

**City of Port Colborne  
Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
**Time:** 5:00 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  
B. Boles, Chief Administrative Officer  
J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk  
B. Cotton, Economic Development Officer  
S. Double, Fire Chief  
G. Long, Director of Development and Business Enterprises  
K. Martel, Manager of Planning  
C. Madden, City Clerk  
E. Rzeczyca, Election Coordinator  
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

There were two additions to the agenda: item 4.3, a council training, and item 14.4, a correspondence item.

**C-25- 016**

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu  
Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

That the Regular Council agenda, dated February 10, 2026, be confirmed, as amended.

Carried

**3. Disclosures of Interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

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

**C-25- 017**

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle  
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

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

subsection 239(2)(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and

subsection 239(3.1) A meeting of a council or local board or of a committee of either of them may be closed to the public if the following conditions are both satisfied:

1. The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members.
2. At the meeting, no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee.

Carried

**4.1 Approval of Closed Session Minutes**

- a. **Regular Council Meeting (Closed Session) - November 12, 2025**
- b. **Regular Council Meeting (Closed Session) - November 25, 2025**
- c. **Special Council Meeting (Closed Session) - January 27, 2026**

**4.2 Council Training**

**4.3 Council Training**

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

Mayor Steele called a recess at 6:00 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**C-25- 018**

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

That Council rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. without report.

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 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.

**8. Statutory Public Meeting**

**8.1 Public Meeting Report for Proposed Expansion to the Downtown Community Improvement Plan Area – 395 Elm Street, 2026-16**

Bram Cotton, Economic Development Officer, provided an overview to Council on 395 Elm Street.

**C-25- 019**

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno  
Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That Planning and Development Department Report 2026-16 be received; and

That Council direct Planning and Development Department staff to bring forward a recommendation report to the next available meeting.

Carried

**9. Proclamations**

**9.1 Heritage Week - February 16 - 22, 2026**

**C-25- 020**

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

WHEREAS the third week of February marks Heritage Week, in which we celebrate Heritage in all its forms (cultural and natural, architectural, archaeological, and collections) and its diverse traditions and cultural expressions; and

WHEREAS Heritage Week provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals and communities to reflect on their contributions to Ontario; and

WHEREAS how heritage is conserved, promoted, and commemorated, and how they might shape the future; and

WHEREAS During Heritage Week 2026, the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum will be celebrating the theme of 'Making Heritage Accessible' by showcasing the efforts being made to make heritage resources available for all to learn from. Join us all week to explore online exhibitions, access digital resources, and bring history into community spaces.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor William Steele, do hereby proclaim February 16th -22nd as "Heritage Week" in Port Colborne.

Carried

**10. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

**11. Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**12. Mayor's Report**

A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

**13. Regional Councillor's Report**

There was no report from the regional councillor.

**14. Consent Agenda**

Item 14.3 d and item 14.4 a were lifted and considered as items 15.2 and 15.3 under item 15, Items Requiring Separate Discussion.

**C-25- 021**

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor M. Aquilina

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the February 10, 2026 Council agenda; and

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

Carried

**14.1 Approval of Minutes**

a. **Special Council Meeting - January 27, 2026**

b. **Regular Council Meeting - January 27, 2026**

**14.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees**

**14.3 Staff Reports**

a. **Property Lease for Cell Tower, Bell Mobility Inc.- Public Works Property at 3 Killaly Street West, 2026-02**

b. **PC Forge Consideration for a Class IV Noise Designation, 2026-10**

c. **Recommendation Report for Deeming By-law Application – 30 Knoll Street, 2026-18**

**14.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items**

b. **Larry Rosnuk – Referendum**

## **15. Items Requiring Separate Discussion**

### **15.1 Regional Waste Collection Service Levels, 2026-13**

#### **C-25- 022**

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Public Works Department Report 2026-13 be received; and

That Council direct the Director of Public Works to participate in the Niagara Region's 2029 Waste Collection Contract for the baseline services identified within this report; and

That Council direct the Director of Public Works to include the following Enhanced Levels of Service within the Niagara Regions' 2029 Waste Collection Contract:

- Public Space Litter Bin Collection
- Green Cart Switch-Out Program
- Firelane 21-26 Curbside Collection; and

That Council direct the Director of Public Works to contact businesses utilizing the Green Cart Switch-Out program for program feedback and for Staff to provide alternative methods to provide the service in the next 2029 Regional Waste Collection Contract report to be presented in Q4 2026.

Carried

### **15.2 Raglan Street (AKA Bell Street) Stop and Close and Surplus Declaration, 2026-27**

#### **C-25- 023**

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That Development and Government Relations Report 2026-27 be received; and

That the Stop-Up and Close By-law attached as Appendix C, being a By-law to Stop Up and Close a portion of Raglan Street (AKA Bell Street) registered as a public highway and described as Part of Raglan Street

(also known as Bell Street) St Plan 843 in the City of Port Colborne Plan 59R-18513 Part 1; as shown in Appendix A, be brought forward; and

That the property described above be declared surplus; and

That the Mayor and City Clerk be directed to sign all necessary documents.

Carried

### **15.3 City of Welland - Winter Cold Weather Response Plan Review**

#### **C-25- 024**

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That the correspondence from the City of Welland regarding Winter Cold Weather Response Plan Review be supported by Council; and

That the correspondence be referred back to staff to monitor for the Niagara Regional Council's response; and

That any updates or developments be brought back to Council.

Carried

### **16. Staff Remarks**

Stan Double, Fire Chief, thanked his staff, the Mayor and Council for the ongoing support during his first year as Fire Chief.

Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, explained that a snow removal operation in the downtown area started on February 9th, and will continue for the rest of the week.

Erik Acs, Chief Planner, noted there was a good turn out at the New Official Plan open houses on February 4th and 5th. He also noted that public engagement will continue and a report will come back to Council.

Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, reminded folks who received orders from the By-law Department to shovel their sidewalks. He also noted that the City was fined \$1 and ordered to make a payment of \$80,000 to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to support Fowler's Toad habitat protection and restoration efforts as a result of laying gravel inside the Nickel Beach gates without a proper permit in 2022. Lastly, he noted that Port Colborne's annual

Polar Plunge is postponed due to frigid conditions and looks forward to a great beach season.

Gary Long, Director of Development and Business Enterprises, thanked coaches, volunteers, and staff for a successful SportsFest weekend. He said SportsFest and the Mayor's Cup Hockey Tournament have become signature Port Colborne events and congratulated the winning hockey teams.

## **17. Councillors' Remarks**

Councillor Bodner thanked all those who played on team Port Colborne during Sportsfest. He also inquired to Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, about snow removal services for those who need support.

Councillor Hoyle thanked staff for their work in helping him address his concerns. He also thanked everyone involved in Sportsfest for making it a successful weekend.

Councillor Danch discussed a recent Main Street Business Improvement Area (BIA) meeting. He spoke about the parking situation at the future childcare facility located at 76 Main Street West. He asked about sidewalk snow clearing on Main Street. He also asked about commercial buildings that contain residential units. He said that residents have made him aware of accessibility concerns when using Niagara Region Transit services.

Councillor Elliott discussed the Downtown BIA. He also discussed commercial buildings with ground-floor residential units.

Councillor Bruno inquired to Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the audit for the Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport. He also thanked everyone involved for their work on Sportsfest. Lastly, he inquired to Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, about railway tracks on Main Street / Highway 3 that may be lifting.

Councillor Bagu inquired to Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, about waterlines near the Asahi Kasei Battery Separator Canada facility. He also asked Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, about the City's \$80,000 payment to the NPCA. Lastly, he asked about long-term care beds in Port Colborne.

Councillor Beauregard thanked staff for their efforts in planning Sportsfest.

Councillor Aquilina congratulated everyone on a successful SportsFest weekend. She also congratulated all Sports Wall of Fame inductees. She discussed the City's \$80,000 payment to the NPCA and acknowledged staff's clarification on

the matter. She also discussed accessibility concerns with Niagara Region Transit services.

**18. Motions**

There were no motions.

**19. Notice of Motions**

There were no notices of motions.

**20. By-laws**

**C-25- 025**

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

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

- By-law No. 7427/11/26
- By-law No. 7428/12/26
- By-law No. 7429/13/26
- By-law No. 7430/14/26
- By-law No. 7431/15/26
- By-law No. 7432/16/26

Carried

**20.1 By-law No. 7427/11/26**

**20.2 By-law No. 7428/12/26**

**20.3 By-law No. 7429/13/26**

**20.4 By-law No. 7430/14/26**

**20.5 By-law No. 7431/15/26**

**20.6 By-law No. 7432/16/26**

**21. Procedural Motions**

There were no procedural motions.

**22. Adjournment**

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

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William C. Steele, Mayor

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Charlotte Madden, City Clerk



## **PORT COLBORNE**

# **MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**

## **SPORSTFEST**

### **SPORTS WALL OF FAME**

At the Vale Health & Wellness Centre this weekend, 4 new members were inducted into Port Colborne's Sports Wall of Fame:

- 1983 Port Colborne High School Ontario Basketball Champions
- 1967, 1970 & 1971 OBA Champions- Bantom Midget JR A
- Jack Stover – Builders JR B/C minor sports
- Ray Prophet – Builders / Refs

In 2018, the Sports Wall of Fame found its new home at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre, replacing the original Wall of Fame established in 1991 at the West Side Arena. The decision of new inductees was made by the Sports Wall of Fame committee members: Mayor Bill Steele, Greg Zwiep, Manager of Recreation at the City of Port Colborne, and Tom Lannan.

Missed the ceremony or want to watch it again? Catch the full livestream on our YouTube channel.

### **MAYOR'S CUP**

Day 3 of SportsFest wrapped up with a bang as team Port Colborne captured victories in the Mayor's Cup Tournament, winning both the A & D divisions in thrilling shootout finishes! Also, congratulations to Beamsville Fire and City of Welland for winning the C & B divisions! I was pleased to see so many people come out and take part in all the

different activities Sportsfest weekend. Whether you were cheering on a team, getting creative, testing your knowledge, or just soaking it all in, thanks for being part of it!

## **RECOGNIZING ONE YEAR**

Just over one year into his role, Fire Chief Stan Double is leading Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services through a period of growth and progress, all focused on keeping our community safe. From hiring new full-time firefighters and welcoming volunteer recruits, to expanding fire prevention efforts and enhancing specialized training, the department continues to invest in people, preparedness, and protection. With a new Fire Prevention Inspector, Training Officer, and ongoing community safety initiatives, more boots are on the ground, and more resources are in place than ever before. Thank you, Chief for your continued commitment to Port Colborne.

## **RAILWAY SAFETY**

### **Important reminder about railway safety**

Railway safety also extends to the public, especially at grade crossings and near railway property. Key Safety tips include:

- **Stay off tracks:** Never walk, drive, or ride on tracks except at designated crossings.
- **Obey signals:** Follow crossing gates, lights, and warning signs.
- **Look and listen:** Always look both ways and listen for approaching trains.
- **Special Precautions for Vehicles:** Snowmobiles, ATVs, and bicycles should also follow safety guidance at rail crossings

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February is Black History Month, when people from across the country participate in events and activities that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities. The theme for 2026 is “30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations — From Nation Builders to Tomorrow’s Visionaries.” It recognizes the enduring legacy of Black Canadians, whose leadership, creativity, innovation and resilience have shaped our past, continue to influence our present, and

will inspire future generations. Throughout February, everyone is invited to learn more about and celebrate the diversity and accomplishments of Black Canadians across the country. Black History Month is also a time to reflect on Canada's painful history and the systemic barriers that Black communities continue to face, including anti-Black racism and discrimination, and to reaffirm a shared responsibility to address them.

Read more on the City's website.

## **COLD WEATHER ALERT**

Frigid temperatures are expected to continue off and on this week with wind chills between -15°C and -20°C. Residents are welcome to warm up during normal operating hours at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre and the Port Colborne Public Library. Our customer service staff have this information and will advise when residents call.

Niagara Transit continues to provide free rides to designated public facilities during extreme weather events. Log onto the Niagara Region's social media accounts or website for updated information about the 2025/26 Cold Weather Response Plan.

Please bundle up, limit time outdoors if possible, and check on vulnerable neighbours. Stay warm, Port Colborne!

## **NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS**

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all residents for looking out for one another during this continued cold snap and periods of heavy snowfall. As I drive through the city, I see so many examples of what makes our city exceptional. From helping shovel sidewalks and driveways to checking in on seniors and neighbours who may need a hand, your kindness, patience, and community spirit truly shine through in challenging weather like this. It's moments like these that remind us how strong our community is when we come together. Thank you for your compassion, cooperation, and care for one another. Please stay safe and warm.

## **FAMILY LITERACY DAY**

I had the pleasure of being invited to the EarlyON Child and Family Centre to help celebrate Family Literacy Day by reading a story to local families and little learners. Family Literacy Day, celebrated on January 27, encourages families to spend at least 15 minutes a day enjoying a learning activity together, helping to build strong literacy skills while creating meaningful moments. Thank you to our EarlyON staff and the families who joined us for a fun, story-filled visit!

## **FAMILY DAY ACTIVITIES**

This weekend is Family Day. most City facilities will be closed on Monday, Feb. 16 to observe Family Day. The Vale Health & Wellness Centre will be open regular hours, Arenas (permit holders): 6 a.m. – 11 p.m. Public Walking Track : 6:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. City facilities will reopen Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 8:30 a.m.

There's lots of family-friendly fun happening in Port Colborne throughout the weekend, including:

- 2026 Winter Olympics viewing and children's activities at the Port Colborne Public Library
- Story time, board games with PFLAG Niagara, and drop-in crafts
- Free family swim at the YMCA
- Free skate at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre, sponsored by Vale Base Metals Inc.

Visit our [online events calendar](#) for more information and schedule of events!

## **HEALTHCARE UPDATE**

Last night at the healthcare advisory committee meeting, we had a presentation by KPMG on some of the preliminary results from their data collection and recent engagement activities on healthcare. KPMG will be submitting their final report to the

committee in the next few weeks, and it's expected to come to City Council in late March. On a high-level, it was very interesting to see how granular some of the data is, especially when it comes to usage rates of the UCC, where in Niagara people are driving from to access healthcare in our city, and why. Out of 17,000 visits to the UCC last year, 45 per cent were our own residents. That's 9,000 times people needed access to local and timely healthcare. We're committed to finding a solution, and i'm looking forward to seeing what the next few months brings.

## **ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

RCL Branch 56 is holding their annual Public Speaking Contest which will be held upstairs at the Branch 56 Legion on the 17th and 19th of February at 6:00pm.

The annual Public Speaking Contest at the Branch 56 Legion is a time-honoured tradition offering youth from Port Colborne and Wainfleet enriching experiences and valuable opportunities for more than 50 years. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.