

City of Port Colborne

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Time: 6:53 pm
Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Members Present: M. Aquilina, Councillor
M. Bagu, Councillor
R. Bodner, Councillor
G. Bruno, Councillor
F. Danch, Councillor
D. Elliott, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)

Member(s) Absent: E. Beauregard, Councillor

Staff Present: E. Acs, Chief Planner
C. Banting, Manager of Environmental Services
B. Boles, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk
S. Double, Fire Chief
G. Long, Director of Development and Government Relations
C. Madden, City Clerk
J. Peazel-Graham, Manager of Communications

Others Present: P. Kennedy, Consultant, Dillon's Consulting

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at 6:53 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

The agenda was amended to add item 6.2, a proclamation for Indigenous Veterans Day.

C-25- 217

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

That the Council agenda dated October 28, 2025, be confirmed, as amended.

Carried

5. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

6. Proclamations

6.1 Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 56 - Poppy Campaign, October 26 to November 11, 2025

C-25- 218

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That I, Mayor William C. Steele do hereby proclaim October 26th, 2025 to November 11th, 2025 as “Poppy Week” in the City of Port Colborne in honour of the men and women from Port Colborne who gave their lives during the two world wars, the Korean War and the Afghanistan War.

Carried

6.2 Indigenous Veterans Day - November 8, 2025

C-25- 219

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

WHEREAS more than 12,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples served to defend Canada in times of war and conflicts, natural disasters and in peace time; and

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples were forced to overcome many challenges to serve such as learning a new language, adapting to a new culture, and travelling long distances to enlist; and

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples have served with honour and distinction, bringing their unique culture and heritage to their work; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 2,700 Indigenous Peoples currently serve in the Canadian Armed Forces;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, I, William C. Steele, Mayor of the City of Port Colborne, do hereby proclaim November 8, 2025, as Indigenous Veterans Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, residents of Port Colborne are encouraged to remember and reflect on the long and proud tradition of Indigenous military service to Canada; and

FURTHER, On November 11th, the City will pause in a moment of silence to honour and remember all the men and women who have served, and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict and peace.

Carried

7. Presentations

7.1 Canal Days Re-Cap Presentation

Luke Rowe, Recreation Supervisor, Olga Loeffen, Business Community & Events Ambassador, and Kennedy Stock, Events Student, presented to Council on the 2025 Canal Days Festival.

7.2 Canal Days Re-Cap Presentation - Museum

Tami Nail, Assistant Museum Curator, presented to Council on the 2025 Canal Days Festival at the Museum.

8. Delegations

There were no delegations.

9. Mayor's Report

A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

10. Regional Councillor's Report

Regional Councillor Badawey provided a report to Council.

11. Consent Agenda

C-25- 220

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the October 28, 2025, Council agenda; and

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

Carried

11.1 Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Council Meeting - October 14, 2025

b. Special Council Meeting - October 21, 2025

11.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees

a. Port Colborne Public Library Board - June 4, 2025

11.3 Staff Reports

a. Fire Master Plan and Community Risk Assessment, 2025-209

b. Nickel Beach Lease Agreement - Amendment, 2025-200

11.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items

a. Township of Puslinch - Endorsement of the City of Dryden's Resolution - Swim-to-Survive Training

b. Town of Ajax - Provincial Decision on Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)

12. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

12.1 Council Update and Workshop- New Official Plan - 2025-207

Paddy Kennedy, consultant from Dillon Consulting, presented to Council on the new official plan.

C-25- 221

Moved by Councillor D. Elliott
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That the memorandum to Council, along with the presentation by the consulting team regarding the New Official Plan be received for information; and,

That staff be directed to continue to work with the consulting team to advance the Official Plan project.

Carried

13. Staff Remarks

Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that the Mayor's Budget will be presented next Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

14. Councillors' Remarks

Councillor Bodner explained that there will be a Remembrance Day ceremony at 10:45 a.m. on November 11, 2025, at Cedar Bay Centennial Park.

Councillor Hoyle thanked staff for their assistance on different inquiries.

Councillor Elliott inquired about when Christmas at the Museum will be taking place this year.

Councillor Bruno encouraged residents to use the walking trails near the Vale Health and Wellness Centre as the washrooms around the lakeview area will be closing for the season.

Councillor Aquilina presented the 25th anniversary certificate for People Helping People Achieve at the Guild Hall.

15. Motions

There were no motions.

16. Notice of Motions

There were no notices of motions.

17. By-laws

C-25- 222

Moved by Councillor F. Danch

Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

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

- By-law No. 7397/88/25
- By-law No. 7398/89/25

Carried

17.1 By-law No. 7397/88/25

17.2 By-law No. 7398/89/25

18. Closed Session

C-25- 223

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Council do now proceed to meet in Closed Session at 8:41 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)(d), where a closed session meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is labour relations or employee negotiations.

Carried

18.1 Approval of Closed Session Minutes

- Regular Council Meeting (Closed Session) - October 14, 2025**
- Special Council Meeting (Closed Session) - October 21, 2025**

18.2 Staff Reports

- Recommended Appointments to the Boards and Committees – Fall Recruitment Period, 2025-213**

- b. Human Resources Department Report, 2025-208 - Fire and Emergency Services Staffing**

18.3 Chief Administrative Officer Performance Appraisal

19. Back to Open Session

C-25- 224

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That Council does now rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 9:26 p.m.
with report:

18.1 Approval of Closed Session Minutes

That the Closed session minutes be approved.

18.2 Staff Reports

- a. That Legislative Services Department Report 2026-213 be received;
and

That the following applicants be appointed to the respective
committees:

- John Hill - Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Mary Parkes and Joelene Nechvatal - Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
- Liam Galley Salgueiro, Petranella Loeffen, and Scarlett Black - Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee

That staff follow the direction provided in Closed Session.

- b. That Confidential Human Resources Department Report 2025-208 be received; and

That staff follow the direction provided in Closed Session.

Carried

20. Procedural Motions

There were no procedural motions.

21. Confirmatory By-law

21.1 By-law No. 7399/90/25

C-25- 225

Moved by Councillor F. Danch

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That By-law No. 7399/90/25 be passed and enacted, as presented.

Carried

22. Adjournment

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

William C. Steele, Mayor

Charlotte Madden, City Clerk



PORT COLBORNE

MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025

A WONDERFUL 2025 CRUISING SEASON SETS SAIL INTO THE SUNSET

This season, Port Colborne welcomed more than 70 cruise ship visits from Viking, Victory, Pearl Seas, and Ponant between April 23 and October 27. A 30 per cent increase in visits is being seen in all Great Lakes ports, with more than 700 total visits this year and an estimated \$230-million economic impact to the Great Lakes region as a whole.

The 17,000 cruise passengers who traveled the Welland Canal were treated to views of Port Colborne, and many chose to enhance their visit by joining one of our popular onshore excursions. The last ship, "Victory 1" of Victory Cruise lines docked in town yesterday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

City crews will be performing maintenance on sections of the Friendship Trail during this week. Work will take place between Reuter Road and Lorraine Road near the Snider Road crossing, and between Weaver Road 2

and Pinecrest Road near the former Miller Road crossing. This maintenance will involve resurfacing the asphalt trail. While the trail will not be fully closed, service vehicles and equipment will be present during the work. No detours are planned, but trail users are asked to exercise caution and respect the work areas. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Last week, I was thrilled to welcome Mayor Shoemaker and staff from Sault Ste. Marie to Port Colborne! Myself and Mayor Shoemaker had the opportunity to meet with HOPA Ports to discuss potential partnerships for cargo and shipping services between our two port cities. Together, we explored opportunities that strengthen our communities and the Great Lakes economy. We look forward to further discussions.

ULTIMATE FAMILY NIGHT SERIES

Join us at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre for The Ultimate Family Night — a series of free, family-friendly events hosted by the City of Port Colborne and the YMCA of Niagara. Each month from October to April, enjoy:

A movie in the gym at 6 p.m. Free skate from 7–8:30 p.m. Free swim from 7:15–8:30 p.m. Mark your calendars: • Nov. 22 – Matilda • Dec. 27 – The Grinch • Jan. 17 – The Lego Movie • Feb. 28 – Super Mario Bros • Mar. 21 – Wall-E • Apr. 25 – Wicked Admission is free with a non-perishable food donation to Port Cares. More details can be found on the city's website.

PORT COLBORNE RESIDENTS ASKED TO HELP SHAPE THE 10-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

The City of Port Colborne is asking residents to share their thoughts on the development of a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. Once completed, the plan will help determine future needs and priorities for the City's parks, recreation facilities and services, as well as how they are delivered to the community for the next 10 years.

To gather input, the City will use online and paper surveys, and an in-person public engagement open house, to learn residents' opinions of Port Colborne's parks, recreation facilities, waterfront, programs, and events in addition to their satisfaction with and assessment of the importance levels of these amenities. The confidential survey must be submitted by Sunday, Nov. 9 and should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. It can be accessed at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/pccommunitysurvey> or in paper form at City 4

Hall, the Vale Health and Wellness Centre, and the Port Colborne Public Library. The public engagement open house will take place Wednesday, Nov. 5 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre.

2025 SANTA CLAUS PARADE

We are excited for the return of our annual 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.

COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

On October 22nd, I had the pleasure of receiving the first official poppy, marking the beginning of this year's annual Poppy Campaign. Each year, millions of Canadians

proudly wear the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. A heartfelt tribute to those who served, sacrificed, and continue to protect the freedoms we cherish today. The poppy stands as an enduring emblem of strength, gratitude, and national pride. Residents are encouraged to once again support the Poppy Campaign beginning October 31. Donations collected are held in trust at the local Royal Canadian Legion 5 branch and go directly toward supporting veterans and their families within our community to help ensure that Canada never forgets.

DAVID LEMETTI

David T. Lametti (born August 10, 1962) is a Canadian diplomat, lawyer, and former politician who will become the Canadian ambassador to the United Nations on November 17, 2025.

David was born on August 10, 1962, in Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada, to Italian immigrants. He grew up in Port Colborne during a time where it was a small industrial town, where most families on his block had at least one person working at the nearby steel mill, cement plant or nickel refinery.

David went on to study at the University of Toronto, after which he advanced to the role of Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada from 2019 to 2023. A member of the Liberal Party, he was the member of Parliament (MP) for LaSalle—Émard—Verdun from 2015 to 2024. After leaving electoral politics, he was Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Mark Carney from July to September 2025.

Congratulations to a Port Colborne son for achieving this remarkable appointment.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A special thank you to our Museum Curator Michelle Mason and Francophone Exhibit Designer Carlie Pagliacci for the exceptional Remembrance Day display in Council chambers.

That concludes my report for this evening