

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

REPORT CL 2-2007

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, February 8, 2007 commencing at 6:53 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors Augustyn; Baty; Bentley; Burroughs; Casselman; Collins; Cordiner; D'Angela; Forster; Gabriel; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Henderson; Hodgson; Katzman; Lepp; Martin; McMullan; Puttick; Rigby; Salci; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms; Trombetta; Zimmerman.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Cambray, Commissioner, Planning and Development; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Cousins, Acting Commissioner of Public Works; Bergsma, Commissioner of Corporate Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner Public Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Clerk.

Staff

(Part-Time): Messrs. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Bowles, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Flora, Associate Director, Transportation Systems.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

34. Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

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.

35. Community Member, Police Services Board
Confidential Report HR 9-2007

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Confidential Report HR 9-2007, February 8, 2007, respecting the Community Member, Police Services Board, be deferred.

Carried.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, RISE AND REPORT

36. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That this Council do now rise with report.

Carried.

Following Committee of the Whole, Council met in regular session, commencing at 7:00 p.m. with an Invocation by Councillor Baty, followed by the singing of 'O Canada'.

PUBLIC MEETING

37. Regional Development Charges

The Regional Chair advised Regional Council that pursuant to Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara has invited interested parties to attend this public meeting which is being held to receive comments from the public on Niagara's draft By-law to amend Development Charges By-law 90-2004, and related background study.

Notice of this public meeting was given on January 19th by way of the local papers of general circulation. Furthermore, copies of the draft By-law and Background Report have been made available to the public in the Clerk's office.

The draft By-law being discussed tonight will amend the definition of "dwelling units" to confirm that development charges will apply to residential developments where the dwelling units have access to culinary and/or sanitary facilities.

The Regional Chair asked whether there was anyone present who would like to speak to the amendment to the By-law, no one came forward, therefore it was:

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Bill 19, A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 90-2004 Being a By-Law to Impose Development Charges for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, be read and do pass.

Carried.

CURRENT & CAPITAL BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING

38. Regional Chair Partington advised Regional Council that in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Act, a newspaper ad was published in the daily and weekly newspapers in the Region on January 19, 2007 advising of Council approval of the Current and Capital Budget on February 8, 2007, and invited public input.

Regional Chair Partington noted that the Budget Review Committee had one speaker at their meeting earlier today, and no written submissions.

Regional Chair Partington asked whether there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak to the Current or Capital Budget, there were no responses. The Regional Chair then advised that the Budget Review Committee and Council would meet again on Thursday, March 1, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. to continue deliberations of the 2007 Current and Capital Budget. This public statement meets the requirements of notice under the Municipal Act.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

39. Councillor Collins declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters that deal with the Niagara Polices Services Board, as a family member is an employee of the Police Services, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

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

Councillor Katzman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the presentation entitled Wine Country Enhancement Initiative, as a family member is employee of the Wine Council of Ontario, and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

Councillor Timms declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters relating 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.

Councillor Zimmerman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the Planning and Public Works Committee Minute Item 47 respecting DPD 17-2007, Official Plan Amendment No. 59, The Neighbourhoods of Rolling Meadows Secondary Plan, Blackhorse Community in the City of Thorold, as she has an interest in this area, and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

Councillor Zimmerman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to presentation entitled Wine Country Enhancement Initiative, as her employer the Grape Growers of Ontario, is a sponsor, and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

40. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That the Council Agenda CL 2-2007 be approved and adopted as amended by moving the Corporate Services Committee minutes to the beginning of the Committee Reports.

Carried.

PRESENTATIONS

41. Ukrainian Delegation Presentation

Regional Chair Partington extended a warm welcome to the Ukrainian Regional Governance and Development Project delegation that has been hosted by the Canadian Urban Institute and funded by the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency.

Regional Chair Partington introduced the members of the delegation: Nataliya Betsa Project Coordinator with the Regional Governance and Development Project; Lyudmyla Hrytsak, Deputy Head of Chief Economic Department with Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration; Oleh Luksha, Strategic Planning Expert with the Regional Governance and Development Project; Oksana Stankevych, Strategic Planning Expert with the Regional Governance and Development Project and Andrea Roberts with the Canadian Urban Institute.

The members of the delegation were asked to come forward to accept a gift to take home with them to Zakarpattya in Ukraine. The members of the delegation left gifts from Zakarpattya for the members of Regional Council.

42. Brock University: Investing in Niagara's Future

Dr. Jack Lightstone, President and Vice Chancellor, Brock University advised Regional Council of the proposed research and teaching complex, Niagara Health and Bioscience Research Centre that will be located on the Brock campus. The Niagara Health and Bioscience Research Centre will accommodate leading Brock, McMaster and Niagara Health Services researchers in health, biosciences and drug development; research laboratories and technologies; McMaster's Niagara Medical Education Centre and company accelerator.

Dr. Lightstone noted that the 21st century is destined to be the biosciences era and the prosperity and competitiveness of Niagara and Ontario depends on talented individuals, high quality physical infrastructure and financial support of research to provide the knowledge and creativity to fuel innovation in the bioeconomy.

The Niagara Health and Bioscience Research Centre will address key economic, educational and social priorities for Niagara; the development of knowledge-based industry, provision for high quality health services, and health, medical and bioscience graduate training.

Dr. Lightstone emphasized the importance of a the Niagara Health and Bioscience Research Centre in Niagara Region, as it will provide Niagara Region with knowledge-based industry that will be at the core of Niagara's prosperity and competitiveness in a global economy for the next half century.

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Correspondence Item C6848, A resolution for Regional Council's consideration requesting support for Brock University's request to the Province of Ontario for \$42 Million capital funding for expanded research capacity, be received; and

Whereas Brock University has identified expansion plans for scientific research facilities and is seeking \$42.5 Million in financial support from the Province of Ontario as matching funds for locally-raised resources; and

Whereas one of the focal points of Brock's future plans is to provide the basis for the future small-to-medium sized, knowledge-and-design-intensive, high value-added enterprises in goods and services; and

Whereas the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara approved an overall community sustainability direction through the report titled *A Blueprint for an Even Better, Smarter Niagara: Assessing Niagara Against the Melbourne Principles*, wherein said report it was clearly identified that the Niagara community's prospects for successful long-term sustainability must include closer alignment between the goals of the local university and the municipal sector; and

Whereas the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara has prepared and approved, through funding partnership with the Province of Ontario, an *Agricultural Action Plan*, two of the priorities of that Plan being investment in research and innovation centred on Vineland Research Station and on developing small and medium value-added processing for Niagara's current and future agricultural products; and

Whereas *Navigating Our Future: Niagara's Economic Growth Strategy 2005-2010* identifies the need for investing in research & innovation, with a particular emphasis on developing local talent through aligning goals and related efforts with post secondary institutions, the private sector and Brock University; and

Whereas that same *Economic Growth Strategy* emphasizes creating a competitive business environment, including fostering competitiveness, efficiency and innovation in Niagara's government and business sectors.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That The Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara supports Brock University's request to the Province of Ontario for \$42.5 Million capital funding for expanded research capacity on the basis that such increased capacity assists in supporting local efforts at creating local economic self-reliance and overall integrated community sustainability; and

Further directs that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Regional Chairman to the Premier of Ontario, the Ministers of Colleges and Universities, Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Economic Development and Trade; Finance; MPPs and area municipalities.

Carried.

43. The Vineland Renaissance Project

Mr. Donald Ziraldo, Chair of the Vineland Renaissance Advisory Panel provided Regional Council with the background information that lead to the formation of the Vineland Renaissance Advisory Panel.

The Vineland Vision consists of a pest free (disease/insects) tender fruit, grape, floriculture industry; cold hardiness plants (outdoors & under glass); a model for federal/provincial agri-food research & innovation centres & networks; creation of an attractive destination for world class horticultural & food/health related research scientists; a year-round supply of local product; work toward the establishment of an internationally recognized Greenbelt focus & socio-economic research team; enhancements in Culinary Tourism; development of new links among better produce, better health, better use of resources & better living and the identification & development of value from bioactive compounds.

Mr. Ziraldo provided Regional Council with an overview of the Vineland Renaissance Project's research priorities; commercial activity; governance; outreach and the next steps, which are to obtain a decision from the Ontario government to invest in Vineland now; to pursue additional funding from the federal government; to pursue additional funding from private sector partners; to recruit Founding Board members; to plan with the appropriate departments at the municipal, regional and provincial governments for the necessary infrastructure requirements and to develop further synergy regarding the Prudhommes Landing project and the potential joint initiatives.

44. Wine Country Enhancement Initiative

Mr. Renato Romanin, Senior Economic Development Officer, NEDC introduced Mr. Paul Carabott, Peter J. Smith and Company, who provided Regional Council with a presentation on the Wine Country Enhancement Initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to attract more investment to Wine Country communities; create an enhanced destination and support Wine Country communities and form partnerships. The goals of the initiative are to create a world class destination; to enhance Tourism & Economic Development; to encourage sustainable development and to improve access and circulation.

The current Visitor Profile is of an affluent, mature, educated individual who originates from the GTA 45% and from the US 24%, the duration of their stay is as a day trip, twice a year, with no more than two wineries per visit, they seek only wine and culinary experiences and they are 4% of Niagara's total visitors.

Mr. Carabott noted that the wine and culinary tourism is a specialized market niche that is relatively small, which needs a strategy in place to appeal to a broader base of visitors for whom wine and culinary experiences are one component of their travel experience. The cultural and heritage tourism is the fastest growing travel market, where visitors enjoy educational experiences, the arts, museums, historical sites in addition to wine and culinary experiences.

Mr. Carabott provided Regional Council with an overview of the strategy's cornerstones: potential signature developments; potential investment opportunities and potential interpretive destinations with the concept of creating a place with signatures, destinations, nodes and linkages.

The Wine Country Enhancement Initiative's key results will provide Niagara Region with tools to stimulate economic development through a coordinated strategy of private and public investment to achieve the vision; to coordinate local and regional planning and infrastructure improvements to enhance quality of life and to integrate other regional assets into Wine Country to create a world class destination.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Salci

That Regional Council consent to Mr. Barry Katzman, Wine Council of Ontario, addressing Council at this time.

Carried.

Mr. Barry Katzman, Wine Council of Ontario advised Regional Council that the Wine Council does own the Wine Route, however, they welcome opportunities and are open to ideas and suggestions that would enhance the wine experience for visitors.

Moved by Councillor McMullan
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Correspondence Item C6849, A resolution for Regional Council's consideration requesting support for the Wine Country Enhancement Initiative, be received; and

That the Wine Country Enhancement Initiative report entitled "Energizing Niagara's Wine Country Communities" dated January 2007, be received and supported in principle, and

That a further report that outlines the financial details of the project, be brought back for Regional Council's consideration.

Carried.

45.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Regional Chair Partington on behalf of Regional Council extended congratulations to Councillor Bylsma and his wife Grace on the birth of their first child, a son named Ryan Matthew, who was born on February 7th.

Regional Chair Partington noted that while we celebrate a new life coming into the world, we also celebrate a life well-lived, this past Sunday Gord Harry, the former Mayor of Wainfleet and Regional Councillor, sadly passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gord's wife Angie, his children Debbie and Gord Jr. and his entire family. He will be missed.

Gord Harry was a strong advocate for the Township of Wainfleet, the Region of Niagara, and to his work both as an employee and as Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. Gord Harry was first and foremost a proud family man.

Regional Chair Partington announced that this afternoon, the Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration – the Honourable Mike Colle, and the Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Jim Bradley announced that the provincial government is investing \$772,916 in funding for a new program that will attract and integrate internationally trained individuals into Niagara's community and workforce.

The Niagara Training and Adjustment Board will receive \$522,916 to work with its community partners, of which Niagara Region is one, to implement an innovative newcomer employment centre. The remaining funds will go to the Folk Arts Council of St. Catharines' Multicultural Centre for the services they provide to newcomers.

This is the first such investment by the Provincial government outside of Toronto. Minister Colle credited our Niagara Week activities for putting Niagara on the government's radar as a desirable location to direct immigrant settlement.

Although the Region is not receiving funding directly, this is excellent news for Niagara and I look forward to working with the government and our community partners to make good things happen for the benefit of our newcomers and all our residents.

Regional Chair Partington was please to announce that Niagara Region has maintained its "AA" credit rating as a result of a strong operating performance by the Region and good economic prospects for the Niagara area.

Regional Chair Partington thanked Cedarway Floral Inc. of Beamsville, for this evening's flowers.

Regional Chair Partington encouraged all members of Regional Council to attend the February 15th session entitled "Niagara's Collective Future Navigating our Future: Economic Growth Strategy" being held at the Americana on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

46. Report 1-2007

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report 1-2007, being the minutes of the Committee of the Whole – Budget Review Committee meeting of Thursday, January 18, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

47. Report 1-2007

Moved by Councillor D'Angela
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Report 1-2007, being the minutes of the Proceedings of Council of Thursday, January 18, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

48. Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Communications C6850 and C6851, be received and dealt with as noted in the Council Addendum:

C6850 Card of thanks from Regional Councillor Marshall and family, for the kind donation to the Welland General Hospital Foundation and flowers in memory of his mother Mary Marshall.

C6851 Card of thanks from Regional Councillor Gabriel and family, for the kind donation to the Hospice Niagara Region and flowers in memory of his father Fred Gabriel.

Carried.

AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

49. Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report
October 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006
NRH 01-2007

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report NRH 01-2007, February 8, 2007, respecting the Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report, October 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006, be received for information.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

50. Report 2-2007

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report 2-2007, being the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, January 31, 2007, be approved and adopted as amended, to include the following staff direction:

"That staff prepare a report on how the Niagara Economic Development Corporation and local Economic Development Organizations work together; where there is duplication, how efficiencies can be achieved and look at other Regional Economic Development models."

51. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Report Report HR 08-2007, January 31, 2007, respecting Regional Council Remuneration, be lifted and dealt with by this Council at this time.

Carried.

52. Regional Council Remuneration
HR 08-2007

Upon a vote being taken, the Regional Chair declared the original motions on Report HR 08-2007, January 31, 2007, respecting Regional Council Remuneration, were carried.

Upon a vote being taken, the Regional Chair declared the original motion on Report 2-2007, being the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, January 31, 2007 as amended, to include the aforementioned staff direction, was carried.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

53. Report 2-2007

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That Report 2-2007, being the minutes of the Planning and Public Works Committee meeting of Wednesday, January 31, 2007, be approved and adopted; and

That the contract for the Niagara Growth Management Strategy be awarded to Dillon Consulting, pursuant to the approval of the award by the Planning Review Committee at their meeting held on February 8, 2007.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

54. Report 2-2007

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report 2-2007, being the minutes of the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting of Tuesday, January 30, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

55. Appointment to the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Councillor Forster be appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the 2006-2010 term.

Carried.

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

56. Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That the decisions made at the Budget Review Committee meeting of Thursday, February 8, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

ACCOMMODATION STEERING COMMITTEE

57. Report 1-2007

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report 1-2007, being the minutes of the Accommodation Steering Committee meeting of Friday, January 5, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

58. Niagara Region: A Year in Review (2006)
CAO 2-2007

Moved by Councillor Salci
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report CAO 2-2007, February 8, 2007, respecting the Niagara Region: A Year in Review (2006), be received for information.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

59. Public Health - Webinar

Councillor Timms encouraged all members of Regional Council to attend the Webinar, being held in Council Chambers from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. on February 12, 2007, to take part in an interactive forum that will provide an update on the progress-to-date of the review of the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines (MHPSG) and provide you with information about how your board of health can participate in an upcoming consultation process regarding the draft renewed standards that will take place between February 19th and March 9th, 2007.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

60. Canadian Junior Curling Championships

The Canadian Junior Curling Championships are taking place in St. Catharines this weekend and CBC will be broadcasting the championship games live and will feature the communities they are in, while doing so, so this is a good opportunity for Niagara Region.

Councillor Rigby extended his appreciation to the organizing committee for this event, as they have done a tremendous job!

61. Return your Wine and Spirit Bottles! For \$\$\$

Councillor Zimmerman encouraged the residents of Niagara Region to take advantage of returning your wine and spirit bottles, as it is a good opportunity to take these items out of the waste stream.

62. 9th Annual Partners in the Sky Fundraiser

The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara is holding the 9th Annual Partners in the Sky Fundraiser – July 14th, 2007 at Burnaby Skydive in Wainfleet.

Councillor Greenwood challenged her fellow Councillors to come out and parachute at this event.

63. 8th Annual Curl For Memories Bonspiel Fundraiser

The Alzheimer Society, Niagara Region is holding the 8th Annual Curl for Memories Bonspiel Fundraiser – Saturday, March 3, 2007 at the Welland Curling Club.

Councillor Greenwood challenged her fellow Councillors and Regional staff to form a team.

BY-LAWS

64. Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 14

A By-Law to Provide For the Regulation of Traffic on Regional Highways in the City of Niagara Falls

Bill 15

A By-Law to Provide For the Regulation of Traffic on Regional Highways in the City of St. Catharines

Bill 16

A By-Law to Establish Part of Lot 1, Concession 1, Township of West Lincoln as Part of Regional Road No. 63 (Canborough Road)

Bill 17

A By-Law to Authorize a 2007 Interim Levy for the Regional Municipality of Niagara

Bill 18

A By-Law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Actions of the Regional Council at its Meeting Held on the 8th of February, 2007.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Councillor Timms asked that all Regional Councillor be provided with the existing Public Health guidelines and standards, so that they can compare what is being proposed (Refers to Minute Item # 59).

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chair

Janet Pilon
Deputy Clerk

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk