

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

REPORT CL 13-2004

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, July 22, 2004 commencing at 4:08 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors Almas, Bailey, Baty, Bentley, Brock; Burroughs, Casselman, Collins, Eke, Gabriel, Goulbourne, Harry, Heit, Hildreth, Hodgson, Katzman, Leavens, Marshall, Mastroianni, Redekop; Rigby; Salci, Saracino, Smeaton; Timms, Trombetta.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services; Cambray, Commissioner of Planning & Development; Ms. Gilroy, Acting Regional Clerk; Messrs. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services Division; Ms. Southall, Chief Administrative Officer, Niagara Regional Police Service; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Other Staff: Messrs. Banting, Director, Legal Services; Gedge, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation; Bowles, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Cunnane, Director of Public Safety; Robson, Director, Corporate Strategy; Roberts, Project Manager, Land Ambulance; Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater; Ms. Barrow, Process Engineer, Operations.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

283. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That this Council do now move into Closed Committee of the Whole for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to legal, personnel and property matters.

Carried.

284. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That for purposes of considering CAO 16-2004, Janet Pilon be designated to act in the role of Clerk for purposes of recording all resolutions, decisions and other proceedings of the Council, including any recorded vote.

Carried.

Regional Council requested that Janet Pilon excuse herself from the proceedings.

285. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That for purposes of considering CAO 16-2004, Mike Trojan be designated to act in the role of Clerk in the absence of Janet Pilon, for the purposes of recording all resolutions, decisions and other proceedings of Council, including any recorded vote.

Carried.

286. Integrated Common Services Project
CAO 16-2004 CONFIDENTIAL

Janet Pilon was asked to return to the Council Chambers.

Committee of the Whole recessed for dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report CAO 16-2004, July 22, 2004, respecting the Integrated Common Services Project, be referred to an August 19, 2004 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Lost.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Regional Council authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed as indicated during the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 22, 2004, in advance of Regional Council approving the implementation of a preferred option, in accordance with Report CAO 16-2004.

Carried.

287. Negotiated Contract – Five-Year Pilot for the Operation of a Niagara Ambulance Communications Service (a.k.a. ‘Ambulance Dispatch’)
PHD 53-2004 CONFIDENTIAL

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the contract, forming Appendix A to Report PHD 53-2004, July 22, 2004, respecting the Negotiated Contract – Five-Year Pilot for the Operation of a Niagara Ambulance Communications Service (a.k.a. ‘Ambulance Dispatch’), as negotiated between staff of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and staff of The Regional Municipality of Niagara, for the operation of a five-year pilot of the Niagara Ambulance Communications Service be endorsed by Council for signature by the Regional Chairman and Regional Clerk.

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, RISE AND REPORT

288. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That this Council do now rise with report.

Carried.

Following Committee of the Whole, Council met in regular session, commencing at 7:50 p.m. with an Invocation by Councillor Mastroianni followed by the singing of O’ Canada.

289.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Heit declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters that deal with wireless communication as he is employed by a wireless communication company and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Councillor Hildreth declared a direct pecuniary interest with respect to the matter of Minute Item # 194, in the Planning Services Committee minutes, Report DPD 83-2004 respecting the Consent Summary from May 17, 2004 to June 30, 2004, as her property is listed with the report, and therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Councillor Katzman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the matter of Minute Item # 205, in the Planning Services Committee minutes, respecting the Proposed Development – “Gondola” by the Niagara Parks Commission in the City of Niagara Falls, as she is related to the Vice Chair of the Niagara Parks Commission and therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Councillor Katzman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Minute Item # 206, in the Planning Services Committee minutes, respecting the Proposed Fifty-Eight Floor Hotel in the City of Niagara Falls, as her cousin is the hotel’s legal representative, therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Councillor Salci declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Minute Item # 289, in the Public Works and Utilities Committee minutes, Report PWP 40-2004 respecting the Public Works Staff Comments on Development and Related Proposals, as he has represented the trucking business noted in the report, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

Councillor Timms declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Development Charges as his family owns a business that may be subject to development charges, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

290. Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Council Agenda CL 13-2004 be approved and adopted.

Carried.

291.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Regional Chair provided the following remarks:

Regional Chair Partington thanked Foliera Inc. in Beamsville for providing the beautiful stephanotises on display in the Council Chambers.

