

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

REPORT CL 8-2005

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in Closed Session in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, May 19, 2005 commencing at 4:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chairman Partington; Councillors Angelone; Bailey, Baty; Bentley; Bodner; Brock; Burroughs; Casselman; Collins; Eke; Gabriel; Goulbourne; Harry; Heit, Hildreth; Hodgson; Katzman; Leavens; Marshall; Martin; Mastroianni; Redekop; Rigby; Smeaton; Timms; Trombetta; Zimmerman.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Cambray, Commissioner, Planning and Development; Ms. Fontana, Director, Corporate Health Services & Employee Relations; Messrs. Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services; Ventresca, Acting Commissioner, Community Services; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

(Part-Time): Messrs. Bowles, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Mr. McQueen, Transition Manager, Emergency Services Division; Ms. Robinson, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Services.

Others: Mr. Gedge, C.E.O., Mr. Hardy, Tourism Manager, Niagara Economic & Tourism Corporation.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

233. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Brock

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.

234. Update on the Progress of the Implementation
of the Integrated Common Services Project Option

Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update on the progress of the implementation of the Integrated Common Services Project Option B.

The Closed Committee of the Whole recessed at 6:10 p.m. for dinner, and resumed at 6:45 p.m.

235. Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Mike Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer, be directed to proceed as recommended.

Carried.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, RISE AND REPORT

236. Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That this Council do now rise with report.

Carried.

Following Committee of the Whole, Council met in regular session, commencing at 7:10 p.m. with an Invocation by Councillor Casselman, followed by the singing of O' Canada.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

237. Councillor Leavens asked that his Motion with respect to Reconsideration be withdrawn.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That the Council Agenda CL 8-2005 be adopted as presented, save and except the Motion on Reconsideration which was withdrawn.

Carried.

238.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Baty declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the matter of minute 114, as contained in Planning Services Committee Report PS 8-2005, regarding DPD 69-2005, May 11, 200, Official Plan Amendment 53, Cherry Ridge Subdivision (Phase II), Fenwick Sanitary Sewer Area, Town of Pelham, as he and his son own property adjacent to the subject property and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

Councillor Heit declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to all wireless communications 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 Smeaton declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to all matters related to Seniors Homes as he is employed by a Seniors Home and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

PRESENTATIONS

239. Tourism Destination Marketing Update –
Niagara Economic Development Corporation

Patrick Gedge, Chief Executive Officer and Gary Hardy, Tourism Manager, Niagara Economic Development Corporation provided a presentation regarding "Tourism Destination Marketing". The tourism destination marketing function of the Niagara Economic Development Corporation is responsible for coordinating regional tourism marketing programs and services for the local tourism industry. Their role is to ensure that all tourism businesses and communities have access to programs and to offer programs that are cost effective, affordable and relevant to businesses and communities across Niagara. Their role, as well, is to encourage region wide visitation through experiential packaging and facilitating market partnerships to pool limited resources. Mr. Hardy outlined the various tourism market strategies and partnerships, noting that in 2004, more than 300 businesses, from all parts of Niagara, participated in Corporation sponsored programming, generating \$550,000 of partnership investment from a base marketing budget of \$135,000, a 4:1 leverage ratio. The various programs as they relate to Consumer Services; Cooperative Advertising; Media Relations and Experience Development and Niche Marketing, were also highlighted.

240. Niagara Emergency Medical Services
Communications Centre

John Cunnane, Director and Chris McQueen, Transition Manager, Emergency Services Division, provided a presentation on Ambulance Communication and Paramedic Services. Mr. McQueen highlighted the Emergency Call Process noting that Niagara, with a population of 430,000 and 12 million visitors annually, receives 70,000 ambulance calls a year. The Niagara Ambulance Communication Service was a Ministry of Health and Long Term Care five year pilot project, with proposed innovations and technologies that underwent five years of extensive evaluation. The Go-Live Date is June 1, 2005. The Niagara Ambulance Communication Service is a new centre with new staff and new technology. Mr. McQueen described the technology with respect to the Medical Triage System (Priority Dispatch MPDS), AVL/GPS (Communication Centre and In-vehicle technology and Communication (Radio, pagers, cell phones and computerization). Pictures of the centre and its technology and a breakdown of the deployment monitor were shown.

Mr. Cunnane presented an overview of the Paramedic Service which provides Regional direct delivery as of July 2004. He advised there are 31 emergency vehicles, some which were displayed outside Headquarters, 15 ambulance stations and 220 PCP and ACP paramedics. Mr. Cunnane highlighted the Training provided with respect to the Communication Service and Paramedic Service and the testing, certification process undertaken. Also, presented was the Paramedic Service transformation with Dispatch related to Communication (voice to data communication/alph-numeric paging) and Technology (AVL/GPS, On-board mapping and call notification and status messaging.

241. Update on trip to Sri Lanka
After the Tsunami in December 2004

Ms. Helen Robinson, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Services, provided a brief update on the trip to Sri Lanka after the Tsunami in December 2004. The trip was possible due to the 1 ½ days of fundraising by the paramedics at local malls which raised \$8,500 in cash and \$20,000 in medical supplies that they took with them. Ms. Robinson described the ravaged conditions in Sri Lanka, the team of paramedics from other countries, and the significant number of people treated by these volunteers, who all paid their own travel costs to get there. Ms. Robinson also described the frustration of not being able to do more, the heartbreak of witnessing the devastation of the tsunami, but was impressed by the resilience of the people in their efforts to recover and move forward.

242. EMO Presentation to Regional Chairman Partington

Daphne Farrell, Community Officer, Emergency Management Ontario, presented the Regional Chair with a letter from Minister Monte Kwinter and Julian Fantino, Commissioner of Emergency Management, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, advising that the Niagara Region has submitted all of the documentation requested by Emergency Management Ontario. Staff was commended for meeting all the requirements of the Emergency Management Act and implementing a mandatory emergency management program. The establishment of an essential emergency management program was achieved through the dedicated work of the Region's Community Emergency Management Coordinator and Emergency Management Program Committee. The implementation of sound community emergency management programs, which are integrated with those of other levels of government, is a key element of shared responsibility to the residents of Ontario that leads to the mutual goal, which is a creation of safer and more disaster-resilient communities.

Regional Chair Partington expressed his appreciation to the dedicated Emergency Management Program committee who assist the Emergency Management Program Manager and thanked Council and senior staff for their support to the Emergency Management priorities. The Regional Chair also acknowledged the co-operative working relationship with the Emergency Management Co-ordinators of Niagara's twelve municipalities and the strong cross-border relationships with Erie and Niagara Counties in New York.

243.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Regional Chair advised that Councillor Salci's heart surgery was successful and wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of Council.

Regional Chair Partington congratulated staff for their part in the success of the 2005 Central Ontario Municipal Conference that was held at the end of April. The Regional Chair congratulated Councillors Hildreth, Saracino, Smeaton, and Zimmerman for their receipt of Long-standing service awards and thanked them for their dedication to our community.

The Regional Chair commented that this week is Public Works Week, noting that he had the opportunity to attend the opening of Niagara's new Recycling Centre in Niagara Falls as part of the Public Works Week celebrations. He advised that It is projected that this year alone, more than 46,000 metric tonnes of paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, and metal will be processed at the centre. That means 46,000 metric tonnes less waste going into our landfills – demonstrating our commitment to Niagara's environment.

In addition, the Regional Chair acknowledged that this week is also EMS Week. Various EMS vehicles were on display at headquarters including ambulances, and Niagara's CRBN truck and trailer unit. On behalf of Council, Chair Partington thanked our EMS teams for their hard work and dedication.

Chair Partington advised that in a unanimous decision handed down on May 16, 2005, the Ontario Court of Appeal has upheld the Niagara Region's Smoking By-law, and, significantly, awarded costs to the Regional Municipality. The decision stated that the Region had correctly exercised their powers to enact this legislation and to create classes of places within the legislation. The Regional chair commented that he is pleased that the Smoking By-law was upheld and that the Region of Niagara will continue to enforce this important piece of legislation.

Regional Chair Partington advised that he is following last week's release of the Provincial budget closely and is anxious to see how the Province's plans are unveiled. On a related note, he commented that the Region is continuing to communicate to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal and the Ministry of Transportation the need for highway 406 to be expanded to four lanes from Beaverdams in Thorold down to East Main Street in Welland. The Chair advised that the Niagara business community is on side with the Region and are starting to organize their own campaigns for the advancement of the 406 and a resolution on this matter was to be dealt with this evening. He commented that the Region wants to ensure that the message brought to the Province during Niagara Week about the need for the expansion to the 406 stays fresh in their minds. The length of roadway being examined is a modest 10.8 km. For the Province's Greenbelt Legislation and "Places to Grow" plan to succeed in Niagara, those 10.8 km. are needed. To the Government of Ontario he commented "Help Niagara – Help Ontario".

On Thursday, May 26, 2005, a Council Information Workshop on Provincial Planning Initiatives such as the "Greenbelt" and "Places to Grow" is being held. Neil Rodgers, President of the Urban Development Institute will be presenting on how these policies will impact Niagara. The meeting will start at 4:00 p.m. and all Councillors are urged to attend.

The Regional Chair thanked Northend Gardens of Jordan Station for the pink and salmon impatiens. These flowers will be given to the Community Services Department and sent to one of the Region's long-term care facilities.

Following the Regional Chair's remarks, Councillor Doug Martin apprised Council of the meetings that took place at Queen's Park with the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards and various ministries. A number of issues and concerns were discussed as they relate to Court Security, vacancies of Justices of Peaces, delays in Provincial appointments to the Police Services Boards, OMERS and other wage and benefit settlement matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

244. Report 7-2005

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Report 7-2005, being the minutes of the Proceedings of Council of Thursday, April 28, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

245. Communications were received and dealt with as follows:

C6492 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing News Release (April 29, 2005) respecting the Province Honours Municipal Dedication to Strong Communities – First Long-Standing Service Awards.

Received.

C6493 John D. Maloney, M.P. Welland Riding (April 26, 2005) respecting council's resolution concerning farm viability and his willingness to update council on recent announcements on this issue.

Received.

C6494 Card of thanks from Regional Councillor Tim Rigby and family for the kind donation to the Canadian Cancer Society and the St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation in memory of his aunt, Adele Rigby and his wife's cousin, Mary Elizabeth Newman.

Received.

C6495 David L. Emerson, Minister of Industry (April 26, 2005) respecting the contribution of \$200 million by the Canadian Government to the General Motors Beacon Project.

Received.

C6497 Tim Hudak, MPP, Erie-Lincoln (May 4, 2005) extending congratulations to the Regional Chairman, Patrick Gedge of Netcorp, Regional Councillors and staff on a successful "Niagara Week" at Queens Park.

Received.

- C6498 Peter Partington, Regional Chairman (May 6, 2005) respecting Resolutions from other Municipalities.
- The Corporation of the City of North Bay resolution respecting an amendment to the Occupiers Liability Act so as to establish that those using trail systems are deemed to do so at their own risk.
- Received.
- C6499 Town of Pelham resolution (April 22, 2005) urging all Federal Members of Parliament to pass the Budget Bill quickly.
- Received.
- C6500 Richard F. Brady, Principal, Urban & Environmental Management Inc., (May 12, 2005) respecting possible request to address Regional Council on May 19, 2005, regarding DPD 58-2005 approved by Regional Planning Committee concerning the proposed Niagara River golf Course in Fort Erie.
- Received.
- C6501 Brian Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (May 10, 2005) respecting the Elimination of the Two-Stage Application Process.
- Received.
- C6502 Card of thanks from Barry Morgan, an employee of the Corporate Services Department, for the kind donation to the Hotel Dieu Oncology Unit in memory of his son Brad Morgan.
- Received.
- C6505 Card of thanks from Mary Lee Macara, an employee of the Corporate Services Department, for the kind donation to the CNIB in memory of her mother, Viola McKenzie.
- Received.
- C6506 City of Port Colborne resolution (May 11, 2005) respecting Property Assessment Delivery, Private Sector Property Assessment.
- Received and referred to the Corporate and Financial Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Communications C6492 to C6495, C6497 to C6502 and C6505 and C6506 be received and dealt with as noted in the Council Agenda and Addendum.

Carried.

246. C6491 Carolyn A. Bones, President, Chamber of Commerce, City of Niagara Falls (April 28, 2005) respecting their resolution supporting a reduction in all business tax classes and ask the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Region take steps to align tax ratios to the Provincial Threshold.

Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Communication C6491 respecting the Chamber of Commerce resolution supporting a reduction in all business tax classes and requesting the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Region to take steps to align tax ratios to the Provincial Threshold, be received and referred to the Ad Hoc Committee of Council on Property Assessment and Taxation Reform.

Carried.

247. Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the Planning Services Committee Report 8-2005 be brought forward and dealt with by this Council at this time.

Carried.

PLANNING SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

248. Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That minute item 111, as contained in Planning Services Committee Report 8-2005, respecting Report DPD 58-2005, May 11, 2005, Final Recommendation Report, Regional Policy Plan Amendment 188, Niagara River Golf Course in the Town of Fort Erie, be lifted and dealt with separately by this Council at this time.

Carried.

249. Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Communication C6503 being a request from Stella Ziff to make a presentation on behalf of the Niagara River Area Property Owners Group, in opposition to the application for amendment to the Regional Policy Plan to allow the Niagara River Golf Course on property in the Town of Fort Erie, be received and Mrs. Ziff be allowed to speak.

Carried.

250. Stella Ziff – Niagara River Area Property Owners Group

Stella Ziff, attended on behalf of the Niagara River Area Property Owners Group to express their opposition to Regional Policy Plan Amendment No. 188 and the recommendation contained in the Planning Services Committee Report PS 8-2005. Their concern was that much of the subject property has been designated a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Ms. Ziff provided a chart outlining the hatched 47 acre Constraint Area, indicating that neither the Constraint Area nor the proponents amended area offers any real protection for the PSW. Mrs. Ziff referred to letters from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, noting that Report DPD 58-2005 ignored the Ministry's comments as well as the negative comments made by the Ministry of the Environment. Ms. Ziff asked that this matter be referred back to staff for a complete review before any decision is made.

251. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That, as per Communication C6500, Richard Brady, Urban & Environment Management, be allowed to speak to the matter of Report DPD 58-2005, Final recommendation Report, Regional Policy Plan Amendment 188, Niagara River Golf Course in the Town of Fort Erie.

Carried.

252. Richard Brady – Urban & Environmental Management

Richard Brady, Urban & Environmental Management, attended on behalf of the proponents of the Niagara River Golf Course. Mr. Brady advised that the proponents have proposed to increase the size of the protected area from 19.3 hectares to 29.5 hectares and increase the size of the area the Ministry of Natural Resources has identified as wetland within the protected area from 8.1 hectares to 11.3 hectares. Mr. Brady advised that the proposed revision to the Amendment would provide the golf course with less area and more protected area. Mr. Brady also reiterated the benefits of economic development in the area and its importance to the Town of Fort Erie.

253. Report 8-2005

Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Report 8-2005 being the minutes of the Planning Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, May 11, 2005, be approved and adopted.

254. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That the Planning and Development Department be directed to meet with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the area municipalities and to involve the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, to examine the issue of mapping and proper designations of wetlands.

Carried.

Upon a vote being taken the original motion was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

255. C6496 Copy of a letter from LUMCO (Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario) urging the swift passage of the Federal Budget by making it a priority and Mayor Rigby's request to send a letter of support.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Communication C6496 respecting LUMCO (Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario) urging the passage of the Federal Budget be made a priority be received and supported.

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

256. Report 8-2005

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report 8-2005 being the minutes of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, May 11, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

257. Report 1-2005

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report 1-2005 being the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of Wednesday, May 11, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

258. Report 9-2005

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report 9-2005 being the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting of Monday, May 9, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

259. JobsNow Pilot Program

Councillor Hildreth and Dominic Ventresca, Acting Commissioner, Community Services Department, apprised Council of the request from the Honourable Sandra Pupatello, the Minister of community and Social Services, for the Region of Niagara to participate in a new Ontario Works pilot program called JobsNow. The JobsNow pilot program is designed to help people currently on Ontario Works find and keep sustainable jobs. The program involves a partnership between the province, WCG International and municipal social services offices. Community Services staff will perform an analysis of this pilot program and complete a report highlighting the cost benefits of the JobsNow pilot program. The report will be distributed electronically to Councillors in advance of Committee week of May 30th.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

260. Report 6-2005

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report 6-2005 being the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting of Tuesday, May 10, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

261. Report 8-2005

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHSC 8-2005 being the minutes of the Public Health Services Committee meeting of Monday, May 9, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

262. Background Information
Proposed Road Improvements Required to Accommodate
Construction Traffic Working on the Water Diversion Tunnel
Niagara River Hydro Electric Development
In the City of Niagara Falls

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report PWP 43-2005, May 19, 2005, Background Information for Proposed Road Improvements Required to Accommodate Construct Traffic Working on the Water Diversion Tunnel Niagara River Hydro Electric Development in the City of Niagara Falls, be received for information.

Carried.

263. Tender Award for Contract RN 05-23
For Stanley Avenue and Portage Road
Trunk Watermain from Church's Lane to the
Queenston Reservoir in the City of Niagara Falls

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report PWA 103-2005, May 19, 2005, Tender Award for Contract RN 05-23 for Stanley Avenue and Portage Road Trunk Watermain from Church's Lane to the Queenston Reservoir in the City of Niagara Falls, be received.

That Contract RN-05-23, Watermain Construction on Stanley Avenue and Portage Road from Church's Lane to the Queenston Reservoir in the City of Niagara Falls & Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake be awarded to Provincial Construction (Niagara Falls) Ltd. at their bid price of \$3,897,386.86, subject to the approval of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

That the tender award be subject to the Contractor entering into an agreement to delete a portion of the work, or enter into a sub-contractor arrangement with another general contractor, as may be required to facilitate road reconstruction work to be carried out on Stanley Avenue.

That a contingency amount of \$200,000.00 be provided for this project.

That Totten Sims Hubicki Associates be appointed for additional engineering services as a Contract Administrator for this contract for an amount of \$30,000.00.

That approval be given to increase the gross budget by \$460,200.00 to reflect increased external cost sharing with the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

That the cost associated with this project be charged against Project ID ZCW0012/CW0333.

Carried.

264. Report 8-2005

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report 8-2005 being the minutes of the Public Works and Utilities Committee meeting of Tuesday, May 10, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

EXTENSION OF CURFEW

265. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the curfew be extended past 11:00 p.m.

Carried by two-thirds of the Council members present..

ACCOMMODATION STEERING COMMITTEE

266. Report 3-2005

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report 3-2005, being the minutes of the Accommodation Steering Committee meeting of Monday, May 2, 2005, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

MOTIONS

267. Reconsideration Resolution on
Integrated Common Services Project

As noted under the Adoption of the Agenda on Page CL 117, Councillor Leavens advised that based on the discussions in Closed Committee of the Whole, his motion for reconsideration was withdrawn.

268. Expansion of the 406 to Four Lanes
From Beaverdams Road in Thorold to
East Main Street in Welland

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

WHEREAS Niagara Regional Council repeatedly stated its support for the expansion of the 406 to four lanes along a 10.8 km stretch from Beaverdams Road in Thorold to East Main Street in Welland; and,

WHEREAS the aforementioned segment of the 406 is one of the busiest two lane highways in Ontario; and,

WHEREAS the intersection of the 406 and Highway 20 is the crossroad of the Niagara Peninsula; and,

WHEREAS the Province's Greenbelt Legislation and "Places to Grow" plan have significantly restricted how Niagara, and specifically the municipalities of Grimsby, Lincoln, St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Pelham can grow and develop; and,

WHEREAS pressure to develop in the aforementioned municipalities will continue to mount, thus threatening Niagara's unique agricultural lands unless the Province undertakes mitigating measures; and,

WHEREAS the development-ready land in the southern portion of Niagara lacks adequate transportation infrastructure to facilitate economic development which would offset development pressures in north Niagara; and,

WHEREAS an expanded Highway 406 will facilitate needed investments for Niagara and new job creation.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved

1. THAT Niagara Regional Council continues to endorse Regional Chairman Partington's initiatives advocating to the Province for the need of the expansion of the 406; and,
2. THAT Niagara Regional Council formally calls upon all of Niagara's MPPs to vigorously petition the Provincial Government for the inclusion of the expansion of Highway 406 as an immediate priority and investment by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal and the Ministry of Transportation; and,
3. THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier, the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, and the Minister of Transportation for their information; and,
4. THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to all area municipalities and to all Niagara area MPPs requesting their support.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

269. For consideration:

- C6504 Debbie Sevenpifer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Health System (April 21, 2005) respecting the proposal to build a new healthcare facility in St. Catharines and the need for support of community leaders to initiate direct contact with the Minister of Health and Long Term Care to request his formal approval of the initiative.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Marshall declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Communication C6504 from Debbie Sevenpifer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Health System, as he is employed by the Niagara Health System, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Communication C6504 from Debbie Sevenpifer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Health System, respecting the proposal to build a new healthcare facility in St. Catharines and the need for support of community leaders to initiate direct contact with the Minister of Health and Long Term Care to request his formal approval of the initiative, be received; and

That Regional Chair Partington do so on behalf of this Council forthwith.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

270. Winery Tour Passport
Councillor Heit advised that the Winery Tour Passport event is taking place June 4th to June 12th in Niagara with wineries in Lincoln and Niagara-on-the-Lake being highlighted.
271. Great Lakes Mayors
Councillor Rigby apprised Council of the initiatives of the Great Lakes Mayors related to mutual issues with respect to commerce, shipping and the marine industry.
272. Folk Arts Festival
Councillor Rigby advised that the Folk Arts Festival is underway and urged Council and residents to participate in the various open houses and events over the next week.
273. Sustainable Cities
Councillor Burroughs apprised Council of the Swedish Government's seminar regarding Sustainable Cities, noting that the conference is sold out but many Councillors are planning to attend.
274. New Recycling Facility
Councillor Eke apprised Council of the new Recycling Facility located on the former E.S. Fox property in Niagara Falls, commenting that it is open for guided tours. The \$16 million investment will reap many benefits to the Community.
275. Hockey News
Councillor Bentley highlighted the various accomplishments of the Thorold and Grimsby Hockey Teams.

276. Niagara Escarpment Plan
Councillor Collins advised that the Ministry of Natural Resources will bring forward a five year Niagara Escarpment Review Plan. He asked that this matter be put on the June 9th Council agenda for discussion.

Carried.

BY-LAWS

277. Moved by Councillor Bodner
Seconded by Councillor Hodgson

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 46

A by-law to authorize long-term financing in the form of Debentures (1-10 years) in the amount of \$411,000 for Project ZRC0017, Reconstruction of Regional Road 20 from Station Street to Regional Road 36 (Pelham Street), in the Town of Pelham.

Bill 47

A by-law to provide for the Adoption of Amendment 188 to the Official Plan for the Niagara Planning area to permit a Golf Course in the Town of Fort Erie.

Bill 48

A by-law to provide for the Regulation of Traffic n Regional Highways in the Town of Fort Erie.

Bill 49

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of the Regional Council at its meeting held on the 19th of May, 2005.

Carried.

278. Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 50

A by-law to provide for Optional Industrial Property Classes.

Bill 51

A by-law to appoint Acting Deputy Clerks for the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 52

A by-law to appoint an Acting Regional Clerk for the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy