

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

REPORT CL 5-2005

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in Closed Session in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, March 17, 2005 commencing at 6:40 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chairman Partington; Councillors Almas, Bailey, Baty, Bentley, Bodner, Burroughs, Casselman, Collins, Eke, Heit, Hildreth, Hodgson, Leavens, Martin, Mastroianni, Redekop, Rigby, Salci, Saracino, Smeaton, Timms.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Cambray, Commissioner of Planning; Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services; Nicol, Commissioner of Human Resources; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner of Community Services Department; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

(Part-Time): Messrs. Bowles, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Jones, Director, Administrative Services, Public Health; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

147. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That this Council do now move into Closed Committee of the Whole for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to legal, personnel and property matters.

Carried.

148. Regional Council as Niagara-Specific LHIN Governance Body

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the Memorandum from Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, dated March 10, 2005, respecting Regional Council as Niagara Specific LHIN Governance Body, be received and the recommendations therein be approved.

Carried.

149. Interim Move of the Public Health Department
PHD 14-2005 / PWA 47-2005

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report PHD 14-2005 / PWA 47-2005, March 17, 2005, respecting the Interim Move of the Public Health Department, be received and the recommendations therein be approved.

Carried.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, RISE AND REPORT

150. Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That this Council do now rise with report.

Carried.

Following Committee of the Whole, Council met in regular session, commencing at 7:12 p.m. with an Invocation by Councillor Bodner, followed by the singing of O' Canada.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

151. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That the Council Agenda CL 5-2005 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

152.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Heit declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters relating to wireless communication, as he is employed by a wireless communication company and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

PRESENTATIONS

153. The Power of One - 2005 North American Tour

Peter Papp, Manager, Opportunities Niagara provided Regional Council with an invitation and the itinerary for The Power of One - 2005 North American Tour, which is scheduled in Niagara from May 2 – 6, 2005. The events will begin at Regional Headquarters on May 2nd with a Niagara Region Public Leaders Summit, guest speakers include Mr. Ian Hill, the Honourable Ken Dryden, Minister of Social Development and the Honourable John Godfrey, Minister of State. A Niagara Region Business Leaders Breakfast is planned on May 3rd; followed by seminars and workshops for local companies; front line employees and managers and a Voluntary Sector Program being held at Niagara College. May 4th with the “World Class Service Builds World Class Communities” seminar for municipal and public employees from across the region followed by “Mastering the Power of Change” seminar for local recreation and parks professionals in the evening. May 5th begins with Niagara College’s “Day of Reflection” followed by “Building the Citizen of Tomorrow” for area High Schools and Youth Organizations. A Power of One All-Day Conference is planned for the final day (May 6th).

Mr. Papp, noted that Mr. Ian Hill, is a man on a mission, who from his humble beginnings as an adopted at-risk youth, to his meteoric rise as a successful businessman, has truly personified his message of The Power of One individual to make a difference.

154.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

Chair Partington thanked Valk Greenhouses of Grimsby, for the Spring flowers on display in Council Chambers that remind us of the impending change of season. The flowers will be turned over to our Community Services Department to be put to good use in our Long-Term Care Facilities.

Chair Partington had an opportunity last week to attend a meeting of our Corporate Management Team (CMT) at the Foster Wheeler Building in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which was followed by a tour of the facility that will be housing the Ambulance Dispatch Centre for Niagara. The Centre is an excellent facility with state of the art technology, which will serve Niagara’s citizens well.

The Regional Chair directed members of Regional Council to their mail, where they would find the latest edition of the "Accessible Niagara" guide, provided by Ms. Linda Crabtree, the publisher of the guide. The guide is free of charge to those in Niagara who live with disabilities and for those who would like to visit Niagara as a tourist. The Official Launch for this year's guide is scheduled for April 14th at 2 p.m. at the Ontario March of Dimes South Office at 3300 Merrittville Highway.

Regional Chair Partington noted that the events of the past weeks remind us of the dangers that face the men and women serving on our various police forces. Regional Council's thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of the RCMP officers who were slain in Alberta.