Regional Chair Partington noted that as a result of the federal election, Rob Nicholson will be heading to Ottawa and although Niagara Region will be losing a very able Regional Councillor, Niagara is gaining another strong voice in the House of Commons.

On June 30, 2004, Regional Chair Partington had the opportunity to attend a second meeting respecting the Niagara – GTA Trade Corridor held at Dundurn Castle and attended by the mayors of various Niagara municipalities, the Chair of the Halton Region, the Mayor of Hamilton, and the Mayor of Burlington. Regional Chair Partington noted that he believed that a spirit of cooperation was forged at the meeting and that he looks forward to working with the group.

This past Thursday (July 15, 2004), Regional Chair Partington, Councillors Redekop and Martin, had the opportunity to meet with Erie County Executive Joel Giambra and Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello along with Ron Rienas and Paul Kessler from the Peace Bridge Authority to discuss the congestion at the border and how the group could assist one another to find an agreeable solution to the problem.

Regional Chair Partington was encouraged when the United States Senator for New York Charles Schumer took up the cause and announced that he would like to see Washington address the congestion at the borders, which is an impediment to trade and tourism on both sides of the border.

Regional Chair Partington announced that Economic Development remains a top priority for Niagara and that he was pleased to have attended a tour of the old Domtar site on Glendale Avenue in the City of St. Catharines, illustrating how the Region's incentive programs are providing a catalyst for the generation of true economic development opportunities in Niagara leading to not only more jobs, but to a more attractive community.

Regional Chair Partington on behalf of Regional Council congratulated Councillors Collins and Mastroianni for being appointed Chair and Vice Chair of the Human Resources Committee, respectively.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

292. Report 5-2004

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report 5-2004, being the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Thursday, June 17, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

293. Report 11-2004

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report 12-2004, being the minutes of the Proceedings of Council of Thursday, June 17, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

294. Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Correspondence Item C6295, the City of Thorold's resolution (July 6, 2004) respecting their support for the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Niagara Branch in their efforts to overturn the decision by Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) Niagara to discontinue the short visit nursing care services provided by the VON, be received.

Carried.

295. Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Regional Council requests the Minister of Health and Long Term Care to review the C.C.A.C. Niagara Request for Proposal process regarding service contracts for nursing care;

That pending the review, the Victorian Order of Nurses Niagara continue to provide short visit nursing care services to C.C.A.C. Niagara;

That Regional Council requests the Minister of Health and Long Term Care to impose a moratorium on the granting of new contracts for nursing care services until a system-wide review of this aspect of C.C.A.C. responsibility has been completed; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, the area M.P.P.'s, C.C.A.C. Niagara, Victoria Order of Nurses Niagara, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario and all the local municipalities.

Carried.

296. Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Correspondence Item C6296, a memorandum to Regional Chairman Peter Partington and Members of Council from Acting Regional Clerk Pam Gilroy (July 16, 2004) respecting motions regarding the vacant seat on Council held by Rob Nicholson, Councillor for the City of Niagara Falls, be received and the motions supported, as follows:

Vacant Seat

Whereas Rob Nicholson was elected on June 28, 2004, as a federal member of parliament representing the riding of Niagara Falls, and

Whereas Regional Council must declare his seat vacant at its next meeting, which is this date, Thursday, July 22, 2004.

Therefore be it resolved that the seat held by Rob Nicholson, Councillor for the City of Niagara Falls, be declared vacant.

Request for advice from Niagara Falls Council

Whereas Regional Council has declared the seat of Rob Nicholson, Councillor of the City of Niagara Falls, as vacant, and

Whereas Regional Council must fill the vacant seat by either appointing a person who has consented to accept the office if appointed or, require a by-election to be held to fill the vacancy, and

Whereas in the spirit of collegiality, Council would like the advice of the Council of the City of Niagara Falls as to their preferred method of filling the vacancy, it makes a decision.

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the City of Niagara Falls be requested to advise this Council of its preferred method of filling the vacancy on Regional Council by August 19, 2004.

Carried.

297. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Correspondence Item C6298, a letter from the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care (July 8, 2004) respecting the McGuinty Government embarking on a major transformation of the Ontario Health Care System, be referred to staff for consideration, when the detailed information is received.

Carried.

298. The following Communications were received and dealt with as follows:

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

C6286 Card of thanks from Lore Smith, an employee of the Corporate Services Department and family for the kind donation to the Cancer Society in memory of her husband, Frank Smith.

Received.

C6287 Card of thanks from Cam Wilson, an employee of the Public Works Department, expressing appreciation for the watch he received as a gift for 25 years of service with the Region.

Received.

C6288 Card of thanks form Lisa Ricci, and employee of the Clerk's Office, and family for the kind donation to the Canadian Diabetes Association in memory of her step-father, Carl Minor.

Received.

C6289 Janice Thomson, Executive Director, Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce & Visitor & Convention Bureau (May 12, 2004) expressing appreciation for the professional way the concerns for the Chamber of Commerce were handled in regards to the planned construction projects for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Received.

C6290 William J. Charron, Executive Director, Family and Children's Services Niagara (May 31, 2004) respecting the endorsement of the Niagara Children's Charter.

Received.

C6291 Card of thanks from Tim and Gini Rigby and family for the kind donation to the Canadian Diabetes Association in memory of their father and father-in-law John Newman.

Received.

C6292 Memorandum from Pam Gilroy, Acting Regional Clerk (July 8, 2004) to Members of Regional Council seeking a representative to serve on the Water Strategy Implementation Committee.

Received with the appointment of Councillor Burroughs as a representative on the Water Strategy Implementation Committee.

C6293 Copy of letters from Bill Russell, Chairperson, Board of Health, North Bay & District Health Unit (June 29, 2004) to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Honourable Greg Sobara, Minister of Finance, respecting their Resolution Concerning the Potential Sale of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

Received for Information.

C6294 Copy of a letter to the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care from Regional Chairman Peter Partington (July 9, 2004) respecting recent contract issues between VON Niagara and Community Care Access Centre Niagara.

Received.

C6297 Peter Partington, Regional Chairman (July 19, 2004) respecting Resolutions from other Municipalities.

Township of Severn Resolution (July 8, 2004) requesting the Provincial Government on behalf of the municipalities of the Province of Ontario for funding for the implementation of Emergency Management Programs with respect to this mandatory Program.

Received.

Town of Iroquois Falls Resolution (May 31, 2004) to petition the McGuinty Government to make the gas tax available to all Ontario municipalities and that funds be dispersed on a system such as equalized assessment to ensure fair distribution.

Received.

That Communications C6286 to C6294 and C6297 be received and dealt with as directed by this Council and as noted in these minutes.

Carried.

PRESENTATIONS

299. **Former Regional Councillor Rob Nicholson's Farewell**

Former Regional Council Rob Nicholson was in attendance to thank members of Regional Council, the Clerk's Department, the Human Resources Department, the Planning Department for their expertise and assistance throughout his seven years as a Regional Councillor.

Councillor Collins presented Rob Nicholson with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Niagara Escarpment Commission for his dedication from 1988 to 2004.

Regional Chair Partington presented Rob Nicholson with his nameplate and pen set and on behalf of Regional Council thanked Rob Nicholson for his dedication to Niagara and wished him every success in his new post as MP.

300. Fresh Air Coalition

Ms. Secco on behalf of the Fresh Air Coalition advised Council that the resolution passed at the June 3, 2004 Regional Council respecting the Peace Bridge Plaza Improvements contained several inaccuracies.

Following discussion of Regional Council, it was:

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Ms. Secco's claims along with the information that she has obtained respecting the Peace Bridge Authorities' actions, be forwarded to staff for their review and comment.

Carried.

301. Regional Development Charges By-Law

Mr. Richardson advised Council on behalf of the Niagara Home Builders Association that the Association's concern respecting indexing that was raised at the June 17, 2004 Committee of the Whole meeting, is still an area of contention and also suggested that the Niagara Region should initiate a method of accounting to collect the data on the revenue lost through the granting of exemptions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

302. Report 16-2004

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report CFS 16-2004, being the minutes of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, July 14, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That Minute Item 150, Corporate and Financial Services Committee, respecting the Supplementary Information on Development Charges Background Study and Proposed By-law, be lifted and dealt with separately by this Council, at this time.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Salci

That the indexing be waived for a period ending December 1, 2006.

Lost.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That the original motion contained within Report CFS 16-2004, being the minutes of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, July 14, 2004, respecting Minute Item # 150, CSD 103-2004, July 14, 2004, the Supplementary Information on Development Charges Background Study and Proposed By-law, be approved.

Carried.

Upon a vote being taken, the Regional Chair declared the original motion on Report CFS 16-2004, being the minutes of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, July 14, 2004, was carried.

303. 2004 Claw Back Percentages and Municipal Tax Adjustments
CSD 115-2004

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report CSD 115-2004, July 22, 2004, respecting the 2004 Claw Back Percentages and Municipal Tax Adjustments, be received, and

That the percentage claw back for the affected property classes be as follows:

Multi-Residential	28.0351%
Commercial	80.1075%
Industrial	37.7470%

That the mandated capping program for the multi-residential and commercial classes of property be funded from within the class.

That the Region act as a banker on October 15, 2004 for the 2004 Municipal Tax Adjustments.

That the Regional Clerk be instructed to prepare the necessary by-laws to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That the Regional Chair appeal to the Provincial government, to repeal the claw back provisions.

Carried.

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

304. Report 1-2005 Budget

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report BRC 1-2005 Budget, being the minutes of the Budget Review Committee meeting of Monday, July 19, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

305. Report 11-2004

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report CSC 11-2004, being the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting of Monday, July 12, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

306. Report 6-2004

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report 6-2004, being the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting of Tuesday, July 13, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

PLANNING SERVICES COMMITTEE

307. Report 12-2004

Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PS 12-2004, being the minutes of the Planning Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, July 14, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

308. Report 12-2004

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHSC 12-2004, being the minutes of the Public Health Services Committee meeting of Monday, July 12, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

309. Niagara Ambulance Communications Service

Councillor Timms made note of the following motion that was passed during Closed Committee of the Whole, this evening:

That the contract, forming Appendix A to Confidential Report PHD 53-2004, July 22, 2004, respecting the Negotiated Contract – Five-Year Pilot for the Operation of a Niagara Ambulance Communications Service (a.k.a. ‘Ambulance Dispatch’), as negotiated between staff of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and staff of The Regional Municipality of Niagara, for the operation of a five-year pilot of the Niagara Ambulance Communications Service be endorsed by Council for signature by the Regional Chairman and Regional Clerk.

Councillor Timms commended staff for their dedication to the Niagara Ambulance Communications Service project, in particular Messrs. Cunnane; Roberts and Robson; he also thanked Councillor Smeaton for his early participation on this project and Councillor Zimmerman, who as the former Regional Chair drove the process to its fruition.

Councillor Hildreth thanked the paramedics for their assistance on the project and in particular the media who pushed the government to go all the way! As this is an important step for Niagara residents that ensures health care is maintained and improved.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

310. Report 15-2004

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report PW 15-2004, being the minutes of the Public Works and Utilities Committee of Tuesday, July 13, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

311. SuperBuild (Millennium Initiative) Program
Provincial Funding Reallocation
PWA 127-2004

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PWA 127-2004, July 22, 2004, respecting the SuperBuild (Millennium Initiative) Program, Provincial Funding Reallocation, be received, and

Recognizing that Council of the City of Port Colborne has decided not to proceed with the "West Street Promenade" project submitted for Round 1 SuperBuild funding, that provincial funds apportioned for the project be re-allocated to the Round 2 project known as the "Wainfleet Water and Wastewater Servicing Project", and

That the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal (MPIR) be so advised.

Carried.

312. Tender Award for Contract RN 04-22
Reconstruction of Regional Road 50 (Glenridge Avenue)
Between Regional Road 89 (Glendale Avenue) and the CNR Overpass
City of St. Catharines
Project ZRC0021/RC0433

PWA 128-2004/CSD 116-2004

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report PWA 128-2004/CSD 116-2004, July 22, 2004, respecting the Tender Award for Contract RN 04-22, Reconstruction of Regional Road 50 (Glenridge Avenue) between Regional Road 89 (Glendale Avenue) and the CNR Overpass in the City of St. Catharines, Project ZRC0021/RC0433, be received, and

That Contract RN 02-44, Reconstruction of Regional Road 50 (Glenridge Avenue), between Regional Road 89 (Glendale Avenue) and CNR Overpass, in the City of St. Catharines, be awarded to the low tenderer, Norjohn Limited, at its corrected bid price in the amount of \$2,285,296.01;

That approval be given to increase the gross budget for project ZRC0021/RC0433 Reconstruction of Regional Road 50 (Glenridge Avenue) between Regional Road 89 (Glendale Avenue) and the CNR Overpass in the amount of \$645,000 to reflect the cost sharing with the City of St. Catharines.

That approval be given to increase the gross budget for Project ZRC0021/RC0148 Reconstruction of Regional Road 50 (Glenridge Avenue) from Edgedale Avenue to Westchester Avenue in the amount of \$1,051,751 to reflect the actual cost sharing revenue received from the City of St. Catharines for this phase.

That a contingency amount of \$200,000 be provided for this project.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the necessary by-laws, including the by-law authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, are presented to Regional Council on July 22, 2004;

And further, that all project costs be charged against Capital Works Project ZRC0021/RC0433 (Reconstruction of Regional Road 50 (Glenridge Avenue), between Regional Road 89 (Glendale Avenue) and the CNR Overpass.

Carried.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

313. Update from Council's Planning Session, June 23, 2004

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report CAO 15-2004, July 22, 2004, respecting Update from Council's Planning Session, June 23, 2004, be received, and

That Council endorse the direction from the June 24, 2004 Planning Session that an integrated task force be struck with membership drawn from a cross section of the public and private sectors to develop a process and provide oversight for the development of an integrated Economic Growth Strategy for Niagara.

Carried.

Councillors Goulbourne and Redekop noted their interest at being Regional Council's representatives on the Economic Growth Strategy Steering Committee.

Mr. Patrick Gedge, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation, provided Regional Council with an overview of the Economic Growth Strategy Steering Committee's membership.

Regional Council was asked to submit names of individuals who would be appropriate public sector representatives on the Economic Growth Strategy Steering Committee to Regional Chair Partington or Mr. Trojan as soon as possible.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That the proposed Economic Growth Strategy Steering Committee consist of approximately twelve (12) representatives of the community.

That membership be divided equally between private and public sector representatives.

That the six (6) public sector representatives consist of two (2) from Regional Council, two (2) from the local Area Municipal Councils, and two (2) to represent the broader local public sector, and

That the public sector Co-Chair be one of the Regional Council representatives, and

That the Regional Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to determine the appropriate public sector representation and submit the proposed membership at the August Council meeting for ratification.

Carried.

314. Corporate Purpose / Passion Statement and Values

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report CAO 17-2004, July 22, 2004, respecting Corporate Purpose / Passion Statement and Values, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

Carried.

MOTIONS

315. Niagara – GTA Trade Corridor

Councillor Goulbourne, with leave of Council, presented the following resolution for consideration:

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

WHEREAS Regional Council has passed previous resolutions expressing and communicating support for the Niagara – GTA Trade Corridor to the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS Canada and the United States enjoy one of the world's most significant binational trading relationships consisting of trade in excess of \$350 billion per year, more than \$104 billion of which flows through Niagara, and that 90% of visitors to Niagara travel via automobile; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario's prediction that the population of the Golden Horseshoe will increase by roughly 50 percent over the next 25 years was published in its report "Places to Grow"; and

WHEREAS, there is concern that the projected increase in trade and increase in population will add tremendous pressures to expand the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) further, thus endangering Niagara's unique agricultural land; and

WHEREAS the development of an alternative route to the QEW linking the Canada – US border in Niagara to the Greater Toronto Area will help to alleviate urban boundary expansion pressures in Northern Niagara along the QEW and will encourage economic growth in Southern Niagara, and help address the problem posed by Peace Bridge congestion; and

WHEREAS further QEW congestion will have a negative impact on highway safety, air quality, and economically viable trade between Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS the Niagara – GTA Trade Corridor will play a vitally important role in securing the future economic health of Ontario and Canada as a whole; and

WHEREAS there is a significant need to protect Niagara's prime agricultural land;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved

THAT Regional Council endorses participation of the Region of Niagara to the extent possible in support of moving forward the Province of Ontario's plans to release terms of reference for an Environmental Assessment study as soon as possible; and

THAT the Regional Chairman be requested to communicate to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Transportation, the Ontario Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Minister of Tourism and Recreation, and the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food the Region's support for moving forward as quickly as possible with the Niagara – GTA Trade Corridor and the necessary background studies, and request a coordinated effort to address Southern Ontario's future transportation requirements; and

THAT Regional Council formally supports the Regional Chairman's work to build broad inter-regional support for the development of the Niagara – GTA Trade Corridor; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the area municipalities for their support and to local MPPs and MPs for their information.

Carried by 2/3 of the Council member present.

OTHER BUSINESS

316. Notes of Appreciation

Councillor Rigby thanked staff for their work and continued work to resolve the homelessness issue in the City of St. Catharines.

