



City of Port Colborne Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Members Present: M. Aquilina, Councillor
M. Bagu, Councillor
E. Beauregard, Councillor
R. Bodner, Councillor
G. Bruno, Councillor
F. Danch, Councillor
D. Elliott, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)

Absent: F. Davies, Regional Councillor

Staff Present: C. Schofield, Acting City Clerk
B. Boles, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
S. Luey, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works
G. Long, Director of Development and Government Relations
J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

2. National Anthem

The National Anthem was played.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Bodner read the Land Acknowledgement:

The Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The City of Port Colborne stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Danch

That the Council agenda, dated September 10, 2024, be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried

5. Proclamations

None.

6. Disclosures of Interest

None.

7. Approval of Minutes

7.1 Regular Council Meeting - August 27, 2024

7.2 Council in Closed Session - August 28, 2024

Moved by Councillor Elliott
Seconded by Councillor Bruno

That the following minutes be approved:

- Regular Council Meeting - August 27, 2024
- Council in Closed Session - August 28, 2024

Carried

8. Staff Reports

8.1 2024-127, 174 Mitchell Street – Brownfield CIP Agreement

8.2 2024-149, Niagara Gateway CIP Application- E-Materials Canada Corporation (Asahi Kasei)

9. Correspondence Items

Item 9.1, City of St. Catharines - Request for Extensions to Niagara Region Incentive Programs, was lifted and considered under category 16, Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion.

9.1 City of Brantford - Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement

9.2 Ministry of Transportation - Proposal to Extend Ontario's E-Scooter Pilot Program - Regulatory Registry Posting

Moved by Councillor Bagu

Seconded by Councillor Aquilina

That the following Staff Reports be approved;

- 2024-127, 174 Mitchell Street - Brownfield CIP Agreement
- 2024-149, Niagara Gateway CIP Application - E-Materials Canada Corporation (Asahi Kasei); and

The following correspondence be received:

- City of Brantford - Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement.
- Ministry of Transportation - Proposal to Extend Ontario's E-Scooter Pilot Program - Regulatory Registry Posting.

Carried

10. Presentations

10.1 Presentation to Calum High, Recipient of the Isadore Sponder Award

Mayor Steele and Coach Laur presented Calum High the Isadore Sponder Award.

10.2 Presentation for Grants to Non-Profit Organizations - 2024 Second Allocation

Mayor Steele, Grant Allocation Committee Chair Bea Kenny, Councillor Aquilina, and Councillor Hoyle presented the grant allocations to the following organizations:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Niagara
- Community Living Port Colborne Wainfleet
- Habitat for Humanity
- Reach Out Centre
- Port Colborne and District Conservation Club
- Port Colborne Operatic Society
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56
- The Wave (Port Colborne Girls Minor Hockey)

11. Delegations

None.

12. Mayor's Report

A copy of the Mayor's Report is attached.

13. Regional Councillor's Report

The Regional Councillor was absent.

14. Staff Remarks

Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, provided an update on the Mitchner drain culvert replacement on Weaver Road and the road closure in place will extend to September 20, 2024. He also provided an update on the road reconstruction program, which will be taking place over the next three weeks; impacted properties will be notified.

Gary Long, Director of Development and Government Relations, explained that staff are applying to the second round of the housing accelerator fund, a federal program administered by Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). There is a Public Meeting on the development charges background study and by-law on September 24, 2024. They are also collaborating on several funding applications with the Public Works department.

Scott Luey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), recognized 20 staff members who participated in the United Way Fire Truck Pull event, and they have raised over \$3000 from staff and Council.

15. Councillors' Remarks

Councillor Hoyle explained that the rain barrel and tree purchases, organized by the Environmental Advisory Committee, have sold out. He also inquired about electric charging stations to Director of Public Works and Director of Corporate Services.

Councillor Danch inquired about missing park signage to the Director of Public Works and requested the rope around a sign in HH Knoll Park be removed.

Councillor Elliot inquired about painting street markings on the corner of Sugarloaf Street and Rosemount Avenue, repaving the street on Clarence Street where the watermain break occurred, and about the sewer lining Clarence and Rosemount to the Director of Public Works. He also asked about road markings on the corner of Fielden Avenue and Charlotte Street.

Councillor Bruno inquired about a signage issue at Rose Shymansky Memorial Park and an old sign that needs to be removed at Reservoir Park to Director of Public Works.

Councillor Bagu thanked the Public Works staff for replacing the signage on Fielden Avenue and Charlotte Street, and on Clarence Street and inquired about paving between Catherine and Elm Street.

Councillor Aquilina inquired about new signage for the Friendship Trail and when it will be ready to the Director of Public Works. She also inquired about when the lake end road study staff report would be returning to Council and about the retaining wall at Pleasant beach. Lastly, she announced that the Friends of Roselawn are seeking volunteers for their September 29, 2024, High Tea / Fall Fashion show event. It begins at 1 p.m., and tickets can be purchased at Pie Guys Bakery for \$50.

16. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

16.1 City of St. Catharines - Request for Extensions to Niagara Region Incentive Programs

- a. Motion Arising from City of St. Catharines resolution regarding a Request for Extensions to Niagara Region Incentive Programs**

Moved by Councillor Beauregard
Seconded by Councillor Bagu

Resolved that the Council of The Corporation for the City of Port Colborne supports the resolution of the City of St. Catharines requesting the Niagara Region to extend the expiration deadlines for Niagara Region's Incentive Programs for a period of three years to October 1st, 2027; and further

That Council requests that Niagara Region extend the expiration deadline for Niagara Region's Smart Growth Regional Development Charges Reduction Program and the Smarter Niagara Incentive Program Property Rehabilitation and Revitalization Tax Increment Grant for a period of three years to October 1st, 2027, for projects approved by Council under the City's Community Improvement Plans on or before September 30th, 2024.

Carried

17. Motions

17.1 Councillor Danch - Outdoor Lighting

Moved by Councillor Danch
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

Whereas there have been situations in residential areas where lighting has been causing a disturbance to neighbours;

Therefore, be it resolved that staff be directed to bring forward a report to Council on whether regulating obtrusive outdoor lighting in residential areas is possible.

Carried

18. Notice of Motions

Councillor Bodner gave notice of a motion regarding possible deficiencies in the Burning by-law.

19. Minutes of Boards & Committees

None.

20. By-laws

20.1 By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That the By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Special Council and Council meetings of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne be enacted and passed, as presented.

21. Adjournment

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

William C. Steele, Mayor

Carol Schofield, Acting City Clerk

MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024

FEDERAL MINISTER OF HEALTH

Federal Minister of Health Mark Holland was in Fort Erie last Thursday, arranged by our Member of Parliament, Vance Badawey. Our Chief Administrative Officer Scott Luey, our director of corporate services Bryan Boles, our manager of strategic projects Gary Long, and Dr. Matthew Vandenburg joined me to meet Minister Holland with Mayor Wayne Redekop and his senior team. We talked about the healthcare needs of Port Colborne and Fort Erie, with an emphasis on improving access to primary care for residents.

We're all aware of the challenges facing South Niagara's healthcare system, including physician shortages, healthcare infrastructure, and the need for enhanced community-based healthcare solutions. Minister Holland commended our collaborative efforts to develop effective primary care models tailored to the unique needs of South Niagara. Our approach differs from Fort Erie's, but Mayor Redekop and I agree: access to primary care is essential for the well-being of our communities.

We appreciate the federal government support as we presented new and improved healthcare models, and we are grateful the Minister reaffirmed his commitment to South Niagara. Thank you, MP Badawey, for bringing the Minister to speak with us.

JAPANESE CONSUL VISIT

Mashiro Matsui and Atsushi Kato were in Port Colborne today from the Consul-General of Japan in Toronto. Matsui San is the Information and Cultural Consul. Kato San is the Cultural Affairs Aide. We toured the site where the Asahi Kasei new production facility will be built. Port Colborne is getting a lot of attention these past many months. We're exploring a variety of projects and undertakings with AK and with other commercial and industrial leaders in our city.

We're getting this attention because we've been focused on building and growing our city. I could not be more proud of the team which has worked so diligently to make it all happen. We have work ahead of us, of course, but our collaborative efforts are paying off. On behalf of council, I thank each and every one of you.

NEW SEAWAY PRESIDENT

Jim Athanasiou made his first visit to Port Colborne today as the new president and chief executive officer of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation. We had a great meeting. We discussed all the opportunities we share with the Seaway, and how productive we plan to be together.

Jim was named president of the Seaway early this year. He took over July 12, replacing Terrence Bowles, who served at the helm of the Seaway since 2010 as president and chief executive officer. Now Jim is responsible for the overall operation of the Canadian portion of the bi-national Seaway system. He joined the Seaway in 2008 as a Corporate Manager in Mechanical Engineering.

In 2016, he was appointed Vice-President, Engineering and Technology and, just prior to his appointment as President and CEO, he led the Seaway's team to negotiating a 20-year Management, Operation and Maintenance Agreement with the federal government. On behalf of council, I told Jim we look forward to going a long way into the future as a valued partner of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

TRAVELLING ART SHOW

I hope to see a full house Friday afternoon at 2 over at Roselawn, for the opening of the Travelling Art Show – an exhibit of work by members of the Port Colborne Art Club. The Port Colborne Art Club was founded in 1947. It started with a group of local artists meeting in their homes to enjoy painting together. Many of you will remember famous Port Colborne artists such as Mary Prittie, Madeleine Fregren, Ann Rivers, Mary Lampman – many of you have their work in your homes. They were all members of Port Colborne Art Club.

The next generation of painters in the club now meets in the Julia Yager Community Centre in Bethel. Workshops have been led by instructors from across Ontario and Quebec. Mary Franzen is the current president of the club. You'll meet the board and many of the members Friday, Sept. 13 at 2pm. Council and I are proud of Director of Museum and Culture Stephanie Baswick and her team for really making things happen at Roselawn, since they took the historic mansion under their wing with so much they already do with the Museum, the Archives, and Arabella's. Good work, team.

FINAL COMMUNITY CONCERT

Also, on lucky Friday the 13 will be the last Community Concert of the season. I hope to see a full house at the bandshell in HH Knoll Lakeview Park for an evening of the blues featuring Blues Etc. featuring Juno Award nominee Spencer Mackenzie. Admission is free, thanks to a sponsorship by Asahi Kasei Battery Separator Canada. All we ask is everyone bring some non-perishable food to support the Reach Out Centre. So far, concert goers have donated more than 1,500 pounds of food to the food bank. We thank you for your generosity.

We've invited all the volunteers who helped us at Canal Days this year to the concert, to recognize their efforts and show our appreciation for all they did to make the festival a success. We also invited the Port Colborne Downtown Cruisers to join us Friday evening, so we'll all enjoy a colourful display of classic cars. It'll be a great evening, a great way to celebrate, as we mark the final days of a fabulous summer.