



City of Port Colborne
Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 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, Deputy Mayor (presiding officer)
G. Bruno, Councillor
D. Elliott, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor

Member(s) Absent: F. Danch, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor

Staff Present: J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk
B. Boles, Chief Administrative Officer (Virtual)
C. Dray, Road and Park Operations Manager
G. Long, Director of Development and Government Relations /
Acting CAO
O. Loeffen, Business Community and Events Ambassador
C. Madden, City Clerk
M. Pilon, Senior Project Manager, Strategic Projects
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works (Virtual)
G. Zwiep, Manager of Recreation and Tourism

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Bodner called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Hattiwendaronk, 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

C-25-021

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

That the Council agenda dated February 11, 2025, be confirmed, as amended.

Carried

5. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

6. Proclamations

6.1 Heritage Week - February 17-23, 2025

C-25-022

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard
Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

WHEREAS the third week of February marks Heritage Week, in which we celebrate Heritage in all its forms (cultural and natural, architectural, archaeological, and collections) and its diverse traditions and cultural expressions; and

WHEREAS Heritage Week provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals and communities to reflect on their contributions to Ontario; and

WHEREAS how heritage is conserved, promoted, and commemorated, and how they might shape the future; and

WHEREAS During Heritage Week 2025, the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum will be celebrating the theme of 'Click and Connect' by

highlighting the different ways history can be digitized. Join us all week to explore online exhibitions, access new databases, and watch new heritage videos on local history.

NOW THEREFORE I, Deputy Mayor Ron Bodner, do hereby proclaim February 17th – 23rd, 2025 as “Heritage Week” in Port Colborne.

Carried

7. Presentations

7.1 Canal Days 2024 Recap and Updates

Olga Loeffen, Business Community and Events Ambassador, presented a recap of the 2024 Canal Days event to Council.

8. Delegations

There were no delegations.

9. Mayor's Report

A copy of the Deputy Mayor's report is attached.

10. Regional Councillor's Report

There was no Regional Councillor's report.

11. Consent Agenda

C-25-023

Moved by Councillor D. Elliott

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the February 11, 2025 Council agenda; and

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

Carried

11.1 Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Council Meeting - January 28, 2025

b. Special Council Meeting (5 p.m.) - February 4, 2025

- c. **Special Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.) - February 4, 2025**

11.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees

- a. **Port Colborne Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes - December 17, 2024**

11.3 Staff Reports

- a. **2025 Watermain Replacement Program Update, 2025-34**

11.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items

- a. **Niagara Region - Motion Respecting Use of the Notwithstanding Clause to Remove Encampments**
- b. **City of Niagara Falls - Governance Review for the Niagara Region**
- c. **Niagara Transit - Niagara Transit Master Plan Public Engagement**

Councillor Beauregard spoke to the Niagara Transit Master Plan and encouraged residents to take part in the public engagement plan.

- d. **Niagara Peninsula Conservation - Report No. FA-65-24 Re: Public Advisory Committee Member Recruitment**
- e. **Town of Aylmer - Opposition to Provincial Legislation on Cycling Lanes and Support for Municipal Authority in Transportation Planning**
- f. **City of Peterborough - Bill 242, Safer Municipalities Act, 2024**

12. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

**12.1 Grain Terminal Update and Public Engagement Plan, 2025-30
C-25-024**

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That Development and Government Relations Report 2025-30 regarding the City's Grain Terminal Update and Public Engagement Plan be received; and

That the Director of Development and Government Relations be directed to implement the proposed public engagement plan outlined in this report.

Carried

12.2 West Street Electrical Improvements, 2025-38

C-25-025

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That Public Works Department Report 2025-38 be received; and

That Council approve the reallocation of \$375,000 from capital account 23C-PW-R09 Pleasant Beach Retaining Wall Remediation to 23C-PW-R10 West Street Hydro Lines.

Carried

13. Staff Remarks

Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, noted he was in attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainability Conference with other City staff, where they have been meeting with granting agencies about energy audits and what they can do to bring energy costs down at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre. He also noted they attended a session on accessibility, and lastly, he thanked everyone who participated in the Polar Plunge event.

Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, also noted he was in attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainability Conference. He updated Council on the waterfront road allowance project; staff have been working with an environmental consultant to review the feedback, and they are looking to bring the report back to Council in April.

Gary Long, Director of Development and Government Relations, explained that the donation window is still open for the Polar Plunge event; so far, approximately \$25,000 has been raised. He also explained that two surveys, the Future of Healthcare in Port Colborne and Expanded Licensed Childcare in Port Colborne, are live on the City's website, and paper copies of the surveys are also available at City facilities. He also noted that ensuring adequate power supply for future growth and development in the City is on staff's radar, and they recently met with Canadian National Power to discuss the matter.

Greg Zwiep, Manager of Recreation and Tourism, thanked Luke Rowe and Olga Loeffen for their efforts in event coordination for Sportsfest weekend. He also highlighted that it is a busy time at the arena with tournaments and playoffs, and he encouraged the community to come support the different sports teams.

Curtis Dray, Road and Park Operations Manager, explained that there are several weather advisories, and that crews are ready to respond as needed. Staff will continue to monitor the advisories and respond accordingly.

14. **Councillors' Remarks**

Councillor Aquilina noted that both the healthcare and childcare surveys can be filled out online, in paper, or by calling customer service for assistance to fill them out over the phone. She also congratulated the Sports Wall of Fame inductees and thanked staff and volunteers for Sportsfest weekend.

Councillor Beauregard congratulated staff on their work for organizing Sportsfest, and he noted he also participated on team Port Colborne.

Councillor Bagu thanked everyone for participating in Sportsfest. He also thanked staff for community engagement efforts.

Councillor Bruno thanked everyone involved in Sportsfest. He also inquired about the Sports Wall of Fame nomination process.

Councillor Elliott noted that there is no parking on the road during snow events; doing so could result in receiving a by-law infraction ticket. He also inquired if Council could receive an activity update report from the By-law Division.

Councillor Hoyle explained that he attended Sportsfest this past weekend and handed out several awards, and he thanked staff for their efforts during the event. He encouraged residents to attend the healthcare open house and to do the survey. He also noted that there will be an upcoming women's hockey tournament, and encouraged everyone to come support the teams.

Deputy Mayor Bodner thanked Greg Zwiep on behalf of Sherkston Community Center for his support.

15. **Motions**

There were no motions.

16. **Notice of Motions**

There were no notices of motions.

17. By-laws

C-25-026

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

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

- By-law No. 7316/07/25
- By-law No. 7317/08/25
- By-law No. 7318/09/25
- By-law No. 7319/10/25

Carried

17.1 By-Law No. 7316/07/25 Page Street Stop Up and Close and Surplus Declaration

17.2 By-Law No. 7317/08/25 Appoint a Fire Chief (Stan Double)

17.3 By-law No. 7318/09/25 - Appoint a Deputy Fire Chief (Mark Middleton)

17.4 By-law No. 7319/10/25 - Appoint a Chief Administrative Officer (Bryan Boles)

18. Closed Session

C-25-027

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard
Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Council do now proceed to meet in Closed Session at 8:22 p.m. under section 239(2)(c) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

Carried

18.1 Approval of the Minutes

- a. **Regular Council Meeting - January 28, 2025**
- b. **Special Council Meeting (5 p.m.) - February 4, 2025**

- c. **Special Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.) - February 4, 2025**

18.2 Staff Reports

- a. **Confidential Development and Government Relations Report 2025-04**

19. Back to Open Session

C-25-028

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Council does now rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 8:39 p.m.
with report:

Item 18.1 Approval of the Minutes

That the following Closed Session Minutes be approved, as presented:

- a. Regular Council Meeting - January 28, 2025
- b. Special Council Meeting (5 p.m.) - February 4, 2025
- c. Special Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.) - February 4, 2025

Item 18.2 Staff Reports

- a. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.

Carried

20. Procedural Motions

There were no procedural motions.

21. Confirmatory By-law

21.1 By-law No. 7320/11/25 - Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne

C-25-029

Moved by Councillor D. Elliott
Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That the By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne, dated February 11, 2025, be enacted and passed, as presented.

Carried

22. Adjournment

Deputy Mayor Bodner adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Ron Bodner, Deputy Mayor

Charlotte Madden, City Clerk



PORT COLBORNE

DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025

It is my honour and pleasure to be here tonight, serving the city as Deputy Mayor while our mayor is on an unpaid leave of absence until the end of the month. Council, I thank you for your confidence in me, appointing me as captain of our ship, if only temporarily. It's good to be back in all your company, as we carry on the business of our city. We certainly have a lot going on!

SUPER SPORTSFEST WEEKEND

There sure was a lot going on all weekend. Our 26th annual winter celebration of Sportsfest drew great crowds at venues across the city. Dozens of businesses and community groups coordinated events for the whole family, starting Friday afternoon and wrapping up Sunday afternoon with the Polar Plunge at the marina.

There were just as many spectators as there were Polar Plungers at the Sugarloaf Harbour Marina boat ramp Sunday. It is gratifying to see this event grow every year, and equally gratifying to see more money raised for Special Olympics every year. Almost \$25,000 was raised by 600 donors. Fantastic!

More than 100 brave souls registered to plunge themselves in the frigid waters of Lake Erie. Some did it on their own, with a friend or relative. Others plunged in teams. The West Niagara Minions joined us again this year, and with their incredible costumes and community spirit, they raised an incredible \$7,500. We thank them so much! I was proud to learn our Port COOLborne team raised \$2500.

The city team had members from almost every department. In addition to CAO Bryan Boles and Fire Chief Stan Double, we had Doug Hunt from Communications, Andrea Hawkins from Customer Service, Mary Murray and her son Magnus and Annie Beck from Human Resources, Rachel Tkachuk from the Library, Meghan Chamberland from the Museum, Curtis Collard from IT, and Eliza Durant from Public Works. Isn't that great? Way to go, Team Port COOLborne. I make special mention of six volunteers who handled all the registration: Gord Foster, David McKay, Bonnie Schneider, Kim Comfort, Paul Faris, and Zach Ricci. Our business and community ambassador Olga Loeffen tells me our event is impossible to run without these volunteers. On behalf of the city, thank you!

Thank you also to our Marina and Public Works crews, who spent a week breaking through the ice and prepping the site for all the brave souls. Thanks to our Firefighters, for being on-site and in the icy water to serve as first responders. We are always grateful for your presence. It really does take an army of staff and volunteers --- and staff who also volunteer --- to make these events incredible. We are grateful for each of you, and for all the Port Colborne business owners and employees who coordinated Sportsfest events and ran Sportsfest specials.

SPORTSFEST MAYOR'S CUP

Our Port Colborne hockey team had players from almost every department, too. We had a win, a loss and a tie, not enough to get into the Mayor's Cup playoffs, but enough to make us proud of our players. Councillor Bagu was at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre to cheer on the men and women of our team, and their rival teams from across the region. Councillor Beauregard crashed into the boards Saturday morning, but scored a goal on his way, so that was worth it, right Councillor? On behalf of the city, congratulations to the winners of each of four divisions. Councillor Hoyle was at centre ice Sunday to present the trophies and plaques.

Niagara Region won 3-2 over St. Catharines to claim the D division. Beamsville Firefighters won 6-2 over Welland to conquer the C division. Niagara Falls won 6-5 over West Lincoln to clinch the B division. And the Mayor's Cup champions for 2025 are Port Frontenac, winning 6-0 over Grimsby. It is the sixth consecutive Mayor's Cup championship for the Frontenac team. They are invincible! Congratulations to all.

SPORTS WALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

One of the highlights of Sportsfest is the annual Sports Wall of Fame ceremony. On Saturday evening, the Golden Puck Room at the Vale Centre was full of talent, achievement, home-town pride, memories, and heart. A lot of heart.

The 2025 inductees are:

- Don Murdoch, for almost a lifetime of playing and coaching hockey, baseball, golf, and bowling. His love of sport showed in his exceptional abilities and continued in leadership roles long after he stopped playing.
- Lloyd and Pat Goss were awarded posthumously for their achievements in and contributions to football, badminton, baseball, Comettes softball, and their steadfast voluntarism with Sea Cadets and Port Colborne Operatic Society. The Gosses were an incredible couple, who did so much, and who were loved by so many.
- Ron Favero was inducted to the Sports Wall of Fame for 40 years of Special Olympic achievements in swimming, track and field, bowling, and bocce at provincial and national levels.

The juvenile women's softball team from Port Colborne won the provincial B championship in 1970. Team members from the Charuk's Woodworking softball team shared their stories as they all took part in unveiling the plaque for the Sports Wall of Fame. Likewise for the Sugarloaf Esso Bantams: the 1980 All-Ontario C division champs joined coach Jimmy Edwards, who flew all the way from Calgary to be part of the induction ceremony. The ceremony Saturday evening was live streamed on Facebook for people unable to attend. You can watch it again on Facebook, or on the city's Youtube channel. Thank you, Mayor Steele, MP Vance Badawey, and the former and current sports and recreation managers -- Tom Lannan and Greg Zweip -- for an impressive ceremony to honour the 2025 inductees to Port Colborne Sports Wall of Fame.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Mayor Steele accepted the Hazel McCallion Leadership Award last Thursday evening at the annual gathering of the Economic Development Council in Toronto. He accepted it on behalf of our entire team here at the City of Port Colborne, for all the work done to secure several major multi-million-dollar projects to our city, including the AK plant currently under construction. Congratulations to economic development officer Bram Cotton, director of development and government relations Gary Long, and CAO Bryan Boles and their teams.

PORT COLBORNE AT INVICTUS GAMES

Jeana Provias is the niece of Christine Tice, who has been an assistant librarian for 25 years at Port Colborne Library. Jeana is in Vancouver and Whistler BC this week competing with 56 athletes on Canada's national team in the Invictus Games. Jeana grew up in Port Colborne, the daughter of Tony and Pat Harrington. She's a pharmacist officer stationed at 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alberta. She served aboard HMCS Athabaskan and HMCS Algonquin as a marine engineering technician. She's also served in Latvia, part of a multi-national clinic with 10 other NATO countries.

Jeana's parents left Ontario for BC last week with a bag full of Port Colborne pins to trade with parents of athletes from 23 countries. I wonder if they met Prince Harry during Sunday's opening ceremonies in BC Place. Jeana competes in skeleton, biathlon, sitting volleyball, and indoor rowing. The Invictus Games run all this week, with closing ceremonies next Sunday.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK BOOK WINS INNOVATION AWARD

Every year, Public Works staff invites children and their families to the Operations Centre for the Touch-a-Truck event, which also includes Fire Safety Week demonstrations by our Fire Department. All the city equipment is featured on pages for children to write about and to colour. The children's work was published in The Touch-A

-Truck Book last fall, and that book earned the Minister's Award for Innovation presented by Ontario's Minister of Tourism and Culture. That's a real collaborative achievement by our creative teams at the library, museum, and public works. Congratulations to all of you.

MUSEUM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum. Staff and volunteers have a big year of events planned for us. On Friday, for example, which is a Professional Development Day for teachers, children (and adults) are invited to go to the L.R. Wilson Archives on King Street and make a Victorian Valentine's Day card. Drop in any time between 10:30 and noon. Did you know you can be part of the museum by joining as a member? Many of us here on Council are Life Members. Becoming a member or giving a membership as a gift this year will be a great way to celebrate 50 years of local heritage preservation.

FAMILY DAY

Council and I wish Happy Family Day to all of you here, and to those of you watching via live stream. Monday, Feb. 17 is Family Day in Ontario, to reflect on the importance of families and to celebrate with loved ones. There are lots of activities planned at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre. Please visit the city's website or social media. Monday is also Heritage Day in Ontario, the first day of Heritage Week, which was designated by the province in 1985. That concludes my report to you as Deputy Mayor. Thank you.