Councillor Burroughs thanked Regional staff for acting quickly and for notifying the pertinent provincial agencies when several ducks were found dead at a farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

317. Regional Beach Closures

Councillor Redekop advised Council that the Town of Fort Erie has been in contact with the individual who is responsible for testing Niagara Region's beaches on a weekly basis during the summer months for the presence of E-Coli and has suggested several improvements to the process the Public Health Department currently follows in the closing of Regional beaches.

The Town of Fort Erie has requested that in future when the presence of E-Coli is detected, the municipality is to be notified of the beach closing and suggested that a website be initiated to advise residents of beach closings in the event the signs notifying the public of the closures, which are paper and do not withstand the rain are blown away, the public can obtain the information.

The Town of Fort Erie also suggested that Parks staff could also be of assistance at the beaches that are closed.

318. International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors

Councillor Rigby advised Council that Councillor Harry and himself attended the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors, 2004 Annual Meeting, last week (July 14 – 16) in Chicago, Illinois.

The Association is a not-for-profit organization designed to address issues related to the world's largest fresh water resource. The vision of the Great Lakes Mayors is to form a bi-national coalition that will actively work with federal, state and provincial governments to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem through development and implementation of the comprehensive Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Plan, and to become active participants in Great Lakes - St. Lawrence issues relating to governance, economics and science.

Councillor Rigby encouraged members of Council to attend or send a municipal representation to the Association's meetings, noting that the 2005 Annual Meeting would be held in Quebec City.

BY-LAWS

319. Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 84

A by-law to authorize the borrowing upon 20 year amortizing debentures in the principal amount of \$7,489,000 for a purpose of the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 85

A by-law to authorize the borrowing upon 20 year amortizing debentures in the aggregate principal amount of \$20,500,000 for the purposes of the cities of St. Catharines and Welland.

Bill 86

A by-law to authorize the borrowing of the aggregate of the sums authorized by by-laws Nos. 84-2004 and 85-2004 in the aggregate principal amount of \$27,989,000 and the issuing of one series of amortizing debentures therefor.

Bill 87

A by-law to authorize the borrowing upon installment debentures in the aggregate principal amount of \$19,456,200 (\$461,000 principal amount of 3 year installment debentures, \$1,805,000 principal amount of 5 year installment debentures and \$17,190,200 principal amount of 10 year installment debentures) for the purposes of the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 88

A by-law to authorize the borrowing upon 10 year installment debentures in the aggregate principal amount of \$21,554,800 (\$25,600 of which may be raised by the issue of refinancing debentures) for the purposes of the cities of Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Welland and Port Colborne and of the Town of Grimsby.

Bill 89

A by-law to authorize the borrowing of the aggregate of the sums authorized by by-laws Nos. 87-2004 and 88-2004 in the aggregate principal amount of \$41,011,000 (\$25,600 of which may be raised by the issue of refinancing debentures) and the issuing of one series of installment debentures therefore.

Bill 90

A by-law to impose Development Charges for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Schedule "B" Central Areas for Regional Development Charges Exemption/Waiver attached.

Bill 91

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of the Regional Council at its meeting held on the 22nd day of July, 2004.

Carried.

320. Moved by Councillor Salci
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 92

A by-law to authorize debenture financing (1–3 years) in the amount of \$1,922,000 for Project ZGCO401, PC's Printers and Software.

Bill 93

A by-law to authorize debenture financing (1–10 years) in the amount of \$240,000 for Project ZPO0307, MDT Tower Sites.

Bill 94

A by-law to provide for the regulation of traffic on Regional Highways in the City of St. Catharines.

Bill 95

A by-law to provide for the regulation of traffic on Regional Highways in the Town of Fort Erie.

Bill 96

A by-law to provide for the regulation of traffic on Regional Highways in the City of St. Catharines.

Bill 97

A by-law to amend by-law 66-2004, being a by-law to set and levy the rates of taxation for Regional General and Special Purposes for the year 2004, to reflect the 2004 Industrial Education Rate Reduction filed under Ontario Regulation 203/04.

Bill 98

A by-law to require every Board, Commission or other body for which the Municipality is required, by by-law, to provide money, to submit their Budget Estimates to the Regional Municipality in a prescribed form and detail.

Bill 99

A by-law to provide the Claw Back Percentages to be used for each capped class to the Area Municipalities.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was directed to:

- report back on the ventilation system at the new Casino. (Refers to Minute Item # 308)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk