

City of Port Colborne

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025
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
D. Elliott, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)

Member(s) Absent: F. Danch, Councillor

Staff Present: C. Banting, Manager of Environmental Services
J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk
J. Colasurdo, Manager of Strategic Projects
S. Double, Fire Chief
G. Long, Director of Development and Government Relations
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works / Acting CAO

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. National Anthem

Everyone stood for the National Anthem.

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement was read:

The Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and

the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The City of Port Colborne stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

4. Adoption of Agenda

C-25- 045

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner
Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That the Council agenda dated March 11, 2025, be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried

5. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Presentations

There were no presentations.

8. Delegations

8.1 Barbara Butters - 1152 Weaver Road

Barbara Butters delegated on urgent care in Port Colborne and the healthcare petitions she submitted to the Clerk's office.

8.2 Angie Desmarais - 270 Davis Street

Angie Desmarais delegated on her request to Council to strike a citizen's committee for healthcare.

9. Mayor's Report

A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

10. Regional Councillor's Report

There was no Regional Councillor's report. Councillor Bagu inquired to the Mayor about wastewater rate billing.

11. Motions Arising from Committees and Boards

11.1 Memorandum to Council - Grant Allocation Advisory Committee

C-25- 046

Moved by Councillor D. Elliott

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Council approve the following recommendation from the Grant Allocation Advisory Committee dated February 13, 2025:

That the following funding requests be approved for a total of \$20,304.35 in the first allocation of grants for 2025:

- \$3,000 for Community Living Port Colborne Wainfleet to fund quality-of-life programming for youth and young adults with developmental and-or learning disabilities, including cooking and meal preparation, driver instruction and training, and job search skills. The grant will help with costs of transportation, staffing, and training materials.
- \$4,335 for Port Colborne Feline Initiative to fund TNVR (trap, neuter, vaccinate, return) for 10 feral cats, and to fund the SNAP (spay/neuter assistance program) for 10 cats. PCFI volunteers address complex issues of feral cats in the community by providing humane and fiscally responsible resources for free-roaming, unowned cats.
- \$3,600 for Friends of Port Colborne Lighthouses to fund a waterless composting toilet for volunteers and visitors.
- \$4,000 for Port Colborne Optimist Club to help fund the annual fishing derby for youth, and the annual Canada Day in the Park community event.
- \$5,369.35 for Port Colborne Wave girls' minor hockey to help fund professional skills training for U7 to U15 age groups, and related ice time

Carried

12. Consent Agenda

Councillor Bruno lifted item 12.3 d, which was considered as item 13.1 under Items Requiring Separate Discussion. Councillor Beauregard lifted item 12.4 e, which was considered as item 13.2 under Items Requiring Separate Discussion.

C-25- 047

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the March 11, 2025, Council agenda; and

That the consent items be approved on the recommendations as contained therein.

Carried

12.1 Approval of Minutes

- a. **Regular Council Meeting - February 25, 2025**

12.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees

- a. **Senior Advisory Committee Meeting - January 21, 2025**
- b. **Museum, Culture and Heritage Board Meeting - January 21, 2025**
- c. **Port Colborne Public Library Board Meeting - February 5, 2025**

12.3 Staff Reports

- a. **Comprehensive CIP East Waterfront CIPA Tax Increment Grant –131 - 133 Durham Street, Report 2025-39**
- b. **Comprehensive CIP East Waterfront CIPA Tax Increment Grant – 71 Nickel Street, 2025-27**
- c. **Oil Mill Creek Municipal Drain Report Update, 2025-22**

12.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items

- a. **City of Thorold - Actions to Address Mental Health, Addiction and Homelessness**
- b. **Town of Goderich - Support for an Ontario-wide Licencing Framework for Rideshare Companies**
- c. **Town of Coburg - Correspondence received from Northumberland County regarding the Municipal Restructuring Study**
- d. **Niagara Region - 2025 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates**

13. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

13.1 Revised Billing of the Young and Hopf-Wagner Municipal Drains, 2025-42

C-25- 048

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That Public Works Department Report 2025-42 be received; and

That the revised billing for the Young and Hopf-Wagner Municipal Drains be approved and invoiced in accordance with the Drainage Act, as outlined in Appendix A of Public Works Department Report 2025-42.

Carried

13.2 Niagara Region - Motion Respecting Supporting Niagara's Business Community and Advocating for Economic Resilience Measures

C-25- 049

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That Council endorse the Niagara Region's motion respecting supporting Niagara's Business Community and Advocating for Economic Resilience Measures.

Carried

14. Staff Remarks

Fire Chief Double thanked Council for their support and noted the new Deputy Fire Chief, Mark Middleton, has started in his role, and is overseeing the Training Division. Lastly, he thanked City Staff for their support with the questionnaires related to the critical risk assessment and master fire plan.

Steve Shypowskyj, Acting CAO, noted that they are working on the hydro relocation project along West Street and the expected completion for the project is June 2025. He also noted some parking and parts of the street will be impacted during the construction.

Gary Long, Director of Development and Government Relations, reminded everyone that the survey for the future of healthcare in Port Colborne is open until April 30th, and he encouraged residents to fill out the surveys. He also thanked everyone who has completed the survey thus far.

15. Councillors' Remarks

Councillor Aquilina inquired to Public Works staff about the flooding issue on Pinecrest Road and the reasoning for why the grate was blocked with a pilon. She also inquired about the fill on the corner of Killaly Street and Miller Road, and whose responsibility it is to clear the excess mud and dirt from the road. Lastly, she noted that she attended the Sherkston Community Centre Board meeting on March 10, 2025, and they have done some upgrades to the space. She also shared the upcoming activities happening at the centre in March and April.

Councillor Bagu thanked Public Works staff for their efforts cleaning up the sidewalk on Clarence Street. He also inquired to Public Works staff about how the hydro relocation project will impact the school garden at a local high school.

Councillor Bruno attended the biannual Drinking Water Quality Management Committee (DWQMC) meeting. He inquired if a presentation of the information could be brought forward to Council, and commended staff on their knowledge.

Councillor Elliott inquired if a permit was needed for residents to dump dirt on a site, as there is a dirt pile near the Clarence Street bridge. He was also in attendance at the DWQMC meeting, which was informative.

Councillor Hoyle thanked staff for taking care of his requests.

Councillor Bodner inquired to Public Works staff to check the stone area along the sidewalk of Killaly Street, and to see if the dirt can be removed. He also highlighted the Sherkston Community Centre upgrades and noted it and other community centres are used as rental spaces for small events. Lastly, he inquired to Chief Double about the progress on the open burning by-law.

16. Motions

There were no motions.

17. Notice of Motions

There were no notices of motions.

18. By-laws

C-25- 050

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That the following by-laws be passed and enacted, as presented:

- By-law No. 7327/18/25
- By-law No. 7328/19/25
- By-law No. 7329/20/25

Carried

18.1 By-law No. 7327/18/25 - Being a By-law to Authorize Entering into an Agreement with Resimate (2812881 Ontario Inc., Owner Glyn Holmes) Regarding the Comprehensive CIP Downtown CIPA Property Tax Increment Grant 131-133 Durham Street

18.2 By-law No. 7328/19/25 - Being a By-law to Authorize Entering into an Agreement with 71 Nickel Inc. (owner Wendy Singh) Regarding the Comprehensive CIP East Waterfront CIPA Property Tax Increment Grant 71 Nickel Street

18.3 By-law No. 7329/20/25 - Being a By-law to Amend the Assessment Schedule to Levy the Difference of Actual Costs Incurred in Constructing a Drainage Works Known as the Young & Hopf Wagner Municipal Drain

19. Closed Session

C-25- 051

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Council do now proceed to meet in Closed Session at 7:26 p.m. under:

- Section 239(2)(h) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them.
- Section 239(2)(c) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

Carried

19.1 Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Council Meeting (Closed Session) - February 25, 2025

19.2 Staff Reports

- a. **Confidential Public Works Department Report - 2025-37**
- b. **Confidential Public Works Department Report - 2025-61**

20. Back to Open Session

C-25- 052

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That Council does now rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 8:18 p.m. with report:

- Item 19.1 - Approval of Closed Session Minutes
 - a. That the Closed Session Meeting minutes from the February 25, 2025, Council meeting be approved as presented.
- Item 19.2 - Staff Reports
 - a. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.
 - b. That Council authorize staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.

Carried

21. Procedural Motions

There were no procedural motions.

22. Confirmatory By-law

22.1 By-law No. 7330/21/25 - By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne

C-25- 053

Moved by Councillor D. Elliott

Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

That the By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne, dated March 11, 2025, be enacted and passed, as presented.

Carried

23. Adjournment

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

William C. Steele, Mayor

Jessica Beaupre, Deputy Clerk



PORT COLBORNE

MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

\$4.3 MILLION HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUNDING

Niagara Centre Member of Parliament Vance Badawey was here this morning to announce funding of \$4.3 million to help us build more affordable housing in Port Colborne. The money is part of the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

With this funding, we can move forward with next steps on our ongoing affordable projects here in Port Colborne, including the partnership we have with Niagara Regional Housing to build at least 55 new units at King and Haney Streets. These will be quality, energy efficient units, comparable to the impressive Chestnut Place, a five-story 41-unit build which had its grand opening two weeks ago. The announcement marks more great news for Port Colborne.

AK OFFICE OPEN AT NIAGARA COLLEGE

Our friends and partners at Asahi Kasei opened an office in the Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Niagara College. I attended the grand opening open house event on behalf of council and our city. The Innovation Centre at the college is a state-of-the-art facility where students, faculty and researchers support advanced manufacturing and technology companies which innovate, grow and compete in the global marketplace.

We spent a year convincing AK to locate in Port Colborne. Having a plant as important and as big as AK is a sign of growth, progress and good-paying jobs for people in our city and in Niagara region. The AK office at the college is a significant next step. Congratulations AK and Niagara College for forging a bold new partnership.

MARINERS' SERVICE AT ST. JAMES AND ST. BRENDAN

Our good friends at St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church welcome friends and families of those who work "the boats" and all marine-related industries to the annual Mariners' Service. Every year, on the Sunday before the Welland Canal opens for the

season St. James and St. Brendan presents the service as a tribute and blessing to sailors and seaway workers.

Please join the new minister, the Reverend Mike Degan and his parish, as they present a special Mariner's Service, Sunday, March 16, at 7pm. The service will be followed with refreshments and fellowship in the Guild Hall at 8pm.

TRADITIONAL TOP HAT CEREMONY SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Our traditional Top Hat Ceremony will be held in Lock 8 Gateway Park on Saturday morning, March 22, the day the Welland Canal opens for the 2025 season. The St. Lawrence Seaway opened to commercial traffic April 25, 1959. The official opening ceremony was June 26, 1959, attended by Queen Elizabeth II President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Prime Minister John Diefenbaker at the St. Lambert Lock in Montreal.

Construction of the first Welland Canal was 1824 to 1829. In four years, we'll be celebrating the 200th anniversary. The canal has shaped our history. That's why we celebrate it in Port Colborne at the start of every shipping season. This year, shipping season opens Saturday, March 22. The Fair-Trade Committee will prepare sausage and pancakes, with local maple syrup.

The Library will have collectible commemorative buttons on souvenir cards. The museum will have the captain of the first ship sign the official logbook, and we'll present him or her with the symbolic William Hamilton Merritt Top Hat. Please watch the city website for details. We're planning for an 8 o'clock start, but that may change, depending on ship traffic in the canal.

YELLOW RIBBONS FOR TYLER CROOKS

The yellow ribbons you'll soon see on near the Cenotaph in HH Knoll Lakeview Park and on lampposts at city hall are there to remember Tyler Crooks. Tyler was born in Port Colborne March 20, 1985. Corporal Crooks was killed in action in Afghanistan on his 24th birthday, March 20, 2009. We will never forget you, Tyler

THANK YOU COUNCILLOR BODNER

Thank you, Councillor Bodner, for taking over mayoral duties and responsibilities while I was away last month. Council and I appreciate you serving as Deputy Mayor. That concludes my report this evening.