

**City of Port Colborne
Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting 24-19
Minutes**

Date: September 23, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Members Present: E. Beauregard, Councillor
R. Bodner, Councillor
G. Bruno, Councillor
A. Desmarais, Councillor
D. Kalailieff, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)
H. Wells, Councillor

Absent: M. Bagu, Councillor
F. Danch, Councillor

Staff Present: D. Aquilina, Director of Planning and Development
T. Cartwright, Fire Chief
B. Garrett, Director of Corporate Services
A. Grigg, Director of Community and Economic Development
A. LaPointe, Manager of Legislative Services/City Clerk
C. Lee, Director of Engineering and Operations
S. Luey, Chief Administrative Officer
L. Nelson, EAA to the Director of Corporate Services (minutes)

Also in attendance were interested citizens, members of the news media and WeeStream.

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order.

2. National Anthem

Those in attendance stood for O Canada.

3. Introduction of Addendum Items:

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Agenda:

Moved by Councillor H. Wells
Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That the agenda dated September 23, 2019 be confirmed, as circulated or as amended.

CARRIED.

5. **Disclosures of Interest:**

Nil.

6. **Adoption of Minutes:**

(a) **Regular meeting of Committee of the Whole 23-19, held on September 9, 2019.**

Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais
Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole 23-19, held on September 9, 2019, be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

7. **Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion:**

The following items were identified for separate discussion:

Items 1, 3, and 6.

8. **Approval of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion:**

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor H. Wells

That items 1 to 6 on the agenda be approved, with the exception of items that have been deferred, deleted or listed for separate discussion, and the recommendation contained therein adopted.

Items:

2. **Corporate Services Department, Finance Division, Report 2019-137, Subject: Cancellation, Reduction or Refund of Realty Tax**

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the applications pursuant to Section 357/358 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, 2019-01, 2019-09, 2019-06, 2019-05, 2019-02, 2018-05, 2018-04, 2018-07, 2018-10, 2018-23, 2017-100 and 2018-24 be approved to cancel or reduce taxes in the total amount of \$27,074.95.

4. **Planning and Development Department, Report 2019-139, Subject: Ohina:kara UNESCO Global Park**

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the concept for the Ohina:kara UNESCO Global Geopark be endorsed and the Ohina:kara steering committee be supported in their pursuits of developing a global geopark.

5. Carol Madden, Poppy Chairman, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 56, Port Colborne Re: Request for Poppy Week, October 25 to November 11, 2019

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That October 25 to November 11, 2019 be proclaimed as "Poppy Week" in the City of Port Colborne in accordance with the request received from Carol Madden, Poppy Chairman, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 56, Port Colborne.

CARRIED.

9. Presentations:

Nil.

10. Delegations:

Nil.

11. Mayor's Report:

A copy of the Mayor's Report is attached.

12. Regional Councillor's Report:

Nil.

13. Councillors' Items:

(a) Four way crossing at Pleasant Beach and Sherkston Roads (Wells)

Councillor Wells thanked the Director of Engineering and Operations for his department's work on resolving the issue and cleaning up the area for better sight lines.

(b) Human Trafficking Awareness Training (Desmarais)

In response to training received by Councillor Desmarais about Human Trafficking Awareness, Councillor Desmarais suggested that more staff attend this training as it is an important piece of knowledge when dealing with the public. Councillor Desmarais also noted that the Library is hosting a Let's Talk series regarding youth suicide and that staff should try to attend.

(c) Drainage Issue on George Street (Bruno)

In response to a concern regarding a drainage issue on George Street, as a result of construction, the Director Operations and Engineering advised that he will contact relevant parties.

(d) Regional Transit Link (Bruno)

Councillor Bruno had questions regarding bus shelters. Councillor Bruno would like the cost of bus shelters looked into and locations shelters could be placed.

(e) Niagara Falls Transit Free Transit for Seniors Trial Run (Bruno)

Councillor Bruno stated that Niagara Falls transit is doing a trial run for free transit for seniors over the age of 60. Councillor Bruno asked if the City could look at the Niagara Falls report once the trial run is complete. The Director of Corporate Services noted that the City will have approximately \$26,000 to move into the reserve.

(f) Centennial Park Accessible Parking (Bodner)

Councillor Bodner asked that there be accessible spots created at Centennial Park. The Director of Community and Economic Development will look into this.

