



City of Port Colborne Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 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
F. Danch, Councillor
D. Elliott, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor

Member(s) Absent: W. Steele, Mayor

Staff Present: J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk
B. Boles, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Dray, Road and Park Operations Manager
G. Long, Director of Development and Government Relations
C. Madden, City Clerk
M. Pilon, Senior Project Manager, Strategic Projects
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works
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

An amendment was made to item 18.2 a on the Closed Session agenda.

C-25- 030

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That the Council agenda dated February 25, 2025, be confirmed, as amended.

Carried

5. Disclosures of Interest

5.1 Councillor T. Hoyle - Removal of a Holding Provision Application – Vacant Lots on Killaly Street East (File No. D14-10-24) - 2025-32

Councillor Hoyle declared a conflict of interest on item 11.3 a. – Removal of a Holding Provision Application – Vacant Lots on Killaly Street East (File No. D14-10-24) – 2025-32 due to the property being located behind his house.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Presentations

There were no presentations.

8. Delegations

There were no delegations.

9. Mayor's Report

A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

10. Regional Councillor's Report

There was no regional councillor's report.

11. Consent Agenda

The following items were lifted for separate discussion:

- item 11.3 b. - considered as item 12.4
- item 11.4 a. - considered as item 12.5
- item 11.3 a. - considered as item 12.6
- item 11.4 b. - considered as item 12.7
- item 11.4 c. - considered as item 12.8

C-25- 031

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina
Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the February 25, 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 - February 11, 2025

11.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees

11.3 Staff Reports

11.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items

d. Township of McGarry - Ontario Building Code

12. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

12.1 Lodging House Licensing By-law - 2025-40

C-25- 032

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

That Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Report 2025-40 be received;
and

That the Lodging House Licensing By-law attached hereto as Appendix A
be approved; and

That the Clerk be directed to contact the Niagara Region and request that they assume responsibility for regulating Lodging Houses in Niagara and additionally request that the Councils of each municipality in the Niagara Region request the same of the Niagara Region; and

That the amending by-law to By-law 4323/159/02, Being a By-law to License, Regulate, and Govern Lodging Houses and the Keepers of Lodging Houses, be approved in order to facilitate a name change of that by-law to “Being a By-law to License, Regulate and Govern Bed & Breakfast Establishments”, attached hereto as Appendix B; and

That the amending by-law to By-law 7297/119/24, Being a By-law to Establish Fees and Charges for Various Services and to Repeal By-law 7155/97/23 and any amendments thereto, attached hereto as Appendix C, be approved to include the Lodging House licensing fee structure as outlined in this report; and

That the amending by-law to By-law 6902/50/21, Being a by-law to Establish a System for Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences within the City of Port Colborne, attached hereto as Appendix D, be approved to include administrative penalties associated with the Lodging House Licensing By-law; and

That the resolution and Lodging House Licensing By-law be circulated to the local area municipalities in the Niagara Region; and

That the local area municipalities be encouraged to implement similar by-laws.

Carried

Amendment:

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That the resolution and Lodging House Licensing By-law be circulated to the local area municipalities in the Niagara Region; and

That the local area municipalities be encouraged to implement similar by-laws.

Carried

12.2 Backyard Chickens in the Urban Boundary - 2025-43

C-25- 033

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

That Corporate Services Department Report 2025-43 be received; and

That Council direct staff to implement the public engagement plan regarding backyard Chickens in the Urban Boundary in Port Colborne.

Carried

12.3 Status of Marina Dredging - 2025-12

C-25- 034

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

That Public Works Department Report 2025-12 be received; and

~~That Council approve funding to dredge Sugarloaf Harbour Marina at an estimated cost of \$3,400,000; and~~

That clause two be removed; and

That council approve funding to design the dredging options of Sugarloaf Harbour Marina at an estimated cost of \$500,000; and

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

Carried

Amendment:

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

That clause two be removed; and

That council approve funding to design the dredging options of Sugarloaf Harbour Marina at an estimated cost of \$500,000.

Carried

12.4 Nickel Beach Report - 2025-06

C-25- 035

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

That Corporate Services Department Report 2025-06 be received; and

That Recreation staff be directed to move forward with the environmental projects involving removal of invasive phragmites, installation of dune fencing; and

That Recreation staff be directed to conduct a trial of vendors at Nickel Beach during the 2025 season.

Carried

12.5 Town of Fort Erie - Provincial Election Health Care Advocacy

C-25- 036

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina
Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Council endorse the Town of Fort Erie's resolution regarding Provincial Election Health Care Advocacy; and

That staff be directed to prepare a similar motion to be brought forward with the staff report regarding the future of healthcare in Port Colborne at the March 25, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

Carried

12.6 Removal of a Holding Provision Application – Vacant Lots on Killaly Street East (File No. D14-10-24) - 2025-32

Councillor Hoyle declared a conflict on this item. He did not participate in the discussion, nor did he vote on the motion.

C-25- 037

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

That Development and Government Relations Department 2025-32 be received; and

That Council approve the by-law attached as Appendix A to this report, being a by-law to remove the holding provision for the subject lands legally known as Lots 52 and 53, Plan 871, in the City of Port Colborne, Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Carried

12.7 City of St. Catharines, Town of Hanover, Town of Parry Sound, Township of Val Rita-Harty, Re: United States Imposition of Tariffs on Canada

C-25- 038

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Council endorse the City of St. Catharines, the Town of Hanover, the Town of Parry Sound and the Township of Val Rita-Harty resolutions regarding the United States Imposition of Tariffs on Canada; and

Carried

12.8 Town of Fort Frances - Sovereignty of Canada

C-25- 039

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Council endorse the Town of Fort Frances resolution regarding Sovereignty of Canada.

Carried

13. Staff Remarks

Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, noted the healthcare survey is still open, and that staff will be bringing a summary of the initial results to Council on March 25, 2025. He also noted the marina and grain terminal public consultation processes will be beginning next week, starting with open houses at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre on March 5th and 6th. Lastly, he noted there will be an open house on March 18th and March 20th regarding water and wastewater billing.

Gary Long, Director of Development and Government Relations, explained they have had weekly phone calls with stakeholders regarding the U.S. tariffs to develop a Niagara response, and that City staff have been working on creating a webpage for businesses with resources. He also discussed plans for the upcoming Good Roads conference.

Greg Zwiép, Manager of Recreation and Tourism explained that they chose a consultant for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He also noted that registration is open for spring and summer sports with the minor sports associations.

Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, acknowledged public works staff for their efforts in snow clearing and handling the inclement weather events. He also noted that localized flooding may happen due to snow melt. Staff are working to unblock catch basins and are out proactively to look for potholes. He updated Council on the Clarence Street project; the work is ongoing, but the road is now open again. Lastly, he provided Council with an update on the storm sewer replacement project on Olga Drive.

14. **Councillors' Remarks**

Councillor Hoyle inquired to Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, about flooding in backyards in the Wellington Street area. He also thanked Public Works staff for keeping the roads clean for the Wave hockey tournament on the weekend; 22 teams across Ontario participated, and 2 local teams won their divisions.

Councillor Danch noted concerns about the length of time for By-law matters to be resolved.

Councillor Elliot thanked the workers for their work on Clarence Street. He also thanked staff for their efforts with snow removal, and inquired about providing residents more information about how snow removal is done.

Councillor Bruno congratulated Bryan Boles on his new role as CAO, and he thanked Public Works staff for snow removal. Lastly, he inquired to staff about steps being taken to ensure the use of Canadian suppliers and companies in light of the U.S. tariffs.

Councillor Bagu inquired with Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, about snowplows creating piles of snow at the end of residents' driveways. He also inquired to the CAO about fixing the speakers in Council Chambers. Lastly, he noted that the Library has begun their free income tax clinic for community members.

Councillor Beauregard provided Council an update on the Heritage Sub-Committee; they are reviewing potential projects for designation, and that will be coming forward soon to Council. He also noted the Niagara Transit Commission survey has been extended to February 28 and encouraged residents to fill out the survey to provide their feedback on the Transit Master Plan.

Councillor Aquilina inquired to the CAO about working with the Communications team on providing residents with information about the income tax clinic. She also thanked everyone who came out to events regarding the hospital and for completing the survey; she noted these are steps towards making movement in supporting urgent care going forward.

15. Motions

There were no motions.

16. Notice of Motions

There were no notices of motions.

17. By-laws

C-25- 040

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

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

- By-law No. 7321/12/25
- By-law No. 7322/13/25
- By-law No. 7323/14/25
- By-law No. 7324/15/25
- By-law No. 7325/16/25

Carried

17.1 By-Law No. 7321/12/25 - Respecting the Removal of the Holding Symbol from lands known as Two Vacant Lots on Killaly Street East

17.2 By-law No. 7322/13/25 - By-law to License, Regulate and Govern Lodging Houses in the City of Port Colborne

17.3 By-Law No. 7323/14/25 - By-law to Amend By-law 4323/159/02 Bed and Breakfast Establishments

17.4 By-law No. 7324/15/25 - By-law to Amend By-law No. 7297/119/24 Fees and Charges for Various Services - Licensing of Lodging Houses

17.5 By-Law No. 7325/16/25 - By-law to Amend By-law No. 6902/50/21 Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences - Lodging Houses

18. Closed Session

C-25- 041

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

That Council do now proceed to meet in Closed Session at 9:12 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)(e) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board.
- Section 239(2)(f) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Carried

18.1 Approval of the Minutes

- a. **Regular Council Meeting (Closed Session) - February 11, 2025**

18.2 Staff Reports

- a. **Confidential Public Works Report - 2025-46**
- b. **Confidential Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Report - 2025-41**

c. Confidential Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Report - 2025-45

19. Back to Open Session

C-25- 042

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That Council does now rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 11:45 p.m. with report:

- Item 18.1 - Approval of Closed Session Minutes
 - a. That the Closed Session Meeting minutes from the February 11, 2025, Council meeting be approved as presented.
- 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.

Carried

20. Procedural Motions

C-25- 043

At 10:55 p.m. the following motion was passed:

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

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

Carried

21. Confirmatory By-law

21.1 By-Law No. 7326/17/25 - By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne

C-25- 044

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

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 25, 2025, be enacted and passed, as presented.

Carried

22. Adjournment

Deputy Mayor Bodner adjourned the meeting at 11:46 p.m.

Ron Bodner, Deputy Mayor

Charlotte Madden, City Clerk



PORT COLBORNE

DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025

HEALTHCARE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Council thanks every one of you who completed the “Future of Healthcare” survey, and for attending the open houses, whether in person or virtually. In the first week, more than 1000 people completed and submitted the survey, whether online or on the paper versions. We had two open houses last week at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre, and a virtual town hall Friday. Yesterday, we had an in-person town hall meeting in the Lighthouse Theatre over at Roselawn. All the data will be gathered, compiled, and shared as soon as possible so we are prepared when we meet with the Ministry of Health at the end of March. But that will not conclude our public engagement. Please continue to follow the city social media and the city website for information and updates.

CONGRATULATIONS OPERATIC SOCIETY

My wife Claire and I joined a full house of fans in the theatre at Lakeshore Catholic Saturday evening. We all enjoyed Anything Goes, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter. We were impressed by so much talent on stage, in the pit, and with the incredible sets. Anything Goes debuted on Broadway in 1934. It was the biggest musical comedy of the 1930s and has been revived many times. The local version included some clever Port Colborne and Canadian references. Bravo to the board of directors, the cast, crew, musicians, and volunteers of the Port Colborne Operatic Society, the oldest amateur theatre company in Niagara, founded 80 years ago, in 1945. Anything Goes runs until March 2, so there is still time to see it, if you haven't already.

SNOW DAYS

The weekend before last, we experienced a dramatic weather event, during which 25cm of snow fell in a 24-hour period. On behalf of council, I thank our roads crew for being on top of things and clearing accumulating snow all weekend. People may not know this, but we have six trucks, three loaders and a grader to clear 300 kilometres of roads and streets in 320 square kilometres. We have a well-designed snow removal route which clears primary roadways first – that's emergency routes, and main arteries – followed by secondary roads and residential streets. Thankfully, most of our snow is

moved, salted, sanded, and this week, melting. Thank you to our road crews and thank you to the thoughtful residents who reached out to thank them.

PORT FAMILY AT INVICTUS GAMES

In my report two weeks ago, I shared news that Jeana Provias, who grew up in Port Colborne, was to participate in the Invictus Games in Vancouver and Whistler BC. Jeana was one of 56 members of Team Canada, one of 26 countries competing in the Games. She had the experience of a lifetime! Jeana's parents, Tony and Pat Harrington, arrived home late Thursday night, after being delayed by several days. Apart from the delay in getting home, Jeana's dad said the Invictus Games were amazing. He was so impressed with BC Place, with the convention centre, with Whistler, everything was first-class.

He said he has new friends from around the world, including a guy he met from Australia who came to Port Colborne and stayed at Canalside Inn after the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto. Jeana took part in indoor rowing, endurance and sprint events, (placed fourth in both!). She placed fifth in biathlon, and 14th in skeleton. Her sitting volleyball team was eliminated in game three by Team France. Jeana's dad Tony said they were treated like royalty -- their flights, accommodation and food all covered. He met dignitaries and sponsors and presidents of companies, but the icing on the cake was meeting Prince Harry and Meghan.

Jeana was featured in People magazine and described Prince Harry as "very intense and purposeful. When he shakes your hand," she said, "he looks into your face like he wants to imprint your face in his mind. You can feel he's an outstanding leader." What an experience for the Harrington family. Tony said he traded pins with athletes and parents and coaches from around the world. "We cheered for our kids," he said, "but we all cheered for all the athletes."

GRAND OPENING OF CHESTNUT PLACE

Tomorrow afternoon, after many years of hard-fought effort and heartfelt planning, I look forward to attending the ribbon cutting at Chestnut Place, the five-story affordable housing project successfully brought to life by Port Cares and its champion Christine Clark LaFleur. It's not simply an affordable housing project now. It's 41 new homes that will improve the quality of life for people.

Congratulations to the Port Cares board of directors, to all the funding partners, all the donors to Port Cares, and all the volunteers. It's been a huge undertaking, which started before the pandemic, and tomorrow, we celebrate the grand opening. Kudos to our staff who worked extensively on the project, including Gary Long with his team in planning, building an economic development; Steve Shypowskyj and his teams in public works; Sherry Hanson and her team in bylaw; and Jasmine and her team in communications. It takes many hands to see a major project like this come together. We're grateful for all of them. Congratulations to all the new tenants!