

**City of Port Colborne
Council Meeting Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026
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
B. Boles, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk
S. Double, Fire Chief
G. Long, Director of Development and Business Enterprises
C. Madden, City Clerk
J. McDowell, Manager of Financial Services/Deputy Treasurer
A. Pigeau, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works

Others Present: V. Badawey, Regional Councillor

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

There were two additions to the agenda; slides were added to Report 2026-49, and item 19, Motions Arising from Boards and Committees, was added to the agenda.

C-25- 060

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

That the agenda dated April 14, 2026, be confirmed, as amended.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

3.1 Councillor E. Beauregard - Westwood Estates Subdivision, Phase 2 Stage 1-3 (Plan 59M-428)- Assumption, 2026-51

I, Eric Beauregard, declare an indirect pecuniary interest as my employer is an agent of the owner of Westwood Estates Subdivision.

3.2 Councillor E. Beauregard - Stonebridge Village – Request to Modify Street Design, 2026-41

I, Eric Beauregard, declare an indirect pecuniary interest, as my employer is an agent for the Owner.

3.3 Mayor Steele - Memorandum to Council - Grant Allocation Advisory Committee

I declare a nonpecuniary interest with this item as I am a member of the Port Colborne Bocce Club.

3.4 Councillor G. Bruno - Memorandum to Council - Grant Allocation Advisory Committee

I have a nonpecuniary conflict of interest in this Grant Allocation funding grant to Port Colborne Bocce Club as I am a member of the Port Colborne Bocce Club.

3.5 Councillor E. Beauregard - By-law No. 7452/36/26

I, Eric Beauregard, declare an indirect pecuniary interest as my employer is an agent of the owner of Westwood Estates Subdivision.

4. Closed Session (Beginning at 5:00 p.m.)

C-25- 061

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

That Council do now proceed to meet in Closed Session at 5:03 p.m. under the *Municipal Act, 2001*:

- Subsection 239(2)(d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- Subsection 239(2)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- Subsection 239(2)(k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

Carried

4.1 Approval of Closed Session Minutes

- a. **Regular Council Meeting (Closed Session) - March 24, 2026**

4.2 Staff Reports

- a. **Confidential Human Resources Department Report 2026-63 - Employee Negotiations Update**
- b. **Confidential Office of CAO Report 2026-59 - Legal Opinion on Healthcare, 2026-59**
- c. **CAO Verbal Update on Governance Review**
- d. **CAO Verbal Update regarding Development Contract**

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

C-25- 062

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

That Council rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 6:40 p.m. with report:

4.1 Approval of Closed Session

That the Closed Session Minutes dated March 24, 2026

4.2 Staff Reports

A. That the Chief Human Resources Officer follow the direction provided in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act.

B. That Report 2026-59 be received for information; and

That the Chief Administrative Officer follow the direction provided in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act.

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 Royal Canadian Naval Association - Niagara Region Re: Navy Week April 28 to May 3, 2026

C-25- 063

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

WHEREAS the Battle of the Atlantic was the longest and most complex campaign of the Second World War, lasting five years, eight months, and five days, during which Canada lost more than 2,000 sailors of the Royal Canadian Navy, 1,600 merchant mariners, and 752 airmen of the Royal Canadian Air Force; and

WHEREAS the Niagara Region, including the Welland Canal and the St. Lawrence Seaway, shares a direct connection to this history, as many merchant vessels and sailors from Great Lakes fleets took part in dangerous convoy missions to deliver vital supplies across the Atlantic; and

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Naval Association – Niagara Region will host a waterside Commemoration Service and parade on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Canadian Corps Association on West Street, Port Colborne, to honour those who served and those who never returned home; and

WHEREAS in recognition of Navy Week, the White Ensign will be raised at City Hall and at locations across Port Colborne from April 28 to May 3:

WHEREAS Port Colborne's strong marine and naval heritage calls on us to recognize the service and sacrifice of those connected to our waterways, and to continue honouring their legacy through remembrance and community reflection.

I, Mayor William C. Steele, do hereby declare April 28 to May 3, Navy Week in the City of Port Colborne.

We will remember them.

Carried

a. Delegates - 1st Vice President Jeff Seburn and Past President Bob Coles

1st Vice President Jeff Seburn and Past President Bob Coles presented to Council on Navy Week.

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

Regional Councillor Vance Badawey provided a report to Council.

13. Consent Agenda

Items 13.3 a, 13.3 d, and 13.3 e were lifted and considered under item 14, Items Requiring Separate Discussion.

C-25- 064

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the April 14, 2026, Council agenda; and

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

Carried

13.1 Approval of Minutes

- a. **Regular Council Meeting - March 24, 2026**

13.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees

- a. **Healthcare Advisory Committee Meeting - March 9, 2026**
- b. **Port Colborne Museum, Heritage and Culture Board - February 17, 2026**
- c. **Port Colborne Public Library Board - March 4, 2026**
- d. **Port Colborne Public Library Board - April 1, 2026**

13.3 Staff Reports

- b. **Amendments to Municipal Alcohol Management Policy, 2026-50**
- c. **Proposed Land Exchange between Algoma Central Properties Inc and the City of Port Colborne, 2026-03**
- f. **2026 Annual Drain Maintenance Billing, 2026-25**

13.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items

- a. **Joint Letter to Premier Ford Regarding Lower-Tier Municipalities of Niagara Region**
- b. **Niagara Region - Motion Regarding Correspondence from Regional Chair Bob Gale - Municipal Governance Reform**
- c. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Letter from Hon. Robert Flack Regarding Proposed Better Regional Governance Act, 2026**

- d. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Letter from Hon. Robert Flack Regarding Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026**
- e. **Niagara Transit Commission - Niagara Transit Fleet Electrification Strategy and Implementation Roadmap**
- f. **Niagara Region - 2026 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates**
- g. **City of Thorold - Support for Winter Cold Weather Support Plan**
- h. **Town of Lincoln - Request to Province of Ontario to Extend the Deadline for Notices of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties**
- i. **Northumberland County - Elbows Up for Climate Change**
- j. **Town of Saugeen Shores - Architectural Conservancy of Ontario include \$10M per year for Heritage Helping Housing Grant Funding**
- k. **Regional Municipality of Durham - Requesting the Province to consider giving municipal councils more authority to adjust Police Service Budget Proposals to reduce Municipal Financial Vulnerability**
- l. **Niagara Peninsula Conservation - Provincial Announcement - Next Steps to Improve Ontario's Conservation Authority System**
- m. **City of Mississauga - Motion Regarding Locally Elected School Board Trustees (Councillor B. Butt)**

14. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

14.1 2025 Year End Surplus and Project Close Out, 2026-49

Adam Pigeau, Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer, and Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, presented to Council on the 2025-year end surplus and project close out.

C-25- 065

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

That Financial Services Department Report 2026-49 be received; and

That the year-end levy surplus be allocated to the City's General Stabilization Reserve (\$116,277), Working Capital Reserve (\$26,543), and Tangible Capital Assets Reserve (\$312,551); and

That the reserve transfers recommended in Financial Services Report 2026-49 be approved; and

That the capital and related project and reserve balances of Appendices E, F, and G of Financial Services Department Report 2026-49, be approved.

Carried

14.2 Stonebridge Village – Request to Modify Street Design, 2026-41

Councillor E. Beauregard declared a conflict on this item.

Drew Toth and Curtis Thompson from Elevate Living Inc. presented to Council on file D12-02-24.

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

That Planning and Development Department Report 2026-41 be received; and

That Council approve the proposed reduced curb face to curb face roadway widths of 7.5metres for Streets A-E of the Stonebridge Village Subdivision; and

That the Chief Planner be directed to forward a copy of the decision document to the applicant.

C-25- 066

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

That Stonebridge Village – Request to Modify Street Design, Report 2026-41 be referred back to staff to clarify their position on the applicant's requested items that weren't recommended for approval; and

That the report be brought back to Council on April 28, 2026.

Carried

14.3 2026 Property Tax and Storm Sewer By-Law, 2026-48

C-25- 067

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Financial Services Department Report 2026-48 be received; and

That the 2026 property tax rates outlined in Appendix A attached hereto,
be approved; and

That the 2026 Property Tax Rate By-law, attached hereto as Appendix B,
be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Carried

14.4 Open Air Burning By-Law Amendment, 2026-62

C-25- 068

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

That Fire Department Report No. 2026-62 be received; and

That the by-law to amend the Open-Air Burning By-law, attached hereto
as Appendix A, be brought forward for Council's approval.

Carried

**14.5 Westwood Estates Subdivision, Phase 2 Stage 1-3 (Plan 59M-428)-
Assumption, 2026-51**

Councillor E. Beauregard declared a conflict on this item.

C-25- 069

Moved by Councillor D. Elliott
Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That Planning and Development Department Report 2026-51 be received;
and

That the By-law assuming the Primary and Secondary Services in the
assumption of Westwood Estates Subdivision Phase 2, Stage 1-3 (Plan

59M-428), attached hereto as Appendix A, be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Carried

15. Staff Remarks

Charlotte Madden, City Clerk, spoke about the 2026 Municipal Election. She discussed the upcoming Candidates Information Night, taking place at 6:00pm on April 29th at the Welland Community Centre. She encouraged residents with Election inquiries to visit portcolborne.ca/votes or to reach out to the Clerks department by phone at (905) 228-8120 or by email at election@portcolborne.ca.

Stan Double, Fire Chief, explained that the transition to a digital platform has been completed. He also noted that over past year they completed 500 smoke detectors.

Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, noted there are parking restrictions on King Street and Princess Street to support a capital project ongoing at the Museum. The Roselawn accessibility project has been completed. The transportation road reconstruction program will be conducted this year on King Street, between Clarence Street and Charlotte Street to increase accessibility in the area.

Gary Long, Director of Development & Business Enterprises, joined the Mayor and several members of Council and senior leadership in Ottawa and Toronto recently to meet with government officials. Staff will continue to work with both levels of government.

Erik Acs, Chief Planner, explained that they have received the second submission on the Elite Subdivision, and there will be a public open house at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre April 30, 2026. The Statutory Public Meeting will be held on May 5, 2026. Lastly, he noted they have a new sign design for public notices.

Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, thanked the Finance staff for their presentation. He also congratulated Chief Double for coming in under budget and ahead of schedule for digital transition project. He also noted he is looking forward to receiving public comments on the Elite Subdivision submission. There will be a report coming forward on what the City has heard regarding governance, and a healthcare summary report coming forward. Lastly, he noted that folks will be able to apply for a "bring your own" permit for community concerts.

16. Councillors' Remarks

Councillor Hoyle noted the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce is running a lunch and learn event on April 21, 2026, from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. on the practical uses of A.I.; he also noted that Tea on West will be hosting a coffee club event on May 1, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., and they are also selling tickets for their comedy night event on June 12, 2026. He also inquired to Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works, about when the barriers around Johnston Street?

Councillor Elliott inquired to Steve about parking Clarence Street near Westwood Drive. He also inquired to Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, about rebates on water.

Councillor Bruno thanked Steve and the public works staff for responding quickly to complaints. He also thanked the Mayor and senior staff for continuing to work on regional governance.

Councillor Bagu inquired to Steve if folks can still apply to put a name on a boulevard tree and about the 2026 paving schedule. He also inquired to the Mayor if there were plans for a multi-year budget. Lastly, he inquired to Erik Acs, Chief Planner, about phase 3 of Westwood Estates.

Councillor Beauregard explained that he attended the Good Roads conference alongside the Mayor and Senior staff where they opportunities to meet with various government officials and noted the requests by their delegation were well received. He also noted that staff were well prepared for the conference.

Councillor Aquilina noted there is a Friends of Roselawn Art Auction happening now; the auction will run in person and online from May 15 - May 22 2026. Artists are invited to submit artwork for the auction. She also shared her condolences for Burd Sisler who recently passed away at 110 years old; he was the oldest known living Canadian and a resident of Fort Erie. She also assisted in curating an award for Burd for his 100th birthday.

17. Motions

There were no motions.

18. Notice of Motions

There were no notices of motions.

19. Motions Arising from Boards and Committees

19.1 Memorandum to Council - Grant Allocation Advisory Committee

C-25- 070

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Council approve the following funding requests for a total of \$22,000 in the first allocation of grants for 2026:

- Community Living, \$3500
- PC Legion, \$1500
- PC Optimist Club, \$4000
- Port Cares, \$4000
- Strong Heart Program, \$1800
- Niagara Nutrition Partners, \$3200

Carried

Mayor Steele and Councillor Bruno declared a conflict on the funding request from the Port Colborne Bocce Club. Councillor Aquilina took over the position of Chair for this portion of the vote.

C-25- 071

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That Council approve the following funding request in the first allocation of grants for 2026:

- PC Bocce Club, \$4000

Carried

20. By-laws

C-25- 072

Moved by Councillor F. Danch

Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

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

- By-law No. 7448/32/26
- By-law No. 7449/33/26

- By-law No. 7450/34/26
- By-law No. 7451/35/36
- By-law No. 7453/37/26
- By-law No. 7454/38/26

Carried

20.1 By-law No. 7448/32/26

20.2 By-law No. 7449/33/26

20.3 By-law No. 7450/34/26

20.4 By-law No.7451/35/26

20.5 By-law No. 7452/36/26

Councillor E. Beauregard declared a conflict on this item.

C-25- 073

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

That By-law No. 7452/36/26 be passed and enacted, as presented.

Carried

20.6 By-law No.7453/37/26

20.7 By-law No.7454/38/26

21. Procedural Motions

There were no procedural motions.

22. Adjournment

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting 9:32 p.m.

William C. Steele, Mayor

Charlotte Madden, City Clerk