

City of Port Colborne

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Members Present: M. Aquilina, Councillor
M. Bagu, Councillor
E. Beauregard, Councillor
R. Bodner, Councillor
G. Bruno, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)

Member(s) Absent: F. Danch, Councillor
D. Elliott, Councillor

Staff Present: S. Tufail, Acting City Clerk
B. Boles, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
G. Long, Manager of Strategic Initiatives/Acting Chief
Administrative Officer
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works
D. Vasu, Acting Deputy Clerk (minutes)
J. Colasurdo, Manager of Infrastructure
G. Higginbotham, Tourism Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at approximately 6:37 p.m.

2. National Anthem

3. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Bruno recited the land acknowledgement.

4. Proclamations

4.1 Proclamation Request and an Invitation to Participate in Autism Ontario's "Fly the Flag" campaign on April 2nd, 2024, in Celebration of World Autism Awareness Day

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That April 2, 2024, do hereby be proclaimed World Autism Day.

Carried

5. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That the agenda dated March 26, 2024, be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried

6. Disclosures of Interest

7. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

That items 7.1 and 7.2 be approved as presented.

Carried

7.1 Regular Meeting of Council - March 12, 2024

7.2 Special Meeting of Council - March 19, 2024

8. Staff Reports

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That items 8.1 to 8.4 be approved, and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Carried

8.1 2023 Statement of Council Remuneration and Expenses, 2024-55

That Corporate Services Department Report 2024-55 be received for information.

8.2 Grants for Non-Profit Organizations, 2024-65

That Chief Administrative Officer Report 2024-64 be received; and

That the following grants for non-profit organizations totalling \$19,000, be approved for the first allocation of 2024:

Mothers Against Drunk Driving\$2,000

Birchway Niagara\$3,000

Port Colborne Minor Hockey\$8,000

Downtown Business Improvement Area\$2,000

Port Colborne Optimist Club\$4,000

8.3 Port Colborne Distribution System 2023 Annual Summary Report, 2024-74

That Public Works Department Report 2024-74 be received, including the attached 2023 Annual Summary Report.

8.4 Wignell Municipal Drain, 2024-52

That Public Works Department Report 2024-52 be received; and

That Council direct the Drainage Superintendent to advance the Wignell Municipal Drain Engineer's Report to a 'Meeting to Consider', in accordance with section 41, Chapter D.17 of the *Drainage Act*.

9. Correspondence Items

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That items 9.1 to 9.7 be received for information.

Carried

9.1 The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sakaria, Minister of Transportation - Thank you Letter to Mayor Steele in support of creating an Ontario Shortline Track Maintenance Tax Credit in Budget 2024

9.2 Town of Goderich - Return to Combined ROMA and OGRA Conferences

- 9.3 **Town of Aurora - Request for Amenity Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with School Boards for Evening/Weekend Gymnasium Use**
- 9.4 **Township of Amaranth - Resolution on Highway 413**
- 9.5 **Township of Amaranth - Operational Budget Funding**
- 9.6 **Town of Cobourg - Correspondence from the Architectural Conservancy Ontario regarding Proposed Amendment to Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act with respect to the removal of listed (non designated) properties from municipal heritage registers**
- 9.7 **City of Qunite West - Notice of Motion - Housing Funding**
- 10. **Presentations**
 - 10.1 **Nancy Salvage, Executive Director- Port Colborne Fair Trade Committee**

Three representatives of the Port Colborne Fair Trade Committee provided a presentation.
 - 10.2 **Ian Hamilton, President & CEO - Hamilton - Oshawa Port Authority**

Ian Hamilton, President and CEO of the Hamilton - Oshawa Port Authority, provided a presentation.
- 11. **Delegations**
- 12. **Mayor's Report**

A copy of the Mayor's Report is attached.
- 13. **Regional Councillor's Report**
- 14. **Staff Remarks**
 - 14.1 **Clerk's Division Staffing Change and New Grant Applications (Long)**

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer introduced the new Acting City Clerk, Carol Schofield, then thanked Saima Tufail for her time at the City. The Acting Chief Administrative Officer then stated that Economic Development staff are applying for grants under three Provincial programs.
 - 14.2 **Tourism Update (Higginbotham)**

The Tourism Coordinator provided a brief update regarding the City's tourism strategy.

14.3 Public Works Updates (Shypowskyj)

The Director of Public Works provided an update regarding several operational programs which have begun or are about to begin, including the annual ditching program, the sidewalk repair program, the street sweeping program, the asphalt repair program, and the line painting program, then stated that the leak detection program found and repaired a leak in Ward One.

14.4 Eclipse Glasses and Vale Technology Updates (Boles)

The Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer stated that the free eclipse glasses have almost ran out and that residents should collect a pair while supplies last, then noted that the television monitors at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre are now operating, thanking the Communications Department for their help.

15. Councillors' Remarks

15.1 Sidewalks on West Street (Aquilina)

Councillor Aquilina asked the Director of Public Works about the sidewalks on West Street, on behalf of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. The Manager of Infrastructure answered that the sidewalks will be fixed during the project to bury hydro lines on West Street.

15.2 Tax Clinics (Aquilina)

Councillor Aquilina forwarded the message from MP Vance Badawey's office that there will be income tax clinics in Port Colborne, noting that those interested should check the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee's Facebook Page or the City's website for details.

15.3 Community Updates and Congratulations (Aquilina)

Councillor Aquilina advised that the Sherkston Community Centre is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m., then congratulated the Mayor on becoming a grandfather and S. Tufail on her new position at the Region of Peel.

15.4 Acting City Clerk Appreciation (Bruno)

Councillor Bruno thanked S. Tufail for her time at the City, then stated that she will be missed.

15.5 West Side Road Construction Signs (Bruno)

Councillor Bruno asked the Director of Public Works about why the construction signs from the paving of West Side Road are still up, noting that he believes the signs should be removed. The Director of Public Works responded that the signs will be cleaned up soon.

15.6 Acting City Clerk Appreciation (Hoyle)

Councillor Hoyle thanked S. Tufail for her time at the City, then wished her well in her future endeavours.

16. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

16.1 Lockview Park, 2024-73

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That Public Works Department Report 2024-73 be received; and

That Council pre-commit \$395,000 from the 2025 Capital and Related Projects Budget for the Lockview Park project; and

That Council allocate \$204,000 from the Canadian Community Building Fund for the Lockview Park project; and

That Council allocate the remaining \$1,000 from the capital budget under/over reserve for the Lockview Park project.

Carried

16.2 The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport regarding the City of Port Colborne's Interest in St. Lawrence Seaway lands Owned by Transport Canada

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That the correspondence item from the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport regarding the City of Port Colborne's interest in St. Lawrence Seaway lands owned by Transport Canada, be received.

Carried

16.3 Town of Bracebridge - Resolution of Support Regarding Request to the Province of Ontario for New Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That the correspondence item from the Town of Bracebridge regarding Resolution of Support Regarding Request to the Province of Ontario for New Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework, be supported; and

That the correspondence item be forwarded to the Niagara West MPP, Sam Oosterhoff; the St. Catharines MPP, Jennifer Stevens; the Niagara Falls MPP, Wayne Gates; and the Niagara Centre MPP, Jeff Burch.

Carried

17. Motions

17.1 Memorandum from Mayor Steele - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Governors of Michigan and Illinois in Preventing Invasive Copi in Great Lakes

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne support the attached letter; and

That the City of Port Colborne forward this letter to the Governor of Illinois.

Carried

18. Notice of Motions

19. Minutes of Boards & Committees

20. By-laws

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That items 20.1 and 20.2 be enacted and passed, as presented.

Carried

20.1 By-law to Appoint a Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief

**20.2 By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council
of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne**

21. Procedural Motions

22. Information items

23. Adjournment

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:14 p.m.

William C. Steele, Mayor

Saima Tufail, Acting City Clerk