Regional Chair Partington on behalf of Regional Council thanked the men and women who serve to keep our community safe, be it through service in the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, for the work they do, it is greatly appreciated!

Chair Partington on behalf of Regional Council extended deepest sympathies to the family and friends of long time Regional employee and former CAO, Mr. Frank Walsh and Mrs. Walsh, who both died as a result of an accident.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

155. **Report 4-2005**

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report 4-2005, being the minutes of the Proceedings of Council of Thursday, March 3, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

156. Communications were received and dealt with as follows:

a) Receive and/or Refer to Staff

C6445 Card of thanks from Marilyn Wagner, an employee of the Community Services Department, for the kind donation to the Tender Wishes Foundation in memory of her father, George Johnson.

Received.

C6446 City of St. Catharines resolution (February 25, 2005) requesting the Region of Niagara to establish a system of representation which corresponds to population distribution, with a view to not increase the size of Regional Council.

Received and referred to Council Organizational Review Committee.

C6448 Card of thanks from Andrew Caston, an employee of the Public Health Department, for the kind donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario in memory of his father Ronald Caston.

Received.

C6449 Letter of thanks from Daniel Oettinger, Administrator, Linhaven Home, (March 8, 2005) to Regional Chair and Council for their kind donation of flowers from the Council meeting. The flowers were distributed through the Linhaven Home for residents to enjoy.

Received.

C6450 Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, Minister of Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (February, 2005) inviting participation in Ontario's volunteer recognition program for the year 2005. (Information and nomination forms are available in the Clerk's Office, and online.)

Received.

C6451 Pamela J. Minns, Niagara Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (March 9, 2005) respecting the Main Street Bridge in Welland Designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Received.

C6452 Card of thanks from Andrea Potter, an employee of the Community Services Department, and family for the kind donation to the Chedoke Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund in memory of her sister, Charlene Buck.

Received.

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That Communications C6445, C6446, C6448 to C6452 be received and dealt with as directed by this Council and as noted in these minutes.

Carried.

157. b) For Consideration

C6447 Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of York (January 25, 2005) respecting the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2004 (AODA).

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Communication C6447 respecting the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act, 2004 (AODA) be endorsed by Regional Council as per the request from the Regional Municipality of York.

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT REPORTS

158. Emergency Equipment Replacement at Wastewater Facilities
Project ID ZSW0301
PWA 42-2005 / CSD 38-2005 Amended

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded By Councillor Heit

That Report PWA 42-2005 / CSD 38-2005 Amended, respecting the Emergency Equipment Replacement at Wastewater Facilities Project ID ZSW0301, be received.

That Long Term Financing (1 – 10 Years) in the gross and net amount of \$121,000 be approved for Project ZSW0301 Emergency Equipment Replacement at Wastewater Facilities from the 2005 Wastewater Capital Budget.

That approval be given to pay Directrik Inc. the total amount of \$70,466.25 for the emergency purchase of equipment at the Anger Avenue WWTP.

That the Regional Clerk/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

PLANNING SERVICES COMMITTEE

159. Report 5-2005

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That PD 18-2005, a memorandum to the Planning Services Committee proving pages for the Urban Design Principles and Model Guidelines for high rise buildings, be referred back to Committee for further discussion.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report 5-2005 being the minutes of the Planning Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, March 9, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

160. Report 5-2005

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report 5-2005 being the minutes of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, March 9, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

161. Report 6-2005

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report 6-2005 being the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting of Monday, March 7, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

162. Report 3-2005

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report 3-2005 being the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting of Tuesday, March 8, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

163. Report 5-2005

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report 5-2005 being the minutes of the Public Works and Utilities Committee meeting of Tuesday, March 8, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

164. Physician Recruitment Co-ordinator Program
CAO 8-2005

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report CAO 8-2005, March 17, 2005, respecting the Physician Recruitment Co-ordinator Program, be received.

That the Region's funding for the Physician Recruitment Co-ordinator Program for 2005 remain as budgeted, and that any discussion of future plans for the physician recruiter program be brought back to Council by the beginning of Fourth Quarter in 2005.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

165. Council Business Planning 2005
Progress Report
CAO 9-2005

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CAO 9-2005, respecting Council Business Planning 2005 – Progress Report be received for information and forwards it to the Council Organizational Review Committee (CORC) for its March 22, 2005 meeting for further discussion.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

166. Chair's Meeting with Minister of Transportation

The Regional Chair apprised Regional Council of his plans to meet with Mr. Harinder Takhar, Minister of Transportation, in the very near future.

Members of Regional Council suggested that the Chair bring up the following subjects for discussion at their meeting: the extension of Highway 406; congestion on the ramp from the 406 to QEW that exits onto Ontario Street (a public safety issue) and the renouncing of the compensation that was provided to the Fire Departments that respond to emergencies on the highways, as they are only compensating the Fire Departments now for responses to fire and extraction calls.

167. 109 Affordable Housing Units for the City of St. Catharines

The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario allocated more than \$2.6 million to help fund five pilot projects that will create 109 units of affordable housing for lower-income households in the City of St. Catharines as part of \$4.7 million allocated to Niagara Region under the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

168. 79 Affordable Housing Units for the Cities of Welland and Thorold

The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario today allocated more than \$2.1 million to help fund three pilot projects that will create 79 units of affordable housing for lower-income households in the City of Welland and the City of Thorold under the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

169. 'Top Hat Ceremonies' – March 23, 2005

The traditional 'Top Hat Ceremony' officially welcomes the first ship into the Welland Canal marking the beginning of the shipping season. The Welland Canals Centre at Lock 3 and the St. Catharines Museum host the Captain of the first ship and St. Lawrence Seaway dignitaries during the top hat signing ceremony.

The City of Port Colborne will also be holding a 'Top Hat Ceremony' on March 23, 2005.

170. 'Mountain Top' Ceremonies – March 23, 2005 at Noon

Following the "Top Hat" ceremonies at Lock 3, there will be an unveiling of many additions and works of art to the Lock 7 Viewing Complex, 50 Chapel St. S. in the City of Thorold.

171. Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) Conference

Councillor Timms encouraged members of Regional Council to attend the upcoming ALPHA Conference on April 21st and 22nd, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Toronto Yorkdale. All members of Regional Council have been supplied with a registration form for their information.

172. Kevin Stienstra from Vineland Named CIS Men's Basketball Player of the Year

Regional Council congratulated Mr. Kevin Stienstra from Vineland, a member of the Brock Badgers for being named the CIS Men's Basketball Player of the Year.

BY-LAWS

173. Moved by Councillor Salci
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 24

A by-law to establish part of Township Lot 177, in the Town of Pelham as part of Regional Road No. 36 (South Pelham Street).

Bill 25

A by-law to authorize long-term financing in the form of debentures (1-10 years) in the amount of \$6,810,000 for individual projects in the 2005 roads capital budget.

Bill 26

A by-law to authorize long-term financing in the form of debentures (1-10 years) in the amount of \$121,000 for project ZSW0301 emergency equipment replacement at wastewater facilities.

Bill 27

A by-law to authorize long-term financing in the form of debentures (1-10 years) in the amount of \$1,342,900 for various projects in the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority capital budget.

Bill 28

A by-law to provide for the regulation of traffic on Regional highways.

Bill 29

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of the Regional Council at its meeting held on the 17th of March, 2005.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was directed to:

- forward a letter on behalf of the Regional Chair in support of the letter that was forwarded to the Ministry from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake respecting Mr. Kugler's situation and reconfirming Niagara's position on reducing the parcel size permitted in the Specialty Crop area of the Greenbelt to 25 acres. (Refers to Minute Item 159)
- ensure that copies of any correspondence respecting Mr. Kugler's situation, be forwarded to members of Regional Council. (Refers to Minute Item 159)
- include whether the hospital's Specialists recruiters are duplicating any of the physician recruiter's activities; the duplication of recruitment activities within the municipalities and the funding that is being expended by the municipalities and a review of the reporting mechanism, as stated in the CAO report; in the report in the fourth quarter on the Physician Recruitment Co-ordinator Program. (Refers to Minute Item 164)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy