

City of Port Colborne

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 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
F. Danch, Councillor
D. Elliott, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)

Staff Present: E. Acs, Chief Planner
J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk
S. Double, Fire Chief
G. Long, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
C. Madden, City Clerk
K. Martel, Manager of Planning
D. Rodgers, Chief Building Official
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

C-25- 199

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

That the Council agenda dated October 14, 2025, be confirmed, as circulated.

3. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. Closed Session (Beginning at 5 p.m.)

C-25- 200

Moved by Councillor F. Danch

Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That Council do now proceed to meet in Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. under the Municipal Act, 2001:

- Subsection 239(2)(b), where a closed session meeting is held if the subject matter being considered are personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.
- Subsection 239(2)(f), where a closed session meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.
- Subsection 239(2)(i), where a closed session meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization

Carried

4.1 Approval of Closed Session Minutes

- a. **Special Council Meeting (Closed Session) - September 20, 2025**
- b. **Regular Council Meeting (Closed Session) - September 23, 2025**

4.2 Verbal Updates

- a. **Confidential Verbal Update from the Director of Development and Government Relations Regarding Ongoing Negotiations**

- b. Confidential Verbal Report from Chief Building Official - Building Division Legal Matter**

4.3 Staff Reports

- a. Confidential Human Resources Department Report, 2025-176**

5. Back to Open Session (Beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

C-25- 201

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That Council does now rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 6:47 p.m. with report:

4.1 Approval of Closed Session Minutes

That the Closed session minutes be approved.

4.3 Staff Reports

- a. That Confidential Human Resources Department Report 2025-176 be received; and

That staff follow the direction provided in Closed Session.

Carried

6. National Anthem

Everyone stood for the national anthem.

7. 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 Hattiwendaronk, 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.

8. Proclamations

8.1 October is Small Business Month

C-25- 202

Moved by Councillor F. Danch
Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

WHEREAS Small Business Month is an annual national celebration; and
WHEREAS the continued economic uncertainty and recovery has brought forward new and ongoing challenges for Canadian entrepreneurs; and
WHEREAS business owners are finding ways to succeed despite these challenges; and

WHEREAS business owners are making their businesses more inclusive and sustainable, while driving the Canadian economy; and
WHEREAS residents are encouraged to support local small businesses as we look to maintain and recover from these challenges.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor, William C. Steele proclaim October 2025 “Small Business Month” in the City of Port Colborne and encourage all citizens to recognize and celebrate our small businesses in Port Colborne.

Carried

9. Presentations

There were no presentations.

10. Delegations

There were no delegations.

11. Mayor's Report

A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

12. Regional Councillor's Report

There was no Regional Councillor report.

13. Consent Agenda

Items 13.3 a, 13.4 b, 13.4 d, and 13.4 e were lifted from the consent agenda and considered under item 14, Items Requiring Separate Discussion.

C-25- 203

Moved by Councillor F. Danch
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the October 14, 2025, Council agenda; and

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

Carried

13.1 Approval of Minutes

- a. **Special Council Meeting - September 20, 2025**
- b. **Regular Council Meeting - September 23, 2025**
- c. **Public Meeting - October 7, 2025**

13.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees

- a. **Museum, Heritage and Culture Board - June 17, 2025**
- b. **Port Colborne Public Library Board - September 3, 2025**

13.3 Staff Reports

- b. **Update on Recommendation Report for a Proposed Communication Tower at 611 Main Street West, File D27-12, 2025-192**
- c. **Recommendation Report for Proposed City-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendment for Parking- File D14-03-25, 2025-199**
- d. **Recommendation Report for Proposed City-Initiated Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments for Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs)- Files D09-01-25 and D14-02-25, 2025-198**

13.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items

- a. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs - Letter to Mayor Steele regarding 2025 Association of Municipalities of Ontario**
- c. **Niagara Region - Motion Respecting State of Emergency on Mental Health, Homelessness and Addictions**
- f. **Town of Wasaga Beach - Letter of Support for Collaborative Action on Sustainable Waster Management in Ontario**
- g. **Niagara Peninsula Conservation - Watershed Monitoring Technical Report 2024**

14. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

14.1 Niagara Region - Motion respecting Call to Strengthen Laws, Sentencing and Parole Restrictions

14.2 City of Welland - Victim Quick Response Program+

14.3 Town of Lincoln and City of Niagara Falls - Bail Reform to Strengthen Community Safety

C-25- 204

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That Council support the following correspondence:

- Niagara Region - Motion respecting Call to Strengthen Laws, Sentencing and Parole Restrictions
- City of Welland - Victim Quick Response Program +
- Town of Lincoln and City of Niagara Falls - Bail Reform to Strengthen Community Safety

Carried

14.4 2026 Marina Dock Rates, 2025-186

C-25- 205

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Recreation and Tourism Department Report 2025-186 be received; and

That the proposed 2026 marina dock rates as indicated in Appendix A of Recreation and Tourism Department Report 2025-186, be approved; and

That in 2026, staff's report will include the transient rates with comparators and storage rates; and

That staff be allowed to fluctuate seasonal and transient rental numbers in 2026 and beyond; and

That staff report back to Council on the total number of slips and a plan to move forward with the changes required at the Sugarloaf Harbour Marina regarding number of slips; and

That the report come forward by February 2026.

Carried

Amendment:

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That in 2026, staff's report will include the transient rates with comparators and storage rates; and

That staff be allowed to fluctuate seasonal and transient rental numbers in 2026 and beyond; and

That staff report back to Council on the total number of slips and a plan to move forward with the changes required at the Sugarloaf Harbour Marina regarding number of slips; and

That the report come forward by February 2026.

Carried

15. Staff Remarks

Stan Double, Fire Chief, spoke about Fire Prevention Week and the Touch a Truck open house. The alarms for life program is still going, which ensures citizens have CO2 and smoke alarms. Lastly, he noted they assisted the City of Welland and other regional partners with the fire at the Humberstone Landfill.

Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, also spoke about the Touch a Truck open house, where there were an estimated 1000 attendees. He thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the event.

Erik Acs, Chief Planner, noted that the passing of additional dwelling units' marks milestone 2 out of 7 for the Housing Accelerator Fund. He also noted a report will be coming forward to Council later tracking the progress of the milestones. Lastly, he noted there will be a presentation on the Official Plan review at the next Council meeting.

16. Councillors' Remarks

Councillor Aquilina inquired to staff about the postage of rates for parking, and if these were only available through the Honk App. She also inquired about where the Participate parking pass could be used.

Councillor Beauregard noted the request a service feature on the City's website is useful, and commended staff on doing a good job.

Councillor Bagu inquired to Stan Double, Fire Chief, about the results of the volunteer firefighter recruitment. He also inquired to Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, about the construction timeline for the Eagle Marsh drain bridge. Lastly, he asked about potentially installing more signage to curb speeding on Clarence Street.

Councillor Bruno inquired to Erik Acs, Chief Planner, about when Council will receive the results of the Development Plan. He also inquired about next steps for a site of a demolished building on King Street.

Councillor Elliott spoke about feedback he has received on the new short-term rental accommodations by-law. He also noted the upcoming chili cookoff at Lakeside Yacht Club.

Councillor Hoyle inquired if staff are checking on the beach in the off season. He also asked if Council could receive an update on what has passed for development in the last 3 years.

Councillor Bodner inquired about paying for parking at the beach in the off season. He also inquired to Public Works staff if the road end gates are locked through the winter. Lastly, he inquired to Public Works staff about how an additional dwelling unit would impact drainage assessments in the rural area.

17. Motions

There were no motions.

18. Notice of Motions

There were no notices of motions.

19. Procedural Motions

There were no procedural motions.

20. By-laws

20.1 By-law No. 7391/82/25

20.2 By-law No. 7392/83/25

20.3 By-law No. 7393/84/25

20.4 By-law No.7267/89/24 - Third Reading

20.5 By-law No. 7394/85/25

C-25- 206

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That the following by-law(s) be passed and enacted, as presented:

- By-law No. 7391/82/25
- By-law No. 7392/83/25
- By-law No. 7393/84/25
- By-law No. 7267/89/24 - Third Reading
- By-law No. 7394/85/25

Carried

21. Adjournment

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

William C. Steele, Mayor

Charlotte Madden, City Clerk



PORT COLBORNE

MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL TUESDAY, October 14, 2025

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, an ongoing reminder and crucial step in acknowledging the tragic and painful history of residential schools. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

Residents of Port Colborne were encouraged to take time to reflect, honour the Survivors and remember the children who never made it home. On September 29, at City Hall, City staff raised the Every Child Matters flag to symbolize our commitment to meaningful reconciliation.

PASSING OF JIM BRADLEY

Chair Bradley passed away in St. Catharines, Ontario on September 26, 2025, at the age of 80.

OPEN HOUSE: TOUCH -A -TRUCK AND FIRE PREVENTION EVENT

We want to thank everyone who joined us at our Open House: Touch-a-Truck and Fire Prevention event on October 9, presented by Peters Construction Group. From exploring heavy machinery to learning fire safety tips, it was a fantastic evening connecting with our community. A special thank you to everyone who brought food donations for Port Cares and our sponsor, Peters Construction Group, for their support.

The event took place during Fire Prevention Week, which was October 5 - 11, a very fitting time to focus on this year's theme: Lithium-ion battery use and safety. From e-bikes to cell phones, making smart choices when buying, charging, and recycling batteries can prevent fires. Learn more about lithium-ion battery safety at fpw.org

PAINT A PLOW CONTEST WINNER

At the Open House event, I had the tough task of selecting a winner in our annual Paint-a-Plow competition, and after much deliberation, I announced McKay Public School as this year's champion!

A huge thank you to all the students who participated - your creativity truly brightened our fleet, and we can't wait to see these colourful creations in action this winter. McKay Public School, stay tuned for your celebratory pizza party.

FLAG RAISINGS

Our community recently came together for several flag raising ceremonies. On September 25 we raised the Franco-Ontarian flag at Port Colborne City Hall in celebration of our province's vibrant Franco-Ontarian community. The flag's green and white design, featuring both a fleur-de-lis and a trillium, symbolizes the cultural, social, economic and political contributions this community has made to Ontario. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag, which was first raised at the University of Sudbury on September 25, 1975.

On October 1, The People Helping People self-advocacy group celebrated 25 years, and marked another milestone as they proudly unveiled their very first flag, which we raised at Port Colborne City Hall. This group of Self-Advocates is dedicated to learning, educating, and advocating for what matters most to them.

CUSTOMER SERVICE APPRECIATION WEEK

Customer Service Appreciation Week was celebrated from Monday, October 6 to Friday, October 10, and we were proud to recognize our amazing customer service staff!

From answering questions to helping residents navigate services, their dedication keeps our city running smoothly. Thank you to our outstanding customer service team for all that you do, today and every day!

2025 SANTA CLAUS PARADE

We are excited for the return of our beloved Lighted Santa Claus Parade. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. as Port Colborne's downtown core will light up with holiday magic once again. Join us for an evening of festive fun, featuring floats from local businesses, community groups, schools, and more.

Applications for floats and volunteers are available on our website, portcolborne.ca/santaclausparade. We're also still looking for parade sponsors - more info is available online.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST

I'm also inviting the children in our community to help design Port Colborne's 2025 Christmas Card in our Annual Christmas Card Contest. Submissions may be painted with fingers or brushes, or drawn with pencils, crayons, pastels, or markers on a standard white sheet of paper, 8 ½" X 11" in vertical or horizontal format. The contest is

open to all children who live or go to school in Port Colborne; up to and including those in Grade 8.

All submissions must be received at the Mayor's Office in City Hall, 66 Charlotte St., by Friday, Oct. 24, 2025 at 4 p.m. I look forward to seeing the imagination and festive spirit that shine through every entry!

That concludes my report for this evening.