

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

CL 9-2025

Thursday, June 26, 2025

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

Council: Bradley (Regional Chair), Badawey, Bateman, Campion*, Chiocchio, Diodati*, Easton*, Foster, Gale, Ganann, Grant*, Heit, Insinna, Ip, Junkin*, Kaiser, Morocco, Olson, Rigby, Seaborn*, Secord, Sorrento, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Craitor, Jordan, Redekop, Siscoe

Staff: E. Amirault, Associate Director, Finance, Operations & Systems*, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer, S. Crocco, Senior Legal Counsel, Litigation*, T. Ellis, Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer, R. Ferron, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, D. Gibbs, Regional Solicitor/Director, Legal & Court Services, C. Habermehl, Director, Waste Management Services, R. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, C. Johnston, Manager, Business Licensing, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, P. Kennah, Labour Relations Manager*, H. Koning, Commissioner, Community Services, A. Korchok, Chief of Staff, Governance, P. Lambert, Acting Commissioner, Public Works, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, P. Maposa, Director, Asset Management, B. Menage, Director, Procurement Services*, D. Morreale, Director, Growth Management & Planning*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development*, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, B. Wilson, Senior Legal Counsel, Solicitor*, N. Wolfe, Director, Construction, Energy & Facilities Management*

* 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 6:32 p.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Bateman 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 Olson
Seconded by Councillor Gale

That Joe Viera, Regional Towing, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Council as an individual delegate respecting Business Licensing Overview (Minute Item 8, Minutes CSC 5-2025 (Agenda Item 12.4)).

Carried

4.2 **Changes in Order of Items**

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That the order of the agenda **BE AMENDED** to move the consideration of the Motion to Endorse the Development of a Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in Niagara Region (Agenda Item 14.1) to immediately following the delegations on this matter.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That the order of the agenda **BE AMENDED** to move the consideration of Memorandum CL-C 34-2025, respecting Filling of Vacant Regional Council Seat - City of Port Colborne (Agenda Item 11.1), to precede Presentations (Agenda Item 6).

Carried

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Council Agenda CL 9-2025, **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 34-2025

Filling of Vacant Regional Council Seat - City of Port Colborne

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That Memorandum CL-C 34-2025, dated June 26, 2025, respecting Filing of Vacant Regional Council Seat – City of Port Colborne, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That, further to the correspondence received from the City of Port Colborne, dated June 18, 2025, respecting City of Port Colborne – Recommendation for Appointment to fill Vacant Seat on Regional Council – Vance Badawey, Regional Council **APPROVE** the recommendation of the City of Port Colborne to appoint Vance Badawey to fill the vacant seat of Regional Councillor for the City of Port Colborne.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Vance Badawey **BE APPOINTED** as Regional Councillor for the City of Port Colborne 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 Vance Badawey at this time in order that Mr. Badawey can assume his seat immediately after taking the Declaration of Office.

Carried

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

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Councillor Badawey **BE APPOINTED** to the Public Works Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee effective immediately, for the remainder of this term of Council.

Carried

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Ontario Medal for Paramedic Bravery

Regional Chair Bradley presented the Regional Chair's Award of Valour to Niagara Emergency Services Paramedic Superintendent Darren Langlois in recognition of performance above and beyond the call of duty as evidenced by his act of bravery in response to an incident that occurred on May 15, 2024.

7. CHAIR'S REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMARKS

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

8. DELEGATIONS

8.1 Motion to Endorse the Development of a Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in Niagara Region (Agenda Item 14.1)

8.1.1 Nyarayi Kapisavanhu and Sharon Njobo, TOES Niagara

Nyarayi Kapisavanhu and Sharon Njobo, Tools of Empowerment Niagara (TOES), appeared before Council to encourage members to support the motion to endorse the development of a code of conduct for human trafficking prevention in Niagara Region and expressed that Council's endorsement of this motion will position Niagara region at the forefront of national and international efforts to address human trafficking.

8.1.2 Michael Kirkopoulos, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Lincoln

Mike Kirkopoulos, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Lincoln, and member of the Regional Steering Committee on Human Trafficking Prevention, appeared before Council to request that Regional Council endorse the development of a code of conduct or human trafficking prevention in Niagara Region, as it will serve as a foundational tool to guide organizations, institutions and partners in adopting consistent, informed practices that will help prevent exploitation and protect vulnerable individuals across the region.

14. MOTIONS

14.1 Motion to Endorse the Development of a Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in Niagara Region

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

Whereas human trafficking in Niagara is currently a persistent challenge impacting the hospitality and tourism sectors;

Whereas human trafficking is a critical issue due to the region's proximity to the U.S. border and the thriving tourism and hospitality sectors, which create environments where sexual and labour exploitation can go unnoticed;

Whereas women, newcomers, racially-marginalized people, people experiencing poverty, people living with disabilities, and children in the child welfare system are disproportionately targeted and impacted by the harms perpetuated by traffickers;

Whereas 60% of human trafficking cases in Ontario occur along the corridor linking Toronto and Niagara;

Whereas data from the Niagara Regional Police Service comparing 2023 to 2024 indicates the number of human trafficking investigations increased by 61%; the number of victims identified increased by 700%; the number of accused charged increased by 190%; the number of criminal charges laid increased by 75%; and the number of referrals from NRPS' Human Trafficking Unit to Victim Services Niagara increased by 133%;

Whereas human trafficking thrives in secrecy, but with leadership and commitment, local government can be on the front line of prevention and protection;

Whereas local businesses and organizations are key to preventing human trafficking through proactive measures such as The 4 Ps: prevention, protection, partnership, and prosecution;

Whereas local area municipalities have already begun to assist in making the Niagara region inhospitable to human traffickers;

Whereas Tools of Empowerment for Success (TOES) Niagara and Brock University have undertaken work funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada to develop a Code of Conduct to Prevent Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region through education, increasing awareness, and providing resources, including prevention strategies; and

Whereas TOES Niagara and Brock University created a Steering Committee of representatives from across tourism, business, education, law enforcement, government, and non-profit sectors to engage in broad community collaboration through focus groups, surveys, and feedback sessions to develop the Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in the Niagara Region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region **RECOGNIZE** that human trafficking in Niagara has serious impacts on the health and wellness of local residents and their families, as well as negative economic impacts on local businesses and communities;
2. That Niagara Regional Council **ENDORSE** the work of TOES Niagara and Brock University in developing a Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region;
3. That Niagara Region **COMMIT** to reviewing and assessing the applicable local government sectoral guidelines and responsibilities outlined in The Code upon its finalization, with the intent to implement measures that align with Regional priorities and capacity;
4. That the Regional Chair **WRITE** letters to all of Niagara's 12 Local Area Municipalities encouraging them to also endorse the work of TOES Niagara and Brock University in the development of the Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region and commit to reviewing and assessing the applicable local government sectoral guidelines and responsibilities outlined in The Code upon its finalization, with the intent to implement measures that align with municipal priorities and capacity; and
5. That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to Niagara's four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM); and the Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (27): Badawey, Bateman, Campion, Chiocchio, Diodati, Easton, Foster, Gale, Ganann, Grant, Heit, Insinna, Ip, Junkin, Kaiser, Morocco, Olson, Rigby, Seaborn, Secord, Sorrento, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (0).

Carried

8. DELEGATIONS

8.2 Business Licensing Overview (Minute Item 8, Minutes CSC 5-2025, (Agenda Item 12.4))

8.2.1 Chris York, Jo's Auto Collision Towing

Chris York, Jo's Auto Collision Towing, appeared before Council to express concerns about the current administration of the tow rotation list and request that the list be maintained by the Niagara Regional Police Service.

8.2.2 Joe Viera, Regional Towing

Joe Viera, Regional Towing, appeared before Council to request that the oversight of the tow rotation list be given to the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Moved by Councillor Gale
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That the rules of procedure **BE SUSPENDED** to permit Minute Item 8, Minutes CSC 5-2025 (Agenda Item 12.4), Report CLK 3-2025 to be moved up on the agenda to **BE DEALT WITH** at this time.

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

Carried

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION

12.4 Corporate Services Committee

12.4.1 Minutes CSC 5-2025, Minute Item 8, Report CLK 3-2025, respecting Business Licensing Overview

The motion from Report CLK 3-2025, contained in Minute Item 8, was considered separately as follows:

Moved by Councillor Gale
Seconded by Councillor Bateman

That Report CLK 3-2025, dated June 11, 2025, Business Licensing Overview, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Gale

That Report CLK 3-2025, dated June 11, 2025, Business Licensing Overview, **BE RECEIVED** for information;

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to explore options with the tow operators regarding managing the tow rotation list in the same manner as currently being done and consult with Legal Staff and NRPS; and

That a report on this matter **BE BROUGHT FORWARD** for consideration at the Corporate Services Committee meeting in August.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting how tow truck operators can be included on the tow rotation list without being a member of the Niagara Towing Alliance. Councillor Kaiser.

9. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

9.1 Council Minutes CL 8-2025
Thursday, May 22, 2025

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Minutes CL 8-2025 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, **BE ADOPTED**.

Carried

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 CAO 9-2025
Commissioner, Corporate Services

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Memorandum CAO 9-2025, dated June 26, 2025, respecting Commissioner, Corporate Services, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION

- 12.1 Budget Review Committee of the Whole
Minutes BRCOTW 1-2025, Thursday, May 22, 2025

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Grant

That Minutes BRCOTW 1-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

- 12.2 Public Works Committee
Minutes PWC 6-2025, Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Minutes PWC 6-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

- 12.3 Public Health and Social Services Committee
Minutes PHSSC 6-2025, Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Moved by Councillor Morocco
Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That Minutes PHSSC 6-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12.4 Corporate Services Committee

Minutes CSC 5-2025, Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes CSC 5-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**, save and except Report CLK 3-2025.

12.4.2 Minutes CSC 5-2025, Minute Item 7.1 respecting Procurement By-law: Repeal and Replace

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

That Report CSD 13-2025, dated June 11, 2025, respecting Procurement By-law: Repeal and Replace, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Procurement By-law No. 02-2016 as amended **BE REPEALED AND REPLACED** effective October 1, 2025, with the attached Procurement By-law (Appendix 1);
2. That Council **APPROVE** an amendment to the Purchasing Card Policy (C-F-023) to replace the current reference to “Low Value Purchases, as defined in the Procurement By-law” with “Low Value Purchases, up to \$10,000”, effective October 1, 2025;
3. That Council **DELEGATE** authority to the Director, Procurement Services, to develop, and maintain procedures and forms, as required, to implement and administer the new Procurement By-law, with all such procedures and forms being subject to the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, as provided for in Sections 8(c)(vi) and 8(c)(i) of the new By-law;
4. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration; and
5. That Report CSD 13-2025 **BE CIRCULATED** to area municipalities for information.

Moved by Councillor Gale
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Regional Council **DOES NOT** support revisions to the procurement bylaw that permit staff to amend contracts exceeding \$1 million dollars; and

That Regional Council **DOES NOT** support revisions to the procurement bylaw that permit staff to award competitive contract awards exceeding \$5 million to be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer and the Treasurer.

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Gale

That Report CSD 13-2025 and the proposed amendment, **BE REFERRED** to the next Corporate Services Committee meeting.

Carried

12.4.3 Balance of the recommendations from the Corporate Services Committee

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

Carried

12.5 Budget Review Committee of the Whole
BRCOTW 2-2025, Thursday, June 5, 2025

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Olson

That Minutes BRCOTW 2-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, June 5, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12.6 Committee of the Whole
COTW 5-2025, Thursday, June 5, 2025

Moved by Councillor Ugulini
Seconded by Councillor Sorrento

That Minutes COTW 5-2025 being the Open Session minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, June 5, 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**

14.2 Policing Costs

Moved by Councillor Kaiser
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

Whereas the OPP recover the cost of policing those municipalities through a billing model put in place in 2015 that includes a base cost per property as well as variable costs related to the number of calls for service and other factors;

Whereas other regional models exist for policing costs, such as Caledon, which is serviced by the OPP, even though they are a part of Peel Region;

Whereas Section 326 of the Municipal Act, 2001, allows municipalities to impose "special charges" for specific services, which could be applied on a per-household basis if structured appropriately. For example, a specialized subset of services for limited areas or properties receiving a unique or enhanced level of service. e.g., additional policing in a specific neighbourhood or business district. Alternatively it is possible to introduce tiered levies for high-crime or high-traffic areas requiring additional resources. (Example in Ottawa: Downtown business zones fund supplementary foot patrols and community officers through special assessments);

Whereas some municipalities in Ontario consider and account for the impacts of community development and expansion on policing costs. (Example in Mississauga: Allocates development charge revenues toward future police infrastructure, such as stations or vehicles);

Whereas in the Niagara Region, transit costs are now levied by assessment and service. This funding strategy was chosen to ensure a consistent and predictable revenue stream for the transit system while spreading the cost more equitably among all households, regardless of property value;

Whereas the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's current average household cost based on assessment are grossly unfair; as outlined below, and does not reflect the ability to pay;

2024 NIAGARA REGION POLICING COST ALLOCATION PER HOUSEHOLD BASED ON AVERAGE ASSESSMENT:

Welland \$255
Port Colborne \$280
St. Catharines \$316
Fort Erie \$333
Thorold \$335
West Lincoln \$354
Niagara Falls \$373
Wainfleet \$384
Lincoln \$414
Grimsby \$458
Pelham \$420
Niagara-on-the-Lake \$786; and

Whereas the Niagara Region is currently disproportionately charging residents of municipalities based on services received for policing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide a report with options to rectify the inequity of the Niagara Region Policing Cost Allocation per Household through one or all of the following methods:

1. Seeking Provincial approval for a non-standard taxation model by household;
2. Development of a policy to allocate a portion of development charge revenues toward future police infrastructure, such as stations or vehicles;
3. Introduction of tiered levies for high-crime or high-traffic areas requiring additional resources;

4. Levying specific zones to fund supplementary foot patrols and community officers through special assessments.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (17): Badawey, Bateman, Diodati, Gale, Ganann, Grant, Heit, Insinna, Junkin, Kaiser, Olson, Rigby, Seaborn, Secord, Sorrento, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (9): Campion, Chiocchio, Foster, Ip, Morocco, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen.

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

17.1 Confidential CSD 32-2025

A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor Client Privilege and Respecting Litigation under s. 239(2)(e) and (f) of the Municipal Act, 2001– Bi-Annual Litigation Claims Summary

Moved by Councillor Ganann
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Confidential Report CSD 32-2025, dated June 11, 2025, respecting A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor Client Privilege and Respecting Litigation under s. 239(2)(e) and (f) of the Municipal Act, 2001– Bi-Annual Litigation Claims Summary, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

17.2 Confidential Report HR 2-2025

A Matter of Labour Relation: CUPE and its Local 1757, Public Health – Tentative Agreement

Moved by Councillor Heit

Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Confidential Report HR 2-2025, dated June 26, 2025, respecting A Matter of Labour Relation: CUPE and its Local 1757, Public Health – Tentative Agreement, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

18. **BY-LAWS**

Moved by Councillor Morocco

Seconded by Councillor Olson

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

Bill 2025-26

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 2025-27

A by-law to amend By-law 89-2000 being a By-law to Provide for the Regulation of Traffic on Regional Highways - (Parking Prohibitions on Regional Road 12 and Regional Road 73).

Bill 2025-28

A by-law to amend By-law 89-2000 being a By-law to Provide for the Regulation of Traffic on Regional Highways - (Stopping Prohibition on Regional Road 43 (Bridge Street) in the City of Niagara Falls).

Bill 2025-29

A by-law to amend By-law 89-2000 being a By-law to Provide for the Regulation of Traffic on Regional Highways (40KM/H in School Zones).

Bill 2025-30

A by-law to stop up and close a portion of Regional Road 114 (Railroad Street) in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Bill 2025-31

A by-law to amend By-law 36-2015 being A By-law to Establish an Administrative Penalty System respecting the Stopping, Standing or Parking of Vehicles upon Highways within the Jurisdiction of The Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 2025-33

A By-law to assume and dedicate Part 1 on 30R-16353 in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake as part of Regional Road 82 (York Road).

Bill 2025-34

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its meeting held June 26, 2025.

Carried

19. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

20. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk