

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

REPORT CL 16-2007

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, November 29, 2007 commencing at 6:37 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Farley, Director, Planning Development; Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Clerk.

Staff

(Part-Time): Messrs. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Robson, Director, Community Integration; Ms. Donia, Planner; Corporate Employee Recognition Team: Ms. Pelette; Ms. Ravenda; Ms. Dupont.

CALL TO ORDER

457. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

458. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Mr. Bergsma's presentation respecting the 2008 Budget, be received and referred to Standing Committees and Regional Council on January 17, 2008.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

459. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

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

Carried.

460. **Operational Support Services Reorganization Implementation Update**
CSD 172-2007/PWA 164-2007 CONFIDENTIAL

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Confidential Report CSD 172-2007/PWA 164-2007, respecting the Operational Support Services Reorganization Implementation Update, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION, RISE AND REPORT

461. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

462. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That the Council Agenda CL 16-2007 be approved and adopted as presented.

Carried.

463.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Baty declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Minute Item 260, Public Health and Social Services Committee, Report COM 56-2007 respecting Application of Provincial Funding for an Automated Common Resident Assessment Instrument, as his son is a network administrator with the province, and he therefore vacated the Chair and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

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 Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Minute Item 260, Public Health and Social Services Committee, Report COM 56-2007 respecting Application of Provincial Funding for an Automated Common Resident Assessment Instrument as she is a member of ONA and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

PRESENTATIONS

464. Excellence Awards

Ms. Ravenda, Chair of the Excellence Sub-Committee of the Corporate Employee Recognition Team (CERT) was pleased to announce the following winners of Excellence Awards:

A Customer Service Award was presented to Karen Hall for her outstanding dedication to customer service and assistance to her colleagues at work.

A Team Participation Award was presented to the Fairhaven Stroke Specialized Adult Day Service Staff: Pat Chiochio; Carrie Petrak; Kathy Prantera and Karen Anderson, who have shown enthusiasm and flexibility, with no hesitation has successfully accepted the challenge of starting a new program with which they had no previous experience.

A Leadership Award was presented to Nancy Macdonald, who received the Ontario Fire Marshall's Award of Excellence in appreciation of her exceptional contribution to fire and life safety in Ontario.

A Leadership Award was presented to Brenda Desjardins for implementing the Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS) in Niagara following review and exploration of this program in Peel Region.

Regional Stars are presented to employees to recognize individual “deeds” or accomplishments that do not fall within the criteria for the Recognition of Excellence Awards. “Regional Stars” recognize specific individual acts by Regional employees that go “above and beyond” their responsibilities with the Region. A Regional Star will be presented at an appropriate occasion in the workplace to the following employee(s):

Paul Taylor from Corporate Services and the Forestry Crew in Public Works – Murray Potts, Kevin McCauley, Andy Bertrand, Brock Adams, Tim Racey, John Hardy, John Alessandrino and Philip Aiello.

465. Creative Niagara - Cultural Asset Mapping

Councillor Casselman, Co-Chair of the Culture Committee introduced Dr. Rosemary Hale, Co-Chair of the Culture Committee and Mr. Rebecca Cann a member of the Culture Committee to present the first phase of Cultural Asset Mapping.

Dr. Hale and Ms. Cann noted that the Regional Niagara Culture Committee is a committee responsible for advising Niagara Region of ways to enhance arts, culture and heritage in the fulfillment of its responsibility to its citizens; act as advocates on behalf of the arts, heritage and culture sectors and develop a Cultural Policy and Strategy that is endorsed by Regional Council.

Culture includes arts (performing, written, visual and media arts); cultural industries (the for profit sector) and heritage resources (landscapes, collections, sites, stories and traditions). The presentation provided Regional Council with a number of examples of the arts, culture and heritage found in Niagara Region.

Cultural Policy Development begins with Cultural Asset Mapping which builds on Niagara Region’s strengths and identifies gaps and opportunities within the following primary categories: cultural facilities; organizations; festivals and events; sites; moveable heritage and cultural human resources.

Dr. Hale and Ms. Cann noted the uses of asset inventory and provided Regional Council with maps depicting 134 cultural facilities; 171 cultural organizations; 402 cultural businesses or industries; 226 cultural sites and 155 festival and events within Niagara and provided information respecting artists by Region in Ontario. Niagara Region has in total 1088 cultural assets.

REGIONAL CHAIR’S REMARKS

466. Regional Chair Partington thanked Councillor Baty for chairing the last session of Council on November 8th and expressed his sincere appreciation for his taking over that responsibility while the Chair was heading a business delegation to Japan and South Korea.

The trip saw a number of business representatives and government officials representing the NEDC, the city of Welland, and the Niagara Region, venture to Japan for five days, and South Korea for two days with 13 different meetings over that period. The purpose was to develop and strengthen a number of economic opportunities, as it is vitally important that they are aware of the strengths of the Niagara region as a whole, and understand the region's competitive advantage as a location for investment.

Regional Chair Partington took this opportunity to congratulate one of our local employee committees that just presented before Council earlier in the evening. The Corporate Employee Recognition Team (CERT), is celebrating their 10th Anniversary. The celebration highlights the great work that is done across all of our communities by the many selfless, dedicated and committed individuals who work for the Region, providing our residents with the many programs and services we offer. On behalf of Regional Council, Regional Chair Partington thanked all of the employees who have been involved in CERT over the last 10 years, and to the many employees who have benefited from some of that recognition. Regional Chair Partington noted that whether we admit it or not, everyone enjoys being recognized for the good work that they do – and he recognized the importance of having a method of doing that. Congratulations to our CERT committee.

The Regional Emergency Team will be put to the test on November 23, 2007, as we undergo a planning exercise regarding our ability to respond to an emergency situation, and how we deal with that not only as departments and programs, but as a collective group to protect the lives and safety of our residents. Regional Chair Partington noted that he is looking forward to bringing back some information at our next Council session to let everyone know how Niagara Region fared.

Regional Chair Partington noted that Council's Business Plan for 2007-2011 is nearing completion. The plan provides the strategic focus and direction of this council for the next three years. A draft version has been placed on the Region's website at www.regional.niagara.on.ca, and is available for public comment. The Regional Chair encouraged individuals to take a look at the plan, and provide feedback up to and including December 12th.

On a sad note, it is with a great deal of regret that Regional Chair Partington recognized the passing of former Regional Councillor Joe Noonan of the City of Thorold. Former Regional Councillor Noonan served on Regional Council from 1981 to 1982, along with some of our current Councillors, and was a former teacher and principal in the Catholic School Board. Regional Chair Partington extended condolences on behalf of Regional Council to Former Regional Councillor Noonan's family, and thanked them for his commitment to both his local community, and the Region as a whole.

Regional Chair Partington thanked Bob Martin Farms in Vineland Station for the beautiful floral arrangements in Council Chambers.

REGIONAL CHAIR'S REPORT

467. Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Project
CHR 02-2007

Mr. Dennis Parass, Chair of the Niagara Economic Development Corporation Board and Mr. Patrick Gedge, CEO, Niagara Economic Development Corporation attended the presentation of Report CHR 02-2007 and responded to questions from Council members.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That CHR 02-2007, November 29, 2007, respecting the Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Project, be received ***as amended***.

That the Region provide funding for the Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Council Corporation to implement the planning and fundraising function for the commemoration of the War of 1812 in Niagara; and

That the funding provided would be a two-year commitment from the contingency reserve for a total of \$200,000, covering 2008 and 2009 ***with a further report requested detailing the manner in which the funds will be spent***.

Carried.

(Refer for Councillor Information Requests)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

468. Report COTW 9-2007

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Lepp

That Report COTW 9-2007, being the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Thursday, November 8, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

469. Report CL 15-2007

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report CL 15-2007, being the minutes of the Proceedings of Council of Thursday, November 8, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

470. Moved by Councillor McMullan
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Communications C6975 and C6977, be dealt with as noted in the Council Agenda and Addendum, which read as follows:

C6975 A letter from Dean Iorfida, City Clerk, City of Niagara Falls (November 19, 2007) requesting that Regional Council consider one of the options listed respecting Niagara Economic Development Corporation, Tourism Promotion.

Received and referred to staff of the Corporate Services Department and Niagara Economic Development Corporation for report.

C6977 A memorandum from Mike Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer (November 23, 2007) respecting the Collaborative Approach with NRPS Long Term Accommodation Strategy, in response to a staff direction from the September 6th Committee of the Whole meeting.

Received.

Carried.

471. Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That Communication C6976, a letter from Councillor Goulbourne (November 21, 2007) requesting that he be appointed to the Public Health and Social Services Committee and that he will be stepping down from the Culture Committee effective January 2008, be received and supported.

Carried.

AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

472. Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report
July 1, 2007 – September 30, 2007
NRH 07-2007

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report NRH 07-2007, November 29, 2007, respecting the Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report, July 1, 2007 – September 30, 2007, be received for information.

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

473. Report 16-2007

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That Report 16-2007, being the minutes of the Planning and Public Works Committee meeting of Wednesday, November 21, 2007, be approved and adopted.

474. Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report PWA 169-2007 Revised, November 21, 2007, respecting Street Furniture and Bus Shelters on the Regional Road System, be lifted and dealt with by this Council at this time.

Carried.

475. Street Furniture and Bus Shelters
on the Regional Road System
PWA 169-2007 Revised

Moved by Councillor D'Angela
Seconded by Councillor Puttick

That the Sixth section:

That the revenue generated by the Agreements with Pattison Industries Ltd. And Creative Outdoor Advertising continue to be directed to the local transit authority ***or the local municipality if the municipality doesn't have a local transit authority established*** except for nominal fees which are intended to cover the Region's administrative costs;

Carried.

476. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That Minute Item 487, respecting the Police Services Accommodation Strategy, be lifted and dealt with by this Council at this time.

Lost.

Upon a vote being taken, the Regional Chair declared the original motion on Report 16-2007, being the minutes of the Planning and Public Works Committee meeting of Wednesday, November 21, 2007, **as amended**, was carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

477. Report 16-2007

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That Report 16-2007, being the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, November 21, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

478. Report 16-2007

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report 16-2007, being the minutes of the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting of Tuesday, November 20, 2007, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

479. Representation by Population and the
Equitable Apportionment of Seats in the House of Commons

Councillor McMullan advised Regional Council that he will be bringing forward a motion at the December 20, 2007 Regional Council meeting urging the Federal Government to consider changes to Bill C-22, to ensure the fair and equitable representation for Ontarians.

OTHER BUSINESS

480. Pan Am Games

Councillor Puttick asked that staff report back to Regional Council on the Pan Am Games that are being held in Niagara Region next year.

481. Grimsby Santa Claus Parade

Councillor Bentley invited everyone to attend the Town of Grimsby's Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 5:15 p.m.

482. Passing of Councillor Doug Beamer

Councillor Augustyn advised Regional Council of long-time Councillor Doug Beamer's passing and on behalf of Regional Council extended condolences to his family.

483. Council Organization Review Committee (CORC) Meeting

Councillor Baty advised Regional Council that the Council Organization Review Committee (CORC) will be meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

484. Multi-Faith Calendar

Councillor Collins advised Regional Council of the multi-faith calendars available from Trish Vidler.

Councillor Collins also congratulated Trish Vidler for compiling the calendar.

485. Christmas in the Village

Councillor Henderson invited everyone to attend the Christmas in the Village event taking place at Marshville on Sunday, December 2, 2007.

486. William Hamilton Merritt Day

Councillor D'Angela thanked everyone who was involved in the organizing of a very successful William Hamilton Merritt Day at Lock 7. on Monday, November 26, 2007 to celebrate William Hamilton Merritt Day and the opening of the first Welland Canal 178 years ago.

487. Volunteer Appreciation Night

Councillor Greenwood advised Regional Council that she attended the NPCA's Volunteer Appreciation Night on November 28, 2007, where former Regional Councillor and Wainfleet Mayor Gord Harry's family was presented with a memento in appreciation for his efforts.

488. Annual Candlelight Stroll

Councillor Lepp invited everyone to attend the Annual Candlelight Stroll in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on Friday, November 30, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

BY-LAWS

489. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the following Bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 110

A By-Law to Establish Part of Township Lot 70, in the Township of Stamford, in the City of Niagara Falls as Part of Regional Road No. 57 (Thorold Stone Road)

Bill 111

A By-Law to Establish Parts of Township Lot 158, in the City of Thorold as Part of Regional Road No. 20 (Canboro Road), Locally Known as Former Highway 20

Bill 112

A By-Law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Actions of the Regional Council at its Meeting Held on the 29th of November, 2007

Carried.

490. Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the following Bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 113

A By-Law to Establish Part of Lot 1, Township Plan 109 and Part of Lot 12, Concession 1 in the Town of Grimsby as Part of Regional Road No. 512 (Livingston Avenue)

Bill 114

A By-Law to Add a Portion of a Lower-Tier Highway to the Region's Highway System and to Establish Such Portion in the City Of Thorold as Part of Regional Road No. 56 (Collier Road)

Bill 115

A By-Law to Add a Portion of a Lower-Tier Highway to the Region's Highway System and to Establish Such Portion in the City of St. Catharines as Part of Regional Road No. 56 (Burleigh Hill)

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff was requested to:

- Ensure that the funds have a specific budget reference (Smeaton) (Refers to Minute Item 467)
- Sort the list attached to Report CSD 170-2007 (Minute Item 324 – Corporate Services Committee) by project as opposed to date, so that it is more useful to Councillors (Burroughs) (Refers to Minute Item 477)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chair

Janet Pilon
Deputy Regional Clerk

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk