

**City of Port Colborne
Council Meeting Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025
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)

Staff Present: J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk
B. Boles, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
J. Colasurdo, Manager of Strategic Projects
S. Double, Interim Fire Chief
G. Higginbotham, Tourism Coordinator
G. Long, Director of Development and Government Relations
M. Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer
J. Peazel-Graham, Manager of Communications
S. Powell-Baswick, Director of Museum and Culture
David Schulz, Manager of Planning
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works

Others Present: C. O'Neill, Operations Manager – Lighthouse Festival

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. National Anthem

Everyone stood for the national anthem.

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement was read:

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

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

- 5 delegations were added
- 1 document containing additional community input was added under report 2025-19
- A confidential memorandum was added to the agenda under Closed Session as item 18.2(f)

C-25- 01

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That the Council Agenda dated January 28th, 2025, be confirmed, as amended.

Carried

5. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Presentations

7.1 Niagara's South Coast Tourism Association Organizational Update

Greg Higginbotham, Tourism Coordinator, presented an organizational update on Niagara's South Coast Tourism Association to Council.

7.2 Lighthouse Festival, Roselawn Theatre 2020 - 2024

Stephanie Powell Baswick, Director of Museum and Culture, and Caitlin O'Neill, Operations Manager - Lighthouse Festival, presented to Council on their partnership and upcoming plans.

7.3 Award of Excellence - Department of Museum and Culture

Mayor Steele and Stephanie Powell Baswick presented the 2025 Award of Excellence from the Department of Museum and Culture to Brian Heaslip, Terry Huffman, Sandy MacIntyre, Arnold Pilzecker, Ed Schatzline, and James van Dillen.

8. Delegations

8.1 Angie Desmarais - 270 Davis Street

Angie Desmarais delegated on item 12.1.

8.2 Larry Rosnuk - 62 Fraser Street

Larry Rosnuk delegated on item 12.1.

8.3 Barbara Butters - 1152 Weaver Road

Submitted as a written delegation.

8.4 Gary Gaverluk - 21 Woodside Drive

Submitted as a written delegation.

8.5 Melissa Bigford - 173 Chippawa Road

Submitted as a written delegation.

9. Mayor's Report

A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

10. Regional Councillor's Report

There was no regional councillor report.

11. Consent Agenda

Item 11.3 c., Report 2025-11 and item 11.3 d., Report 2025-14 were lifted from the consent agenda and considered under item 12, Items Requiring Separate Discussion.

C-25- 02

Moved by Councillor F. Danch
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the January 28, 2025 Council agenda; and

That the consent items be approved on the recommendations as contained therein.

Carried

11.1 Approval of Minutes

a. Council in Closed Session

- a. April 2, 2024**
- b. April 9, 2024**
- c. April 23, 2024**
- d. April 30, 2024**
- e. May 13, 2024**
- f. Joint Tri-Council Meeting - May 13, 2024**
- g. May 14, 2024**
- h. May 27, 2024**
- i. May 28, 2024**
- j. June 18, 2024**
- k. July 23, 2024**
- l. September 7, 2024**
- m. September 10, 2024**

- b. Regular Council Meeting - November 26, 2024**
- c. Special Council Meeting - December 3, 2024**
- d. Regular Council Meeting - December 10, 2024**

11.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees

- a. **Museum, Heritage and Culture Board Minutes - November 19, 2024**
- b. **Port Colborne Public Library Board - December 4, 2024**

11.3 Staff Reports

- a. **Sale of City Property – Agreement of Purchase and Sale (Killaly St. E.), 2025-17**
- b. **Sale of City Property – Agreement of Purchase and Sale (Page Street Road Allowance), 2025-03**
- e. **Request for Delegated Authority for DC Relief for Projects Initiated Before New By-law Effective Date, 2025-08**
- f. **Port Colborne Library – Memorandum of Understanding, 2025-23**

11.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items

- a. **The Age-Friendly Niagara Council - Looking for Volunteer Members**
- b. **City of Welland - Request Province of Ontario to Invoke the Notwithstanding Clause in Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**
- c. **Niagara Region - Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Service Board 2025 Operating Budget**
- d. **City of Toronto - Declaring Toronto a Paid-Plasma-Free Zone**
- e. **Northern Ontario Women's Caucus (NOW Caucus) regarding the Resignation of MPP Michael Mantha**
- f. **Township of Terrace Bay - NOMA Letter re Billy Bishop Airport Support**

12. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

12.1 Community Engagement on the Future of Healthcare in Port Colborne, 2025-19

C-25- 03

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That Chief Administrative Officer Report 2025-19 be received; and

That Council direct staff to implement the proposed comprehensive public engagement plan outlined in this report.

Amendment:

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That Chief Administrative Officer Report 2025-19 be received; and

That Council direct staff to implement the proposed comprehensive public engagement plan, **as amended; and**

That the public engagement survey be extended to April 30, 2025.

Carried

12.2 Community Engagement on Licensed Childcare in Port Colborne, 2025-20

C-25- 04

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

That Chief Administrative Officer Report 2025-20 be received; and

That Council direct staff to implement the public engagement plan regarding expanding licensed childcare spaces in Port Colborne, and the proposed location at the former Visitors Centre as outlined in this report.

Carried

12.3 West Street Parkette Upgrades, 2025-11

C-25- 05

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That Public Works Department Report 2025-11 be received for information.

Carried

12.4 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority ‘Trees for All’ Partnership Opportunity, 2025-14

C-25- 06

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That Public Works Department Report 2025-14 be received; and

That Council approve the Director of Public Works to authorize an agreement with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) for tree planting services on private lands in the amount of \$55,000, funded from the 2025 Tree Planting operating budget, provided private landowners sign up for the program; and

That Council authorize the Director of Public works to approve future Trees for All program expenses up to a maximum of \$35,000 per year until 2031 funded from the annual operating budget, provided private landowners sign up for the program.

Carried

13. Staff Remarks

Stan Double, Interim Fire Chief, explained it has been a pleasure to work for the City since December 2024, and that they have made great strides in the Fire Department, including an uptake in morale for full-time firefighters and volunteer staff.

Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, noted there are several construction projects underway, including the watermain replacement project on Homewood Avenue, West Street, and Berkley Avenue, the storm sewer replacement project on Olga Drive and Clarence Street, and the work on the Davis Street watermain. He also noted there will be a water / wastewater open house on March 18 and 20, 2025, at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre from 2 - 4 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m.

Rachel Tkachuk, CEO of the Port Colborne Library, updated Council on the upcoming Ontario Library Association conference happening this week where they will be presenting on the Community Connect Program. She also noted the Gala presentation for the Touch a Truck book will be presented.

Gary Long, Director of Development and Government Relations, spoke about the City's delegation to the ROMA Conference, which he noted was a great

success. They are looking forward to putting delegations forward for the Good Roads Conference in April. He also explained that he spoke with Dr. Vanderberg about the public delegations and Report 2025-19, so he is aware of the City's progress thus far.

Mary Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, explained that summer student recruitment open until January 31, 2025, and they will be hiring 50 students.

Bryan, Interim CAO, thanked the Deputy Clerk for stepping in to Clerk tonight's meeting. He also thanked Interim Chief Double joining the City with an enthusiastic attitude. He also explained they are almost ready to release the request for proposal (RFP) for security cameras. The Lodging House Licensing by-law will be going to the Social Determinants of Health Committee on February 6, and the report will be coming forward to Council at the end of February. Lastly, he thanked the Public Works staff for their work during the inclement weather and for their repairs on the watermain breaks.

14. Councillors' Remarks

Councillor Bodner inquired to Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, about snow fencing on Miller Road.

Councillor Hoyle noted that the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee has organized a cornhole tournament during Sportsfest, and registration for teams is still open. He also explained he attended ROMA along with City Staff where they attended several sessions, including a session on asset management and the zone 3 meeting. They also met with several ministers where they discussed topics such as healthcare, transportation, infrastructure, and development and they ended the conference by attending the Great Lakes St. Lawrence City's Initiative roundtable.

Councillor Danch thanked Public Works staff for their work.

Councillor Elliot went to the Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (POCOMAR) Annual General Meeting (AGM). He also thanked Public Works staff for their assistance with parking on West Street. Lastly, he inquired about the watermain on Sugarloaf Street.

Councillor Bruno inquired to Interim Chief Double about his perspective on coming to Port Colborne. He also inquired about the water / wastewater grant program and how they could make this program easier to access for residents; he noted that they should look into increasing this grant as well during next year's budget process.

Councillor Bagu noted the water / wastewater grant application needs to be updated, and that he would be happy to assist Councillor Bruno on this. He also thanked Public Works staff for clearing the snow off the sidewalks.

Councillor Aquilina welcomed Interim Chief Double to Port Colborne.

15. Motions

There were no motions.

16. Notice of Motions

There were no notices of motions.

17. By-laws

C-25- 06

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That the following by-laws be passed and enacted, as presented:

- By-law No. 7310/01/25
- By-law No. 7311/02/25
- By-law No. 7312/03/25

Carried

17.1 By-law No. 7310/01/25 - Agreement Purchase of Sale (Killaly St. E.)

17.2 By-Law No. 7311/02/25 - Agreement Purchase of Sale (Page St. Road Allowance)

17.3 By-Law No. 7312/03/25 - The Port Colborne Public Library Memorandum of Understanding

18. Closed Session

C-25- 07

Moved by Councillor D. Elliott

Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That Council do now proceed to meet in Closed Session at 9:26 p.m. under:

- Section 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered are personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

- Section 239(2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is labour relations or employee negotiations.
- Section 239(2)(i) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization.

Carried

18.1 Approval of Minutes

- Special Council Meeting - November 8, 2024**
- Regular Council Meeting - November 12, 2024**
- Special Council Meeting - November 19, 2024**
- Regular Council Meeting - November 26, 2024**
- Special Council Meeting - December 3, 2024**
- Regular Council Meeting - December 10, 2024**

18.2 Staff Reports

- Confidential Office of the CAO Report, 2025-01**
- Confidential Office of the CAO Report, 2025-07**
- Confidential Office of the CAO Report, 2025-09**
- Confidential Office of the CAO Report, 2025-10**
- Confidential Human Resources Verbal Update**
- Confidential Memorandum to Council**

19. Back to Open Session

C-25- 08

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That Council does now rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 11:31 p.m. with report:

- Item 18.1 - Approval of Closed Session Minutes
 - That the following Closed Session Minutes be approved, as presented:
 - Special Council Meeting - November 8, 2024
 - Regular Council Meeting - November 12, 2024
 - Special Council Meeting - November 19, 2024
 - Regular Council Meeting - November 26, 2024
 - Special Council Meeting - December 3, 2024
 - Regular Council Meeting - December 10, 2024
- Item 18.2 - Staff Reports
 - a. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.
 - b. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.
 - c. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.
 - d. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.
 - e. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.
 - f. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.

Carried

20. Procedural Motions

C-25- 09

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That Council waive the rules of the Procedural By-law and extend the hour of curfew beyond 11 p.m.

Carried

21. Disclosures of Interest Arising from Closed Session

Mayor Steele disclosed a conflict of interest on item 18.2 b., Confidential Office of the CAO Report 2025-07.

22. Confirmatory By-law

22.1 By-Law No. 7313/04/25 - By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne

C-25- 010

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That the By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council Meeting of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne, Dated January 28, 2025, be enacted and passed, as presented.

Carried

23. Adjournment

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at 11:33 p.m.

William C. Steele, Mayor

Jessica Beaupre, Deputy Clerk



PORT COLBORNE

MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025

ROMA REPORT

Over the course of three days at the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association conference last week, our team met with 10 provincial ministers and parliamentary assistants to present our cases for funding and support. It was a non-stop run January 19 to 21 at the ROMA event in Toronto, attended by about 200 municipal teams from across the province. Our team included Councillor Tim Hoyle, Gary Long, director of development and government relations, and Bryan Boles, our acting CAO.

You may have seen some coverage of the conference on tv, on the radio, or in the paper. All the political leaders were there, and all the cabinet ministers. We had back-to-back appointments with the Minister of Health, Minister of Transportation, Energy, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs and Housing. Councillor Hoyle, this was your second time at ROMA; you can attest to how busy we were, and how much ground we covered.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of being face-to-face with decision-makers at Queen's Park. It is essential we meet with cabinet ministers and their teams, every chance we get. They hear about our projects and our challenges, and they work with us. They need us as much as we need them. It's at events and meetings such as this we can present what we hope to achieve for the city, and how the province will move forward by investing in Port Colborne.

Thank you to Gary Long, for working weeks before the conference to secure our time with all the ministers and senior staff. You got us in to see all the people we needed to see, and that is no small feat. Excellent work, sir. In addition to meetings with ministers, there were speakers and educational sessions, where municipalities learn from one another. We all face similar challenges of aging infrastructure, need for housing, and improved health care. I know our team impressed our provincial counterparts. I'm confident we'll see action on our files, including the partnerships we've developed with the province and Asahi Kasei and Jungbunzlauer. We have a lot of irons in the fire. Good work on all fronts, team.

MARINE WEEK

Two days before ROMA I attended Marine Week in Toronto, the annual gathering of the marine industry, all the major players in shipping and ship- building, cargo, ports, waterways and canals. Part of the event included the annual general meeting of Highway H2O, where we learned cargo on the Great Lakes was up in 2024 from the year before and is forecast to be up again this year. The focus of Highway H2O and of the Ontario Marine Council is environmentally responsible maritime commerce. Being at the table with the top people, the leaders in the industry, is essential for us, just as it is to meet with the leaders of government.

SPORTSFEST

We're a week away from our annual mid-winter SportsFest! Dozens of businesses and community groups are preparing for three days of family fun, from Friday, February 7 to Sunday, February 9. First held in 1999, SportsFest is a February tradition which welcomes people from across Niagara to a city-wide celebration of indoor and outdoor events, with proceeds donated to charitable organizations. SportsFest is a fantastic example of the phenomenal community we have here in Port Colborne.

Some of the classic favourites are on again, including the ever-popular Mayor's Cup. We drop the puck to open the hockey tournament at 6 o'clock Friday, Feb. 7. We have a cornhole tournament for the first time! The Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee welcomes teams of four to the Vale Centre on Friday, Feb. 7. MYAC members and friends will help raise money for their student peer, 16- year-old Lilly Grabovac, who made Canada's national junior roller derby team. The team travels to Australia this summer, so all proceeds from the MYAC cornhole tournament and donations will help cover expenses. Lilly works as a lifeguard and swim instructor at the YMCA in Port. MYAC invites teams of all ages, and all abilities, to come join its first Sportsfest tournament. Register your team(s) this week.

There will be five inductees to the Sports Wall of Fame Saturday, Feb. 8 in the Golden Puck Room at the Vale Centre. Please come out and celebrate our sports heroes. The induction ceremony will be livestreamed on Facebook for those not able to attend.

Don't forget the Polar Plunge Sunday afternoon, Feb. 9. Every year we draw bigger and bigger crowds to see the brave polar plungers. You can register and pay a nominal fee or raise \$100 for charity and plunge for free. There will be lots of Sportsfest fun for the whole family. Several local businesses are running events, and they are always sold out, so register early. All the events are on our city website, portcolborne.ca