(g) Remembrance Day Services (Bodner)

Councillor Bodner requested that City staff clean up Centennial Park grounds from branches so that seniors have easier access to the park and a better surface to walk on. Councillor Bodner also requested that construction nearby be halted during the Remembrance Day service. The Director of Community and Economic Development will contact relevant parties.

(h) Quarry Report (Bodner)

Councillor Bodner inquired on the status of the quarry report. The CAO gave an update on the status stating that the City is doing an RFP regarding the peer review and that staff are waiting to receive comments back from the Province.

(i) Julia Yager and Sherkston Community Centre Roof Repairs (Bodner)

Councillor Bodner inquired as to the status of roof repairs on both the Julia Yager (Bethel) Centre and the Sherkston Centre. The Director Operations and Engineering advised that staff were on site finalizing roof repairs for both locations and monies have been set aside for these repairs. The Director of Community and Economic Development stated that Council will receive further updates on the status of the roof repairs if any delays occur.

Staff responses to Councillors' enquiries:**(a) Touch-a-Truck (Chief Cartwright)**

The Chief reminded staff about the upcoming Touch-a-Truck event on October 5, 2019 at the Fire Hall and Operations Centre.

(b) Volunteer Recruits (Chief Cartwright)

The Chief reported 6 new recruit volunteers are half way through their training program and that they will be fully completed by January 1, 2020.

(c) October Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors (Chief Cartwright)

The Chief noted that October 6th is Fire Prevention Week kickoff for smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and that citizens can have free inspections done in their homes.

(d) Update on Shopping Carts By-law (CAO)

The CAO reported that two grocery stores Sobey's and Food Basics have reached out to City staff proactively and presented their shopping cart management plan.

(e) Update on Parks and Recreation Masterplan (Grigg)

The Director of Community and Economic Development provided a brief update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Director noted that there have been some delays in completion but that any budget items will be identified and brought forward proactively.

14. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion: Re-order items**1. Community and Economic Development Department, Parks and Recreation Division, Report 2019-145, Subject: Ninth Annual Downtown Harvest Festival**

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner
Seconded by Councillor D. Kalailieff

That Appendix A to Corporate Services Department, Clerks Division, Report 2019-136, Subject: Heritage Committee by-law be supported; and

That the Heritage Committee By-law be brought forward for approval.

That the request to host the ninth annual Harvest Fest on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., be approved;

That Market Square be closed to vehicular traffic from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 28, 2019;

That Charlotte Street, from the Eastern limit of Catharine Street to the Western limit of King Street, be closed to vehicular traffic from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 28, 2019;

That emergency services, including ambulance, police and fire, and public works and public utility vehicles, be exempt from the above noted closures;

That the Engineering and Operations Department be directed to install and retrieve road closure barricades at the predetermined locations;

That the tractor-drawn hayride be permitted to share the road with motor vehicles on the pre-determined route;

That the permit fee for the use of the King George Park, be waived;

That all other permit/application fees and charges associated with 2019 Harvest Fest, including the provision of hydro access, picnic tables, waste receptacles, and snow fencing, be waived;

That the Event Organizer ensures all participants in the Slow Ride (bike ride) sign the requisite waiver form;

That Breakwall Brewing Company submit a Certificate of Insurance naming the Downtown BIA and the City of Port Colborne as additional insured for not less than \$5 million per occurrence, in accordance with the City's insurance requirements;

That the Event Organizer ensure that Certificates of Insurance are submitted from all third party vendors naming the Downtown BIA and City of Port Colborne as additional insured for not less than \$2 million per occurrence, in accordance with City's insurance requirements;

That the fee for a Noise By-law exemption, to be submitted to the By-law Enforcement Division, be waived.

CARRIED.

**3. Corporate Services Department, Finance Division, Report 2019-147,
Subject: 2020 Budget Timeline and Guidance**

Moved by Councillor D. Kalailieff
Seconded by Councillor H. Wells

That Council endorse the proposed budget guidance of a 2.1% increase to the operating budget for the 2020 budget year; and

That Council endorse the proposed budget timeline set out in Corporate Services Department Report 2019-147.

CARRIED.

6. Region of Niagara Re: Municipal Representation on Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee

Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Councillor Desmarais be appointed as the City of Port Colborne's representative on the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee.

CARRIED.

15. Notice of Motion:

Nil.

16. Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor H. Wells
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at approximately 7:27 p.m.

CARRIED.

AL/ln



MAYOR'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

Public Meeting on the Future of Specialized Transit in Niagara

Niagara Region is holding two Public Information Sessions on the future of Specialized Transit in Niagara.

Discussion items include, single point of contact for bookings, single application process, use of current and emerging technologies, use of taxi and ridesharing services.

Each session will include a 20-minute presentation followed by a discussion/question and answer period.

Region staff will be available to answer your questions and hear your feedback.

The meetings are this week.

Wednesday September 25 from 5-7 at the Holiday Inn St. Catharines, 327 Ontario Street

Thursday September 26 5-6 at the MacBain Community Centre, 7150 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls

If you or a loved one has an interest in the future of specialized transit in Niagara, I encourage you to attend one of these sessions.

Port Colborne Volunteers

We currently have 530 volunteers registered with the City who contributed over 9,000 hours of service in 2018.

Last week 250 of our volunteers attended an appreciation dinner at the Italian Hall.

They were thanked for their contributions to helping us get things done here in Port Colborne and special recognition was given to those celebrating 5 to 40 years of service.

There are lot of photos up on our website of this great evening.

Fire Prevention Week and Touch-a-Truck open house

Port Colborne's annual Fire Prevention Week open house is bigger and better this year with the addition of Touch-a-Truck next door at the Engineering and Operation Centre.

On Saturday October 5th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. families are invited to the Port Colborne Fire Hall and Engineering and Operations Centre to learn more about fire prevention and city operations.

Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services will be offering activities including fire escape routes, fire truck tours, target practice with a fire hose and a live burn cell demonstration to ensure everyone is fire safe.

Touch-a-truck offers a chance to show and teach the community about the equipment city staff use on a daily basis to serve the residents of Port Colborne.

We hope you will join us.

Port Colborne Urgent Care

Last week the Niagara Health System issued a media release announcing that the new South Niagara Hospital was listed by Infrastructure Ontario in their Market Update for Projects in Pre-Procurement.

It stated that they will start issuing Requests for Qualifications in spring 2021 and issuing Request for Proposals in winter 2021 with a financial close in 2022.

The next day a media report came out stating that when the new hospital opens, the urgent care centres in Port Colborne and Fort Erie would be closed.

In September 2012 Dr. Kevin Smith, then Supervisor of the Niagara Health System submitted a Report to The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on Restructuring of the Niagara Health System. On page 37 under "Future Siting Options", the recommendation was:

In addition to the St. Catharines site currently under construction, the NHS should:

- Construct a new general acute care hospital in "South Niagara";
- Locate two free standing Urgent Care Centres in "South Niagara";
- Close the existing sites in Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and Welland; and
- Relocate the Nurse-Practitioner-led walk in clinic and Family Health Program to a suitable location with much lower operating costs than the existing site in Niagara-on-the-Lake with the closure of that site when complex continuing care can be consolidated to other sites.

On page 41 of the report, it speaks to how they reached this decision.

The Interim Recommendation by the NHS was:

- The recommendation of the Mayors of the “Southern Tier” with input from the Regional Chair be utilized to determine:
 - The location of the new hospital in the “South”;
 - The location of a stand-alone “new” Urgent Care Centre; and,
 - Population density and access should be the primary consideration in determining location.

Local Response to this Recommendation was:

- The unanimous recommendation of the Mayors of the Southern Region (6 in total) and Regional Chair follows:
 - “2 Geographic areas, being described as QEW & Lyons Creek area, and East Main Street and Highway 140 area be considered as short-listed locations for the proposed development of a south Niagara hospital complex, conditional that Urgent Care Centres continue to operate in Port Colborne and Fort Erie. I cannot stress enough that the southern mayors are unanimous in their support of a south Niagara hospital being built.”

Final Recommendation was:

- Following significant deliberations, considering external expertise and in keeping with alternatives approved by the Mayors and Regional Chair, the final recommendation, subject to approval by the Ministry, is to build the new facility in the QEW and Lyons Creek area of Niagara. Two additional free standing UCC’s, site and location to be determined, can be supported. Hours of operation should be in keeping with patient volume and other provincial practice.

There have been no further discussions with the NHS on where the two free standing Urgent Care Centres will be located.

We will continue to ensure that residents of Port Colborne have access to health care services in and close to our community.