

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

REPORT CL 4-2006

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 23, 2006 commencing at 6:31p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chairman Partington; Councillors Almas; Bailey, Baty; Bentley; Bodner; Brock; Burroughs; Casselman; Collins; Eke; Gabriel; Goulbourne; Harry; Heit; Hildreth; Hodgson; Katzman; Leavens; Marshall; Martin; Redekop; Saracino Smeaton; Timms; Trombetta.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Cambray, Commissioner, Planning and Development; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Diakow, Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Clerk.

Staff

(Part-Time): Messrs. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services; Pilon, Coordinator Communications; Fuentes, Associate Director, Ambulance Communication Service; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Ms. Staines, Legislative Assistant; Ms. Manzer, Council Support Assistant.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

97. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Harry

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.

98. Recruitment of Commissioner of Corporate Services
CAO 7-2006

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report CAO 7-2006, March 15, 2006, respecting the Recruitment of Commissioner of Corporate Services, be received and the recommendation therein be approved.

Carried.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, RISE AND REPORT

99. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That this Council do now rise with report.

Carried.

Following Committee of the Whole, Council met in regular session, commencing at 7:00 p.m. with an Invocation by Councillor Smeaton, followed by the singing of 'O Canada'.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

100. Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the Council Agenda CL 4-2006 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

101. Councillor Almas declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Minute Item 197 in the March 15, 2006 Planning and Public Works Committee minutes, Report PWP 21-2006, respecting the Public Works Staff Comments on Development and Related Proposals as one of the applicants is a client of his firm, he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

PRESENTATIONS

102. Citizen Recognition Award

Regional Chair Partington, Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health and Mr. John Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services presented Ms. Molli Ochej with a Citizen Recognition award for calling 9-1-1 and assisting her mother and father in the delivery of her twin brothers. Molli's mother, father and twin brothers, who were delivered with her assistance were in attendance. Regional Council heard the recording of the call made by Molli and the dispatcher and paramedics who responded to the call were in attendance and were introduced.

103. United Way

Ms. St. John and Ms. Wodchis, Co-Chairs of the Niagara Region Employees United Way Action Group were pleased to advise Regional Council that this year's campaign goal of \$100,000.00, which was \$15,000 more than last year's goal, had been surpassed. The funds raised through multiple fundraising activities, employee contributions and payroll deductions, resulted in an amazing commitment from the employees of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, with the presentation of a cheque in the amount of \$105,964.05 to United Way of St. Catharines & District, United Way of Niagara Falls, United Way of Greater Fort Erie, United Way of South Niagara.

Regional Council was advised that the amount of the cheque would increase by \$679.00, due to the great success of the Silent Auction held prior to tonight's meeting.

Ms. St. John introduced Inspector Dave Jastrubecki, Constable Matt King, Nancy Nenodabich and Auxiliary Sergeant Greg Mulvihill of Niagara Regional Police Service. Inspector Jastrubecki presented the representatives of the United Way with a cheque in the amount of \$26,694.00 on behalf of the members of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

104. Youth Action Alliance (YAA) Tobacco Program

Regional Chair Partington and Councillor Hildreth were presented with *The Golden Hands* by Mr. David Lorenzo, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Peer Leaders, Ms. Jen Silvestro and Elizabeth Le. *The Golden Hands* were signed by over 2,500 youth across Niagara Region, to thank Regional Council for supporting a Smoke-Free Ontario being implemented on May 31, 2005.

105. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Regional Chair Partington congratulated Janet Pilon in her new position as Deputy Clerk.

Regional Chair Partington thanked Andrew Hendriks & Sons Greenhouses of Beamsville for the beautiful planter.

Regional Chair Partington on behalf of Council congratulated our United Way team on a job well done, raising in excess of \$106,000 and for winning two awards. The awards won at the United Way Award Night are a testament to the generosity of spirit of our employees and the great ability of our United Way team.

Regional Chair Partington noted that during this afternoon's Provincial government budget announcement, there were promising remarks about the Niagara border crossings, child care, health care, and infrastructure. Staff will comment in due course following a thorough examination of the budget.

Regional Chair Partington along with Niagara Economic Development Corporation, CEO, Patrick Gedge; the Commissioner of Planning and Development, Corwin Cambray; the General Manager, Planning and Development Services, City of Welland, Don Thorpe met with Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan. The topics discussed were the need for the expansion of Highway 406 to continue on into Welland and the need for Welland to be identified as an urban growth area in the Province's *Places to Grow* plan.

Regional Chair Partington met with the City of Niagara Falls Mayor Ted Salci and Councillor Jim Diodati to discuss the recent resolution from the City of Niagara Falls in regards to the Niagara-GTA Corridor. Information was sent to the City of Niagara Falls explaining Regional Council's position on why the corridor is positive for Niagara and the rest of the province. The Regional Chair along with Joe Cousins, Director, Transportation Services have accepted an invitation to attend the City of Niagara Falls' May 8th Council meeting.

Regional Chair Partington met with the Mayor of Hamilton, Larry Di Ianni earlier this week in regards to the Niagara-GTA Corridor. Mayor Di Ianni remains committed to the Corridor process and is receptive to the idea of Hamilton partnering with Niagara on an Economic Impact Study, which will forecast the economic benefits of such a corridor on the province, region, and communities. The study will also analyze the "opportunity costs" of delay to the implementation of the corridor. The Regional Chair intends on meeting with Halton Region Chair Joyce Savoline to discuss the corridor.

The economic development of Niagara's southern tier is of importance to the development and prosperity of the entire Niagara Region and the Niagara-GTA Corridor is a critical component of making that happen. Niagara's northern tier is now land-locked by the greenbelt legislation to protect our much valued tender fruit lands, Niagara's southern tier remains under-developed full of potential and rich in opportunity for growth and prosperity.

Regional Chair Partington's office received word from staff in the Office of the Minister of Transportation that indicated that the Ministry of the Environment will be releasing the Niagara-GTA Corridor Environmental Assessment process terms of reference by March 30, noting that they are as eager to move forward on the project as Niagara Region is.

Niagara Region continues to be a strong advocate for the Corridor and Niagara Region will continue to build upon Niagara's public and private sector support for the project.

Regional Chair Partington noted that he strongly believes that Niagara Region must focus Niagara's efforts toward establishing a connection between what is currently Highway 140 and the QEW. The southern connection between this future section of Highway is a "can't wait" strategy that fits both Niagara's short and long term development goals. The fruits of this planning have already begun to be realized in the extension of Highway 406 to Port Robinson Road. Highway 406 must be extended to East Main Street in Welland, which will be advocated during Niagara Week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

106. Report 2-2006

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report 2-2006, being the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Thursday, March 2, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

107. Report 3-2006

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report 3-2006, being the minutes of the Proceedings of Council of Thursday, March 2, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

108. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Communications C6752 to C6756, be received and dealt with as noted:

C6752 Card of thanks from Sonia Brault, an employee of the Public Works Department, and family for the kind donation to the Canadian Cancer Society in memory of her sister, Helen Brown.

Received.

C6753 Dean Iorfida, City Clerk, City of Niagara Falls (March 7, 2006) respecting the City of Niagara Falls Council's motion not being in favour of the Mid-Peninsula Corridor.

Received for Information.

C6754 John Carter, Chair, Physician Resources Planning Task Force (March 6, 2006) expressing gratitude for the approval of five years of continued funding for the Niagara Physician Recruitment and Retention Program.

Received.

C6755 A copy of the speech made by Eric Cunningham, President, Melrose Strategic Communications Ltd., to the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce on March 2, 2006 entitled "The Way Ahead" A Public Affairs Strategy for Greater Hamilton.

Received and referred to the Motion on the Niagara GTA Corridor – Stakeholder Group.

C6756 Carolyn J. Kett, Clerk, Town of Fort Erie (March 21, 2006) informing the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Fort Erie Council's recommendation to provide a question on the 2006 Municipal Election Ballot removing the Town of Fort Erie from the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Received for Information.

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

109. Report 5-2006

Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report 5-2006 being the minutes of the Planning and Public Works Committee meeting of Wednesday, March 15, 2006, be approved and adopted as amended by specifying the entire Niagara Region in Minute Item 198, the Length of Amber Lights.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

110. Report 4-2006

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That Report 4-2006 being the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, March 15, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

111. New Commissioner of Corporate Services

Councillor Martin announced that Regional Council is pleased to appoint Mr. John Bergsma as the new Commissioner of Corporate Services as of April 3, 2006.

112. 2006 Current Budget

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

WHEREAS the Region's budget for 2006 was approved by Regional Council on March 2, 2006; and

WHEREAS it is now necessary to amend the approved 2006 Current Budget; and

WHEREAS Section 251 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25*, as amended, authorizes the municipality to give notice, when required under a provision of the Act, in a form, and in the manner, and at the times, that the Council considers adequate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the public reading of this resolution and posting of a notice on the Region's website meet the requirements of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and will serve as adequate notice that Regional Council will amend its 2006 Current Budget at the next Council meeting on April 13, 2006.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

113. Report 4-2006

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Report 4-2006 being the minutes of the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting of Tuesday, March 14, 2006. be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

114. Report CAO 6-2006

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CAO 6-2006, March 23, 2006, respecting Council Business Planning 2006 – Progress Report, be received for information.

Carried.

MOTION

115. Niagara GTA Corridor – Stakeholder Group

In Councillor Zimmerman's absence Regional Council referred the consideration of the Niagara GTA Corridor – Stakeholder Group motion to the April 13, 2006 Regional Council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

116. Review of Collective Bargaining and Strategies Impacting "Emergency Workers"

Councillor Casselman requested that the presentation respecting the Review of Collective Bargaining and Strategies Impacting "Emergency Workers" presented to the Police Services Board by Mr. Nicol, Commissioner of Human Resources be presented at the Corporate Services Committee.

BY-LAWS

117. Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 13

A by-law to establish fees and charges to be collected by the Corporation of The Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 19

A by-law to establish part of unnumbered Lot, Range No. 2, Plan No. 17, oin the City of St. Catharines as part of Regional Road No. 48 (Niagara Street).
Revised.

Bill 20

A by-law to establish part of Township Lot 87, in the City of Niagara Falls as part of Regional Road No. 98 (Montrose Road).

Bill 21

A by-law to establish part of Lot 16, concession 6, in the City of Niagara Falls as part of Regional Road No. 47 (Lyon's Creek Road).

Bill 22

A by-law to authorize Long-Term Financing (1-10 years) in the amount of \$539,738 for Project ZRC0626, widening of Regional Road 20 from Station Street to Highway 406 in the Town of Pelham and City of Thorold.

Bill 23

A by-law to authorize Long-Term Financing (1-10 years) in the amount of \$2,590,000 for various projects in the 2006 Roads Capital Program.

Bill 24

A by-law to authorize Long-Term Financing (1-15 years) in the amount of \$472,500 for Project ZGC0105, Employment Information System/Systems Development.

Bill 25

A by-law to authorize Long-Term Financing (1-10 years) in the amount of \$79,000 for Project ZSW0301, Emergency Equipment Replacement at Wastewater Facilities.

Bill 26

A by-law to authorize Long-Term Financing (1-10 years) in the amount of \$1,000,000 for Project ZCW9622, Water Supply Improvements to Shoalts Drive, and in the amount of \$500,000 for Project ZSW9403, Standby Power for Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Bill 27

A by-law to appoint Janet Pilon as Deputy Clerk of the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 28

A by-law to amend by-law No. 6200-91 being a by-law to provide for the regulation of Disabled Person Parking 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 23rd of March, 2006.

Carried.

118. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 30

A by-law to establish Blocks 18, 19, 20 and 21, Plan 30M-356, in the City of St. Catharines as part of Regional Road No. 81 (Queenston Street).

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Janet Pilon
Deputy Clerk

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk