 3-2025, Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes CSC 3-2025 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

12.6 Planning and Economic Development Committee  
Minutes PEDC 3-2025, Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Moved by Councillor Seaborn  
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Minutes PEDC 3-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 9, 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 Strengthening Local Focus and Fiscal Responsibility Amid Economic Uncertainty

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

Whereas the Niagara Region, along with communities across Canada, is facing an emerging economic crisis, influenced by complex global factors and external non-Canadian interests that are adversely affecting Canadian citizens and our business community;

Whereas as a border region, Niagara is uniquely and disproportionately impacted by these global disruptions, with 72% of goods produced in Niagara exported to the United States and 54% of our input materials imported from the U.S., putting our supply chains and business viability at significant risk; and

Whereas while the full impact on employment and local business remains uncertain, early indicators suggest that Niagara's economic stability may be challenged in the coming year, and it is prudent to proactively prepare for a range of economic outcomes.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region **TAKE** immediate, responsible steps to prioritize local focus, reduce discretionary spending, and safeguard resources to better support residents and businesses during this period of economic uncertainty as follows:
  - a) That all staff and Members of Regional Council suspend participation in US trade shows, conferences, for the 2025 calendar year, whether as attendees, presenters, or exhibitors;
  - b) That US advocacy and government relations opportunities be excluded from this prohibition;
  - c) That staff and Members of Regional Council instead prioritize local and Canadian-based engagements that foster domestic collaboration and knowledge-sharing;
  - d) That, where operationally feasible, all professional development, training, and education programs for staff be sourced within Canada, to both reduce costs and support Canadian institutions and providers;
  - e) That all savings realized through these initiatives be allocated to Niagara Region's reserves, and specifically earmarked to support programs and services designed to mitigate the effects of this economic situation, including supports for local businesses, workforce resilience, and service delivery continuity; and
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer and senior staff **REPORT** back to Council with an update on the outcomes of these measures and any additional opportunities to strengthen local investment, streamline operations, and respond effectively to the evolving economic landscape.

A request was made to vote on Clause 1(e) of the motion separately.

The Regional Chair called the vote on the motion excluding Clause 1(e) and declared it,

**Carried**

The Regional Chair called the vote on Clause 1(e) of the motion and declared it,

**Carried**

**15. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**15.1 Consolidated 2026 General Levy Rate**

Councillor Gale advised that that he would be bringing forward a motion to the next Council meeting respecting the Consolidated 2026 General Levy Rate.

**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 Ugulini  
Seconded by Councillor Jordan

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

Bill 2025-15

A by-law to amend By-law 89-2000 being a By-law to Provide for the Regulation of Traffic on Regional Highways – (All-Way Stop Implementation in the City of Niagara Falls).

Bill 2025-16

A by-law to amend By-law 89-2000 being a By-law to Provide for the Regulation of Traffic on Regional Highways – (Posted Speed Limits on Regional Roadways).

Bill 2025-17

A by-law to provide for the regulation of traffic on Regional Highways in School Zones and to repeal By-laws 100-2013 and 2017-76.

Bill 2025-18

A by-law to appoint Municipal Bylaw Enforcement Officers for the purpose of enforcing various Regional By-laws for The Regional Municipality of Niagara and to repeal By-law 2024-79.

Bill 2025-19

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its meeting held April 24, 2025.

**Carried**

**19. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 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