

**City of Port Colborne
Regular Council Meeting 10-20
Minutes**

- Date:** April 27, 2020
- Time:** 6:30 p.m.
- Place:** Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne
- Members Present:** M. Bagu, Councillor (via Zoom)
E. Beauregard, Councillor (via Zoom)
R. Bodner, Councillor (via Zoom)
G. Bruno, Councillor (via Zoom)
F. Danch, Councillor (via Zoom)
A. Desmarais, Councillor (via Zoom)
D. Kalailieff, Councillor (via Zoom)
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)
H. Wells, Councillor (via Zoom)
- Staff Present:** A. Griggs, Director of Community and Economic Development (via Zoom)
C. Lee, Director of Engineering and Operations (via Zoom)
A. LaPointe, Acting Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk
S. Luey, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Madden, Deputy Clerk

Also in attendance were members of WeeStream.

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order and then proceeded into Roll Call.

Mayor Steele delivered his Mayor's Report, a copy of which is attached.

Regional Councillor Butters provided Council with information received at the recent Region of Niagara Council meeting, including the financial impact of COVID-19, and the coordination taking place with upper levels of government in order to receive relief. She encouraged residents to maintain social distancing and to follow the news provided on the Region of Niagara's website in order to be informed about the COVID-19 updates.

2. Introduction of Addendum Items:

Additions:

Councillors' Items is being added as an item after Item 9 on the agenda.

- No. 50** Moved by Councillor M. Bagu
Seconded by Councillor D. Kalailieff

That the Rules of the Procedural By-law be waived in order to add Councillors' Items after Item 9 on the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Agenda:

- No. 51** Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That the agenda dated April 27, 2020 be confirmed, as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Interest:

None.

5. Adoption of Minutes:

- No. 52** Moved by Councillor F. Danch
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

(a) That the minutes of the regular meeting of Council 09-20, held on March 23, 2020, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion:

The following items were identified for separate discussion:

Item 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9.

7. Approval of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion:

- No. 53** Moved by Councillor R. Bodner
Seconded by Councillor H. Wells

That Items 1 to 12 on the agenda be approved, with the exception of items that have been deferred, deleted or listed for separate discussion, and the recommendation contained therein adopted.

Items:

4. Corporate Services Department, Finance Division, Report 2020-37, Subject: Cancellation, Reduction or Refund of Realty Tax

Council Resolved:

That the applications pursuant to Section 357/358 of Municipal Act, 2001, numbered 2019-03 and 2019-09 be approved to cancel or reduce taxes in the total amount of \$4,556.97.

7. Memorandum from Janice Peyton, Executive Assistant, DEO Re: Environmental Advisory Committee – Motion Regarding Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

Council Resolved:

That the Memorandum from Janice Peyton on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Committee Re: Motion Regarding Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, be received for information.

10. Region of Niagara Re: Cannabis Workshop Summary (PDS 7-2020)

Council Resolved:

That the correspondence received from the Region of Niagara Re: Cannabis Workshop Summary, be received for information.

11. Region of Niagara Re: Niagara Region 2019 Employment Inventory Results Report (PDS 5-2020)

Council Resolved:

That the correspondence received from the Region of Niagara Re: Niagara Region 2019 Employment Inventory Results, be received for information.

12. Region of Niagara Re: Niagara Official Plan – Consultation Details and Revised Framework (PDS 9-2020)

Council Resolved:

That the correspondence received from the Region of Niagara Re: Niagara Official Plan – Consultation Details and Revised Framework, be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion:

1. Chief Administrative Officer Department, Report 2020-56, Subject: COVID-19 Update

No. 54 Moved by Councillor H. Wells
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That Chief Administrative Officer Report No. 2020-56,
Subject: COVID-19 Update be received for information.

CARRIED

2. Community and Economic Development Department, Parks and Recreation Division, Report 2020-52, Subject: 2020 Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival

No. 55 Moved by Councillor H. Wells
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That, in order to safeguard the health and safety of the community, volunteers, artists, festival partners/vendors, visitors and staff, the 2020 Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival is hereby cancelled;

That the Director of Community and Economic Development be directed to commence planning a smaller event, or series of events, to take place in the 2020 fall season, that would take place once the public health crisis is contained and economic recovery efforts commence;

That the Canal Days Advisory Committee be directed to participate in establishing a proposed budget and in defining the scope and scale of the 2020 fall event(s).

CARRIED

3. Chief Administrative Officer Department, Report 2020-57, Subject: 2020 Operating Budget Update

The Mayor informed Councillors that this item would be split into two separate motions as per Councillor Bruno's request.

No. 56 Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That Council directs the Director of Corporate Services to reduce the 2020 Capital budget by making the following budget reductions and deferring the following projects to the 2021 budget process:

- Sidewalk Replacements reduced by \$10,000
- Downtown CIP reduced by \$150,000 (deferred to 2021)
- Museum Capital purchases reduced by \$5,000
- Library Capital purchases reduced by \$5,000
- Tennessee Avenue Gate Inspection and Repairs reduced by \$25,000 (deferred to 2021)
- Roselawn Capital Program reduced by \$20,000
- Kinnear Park Asphalt Walkway reduced by \$20,586 (deferred to 2021)
- Parks Picnic Table replacement reduced by \$4,414
- Nickel Beach Capital Reserve Transfer reduced by \$10,000
- City Hall carpet/paint replacement reduced by \$5,000
- Fire Station Upgrades reduced by \$5,000

Moved in Amendment by Councillor E. Beauregard
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That the main motion be amended by striking out the third bullet and adding thereto the following:

“Museum Capital project of Accessibility – repair sidewalk to Heritage Resource Centre reduced by \$5,000”

CARRIED

The vote was then called on the main motion, as amended, as follows:

That Council directs the Director of Corporate Services to reduce the 2020 Capital budget by making the following budget reductions and deferring the following projects to the 2021 budget process:

- Sidewalk Replacements reduced by \$10,000
- Downtown CIP reduced by \$150,000 (deferred to 2021)
- Museum Capital project of Accessibility – repair sidewalk to Heritage Resource Centre reduced by \$5,000
- Library Capital purchases reduced by \$5,000

- Tennessee Avenue Gate Inspection and Repairs reduced by \$25,000 (deferred to 2021)
- Roselawn Capital Program reduced by \$20,000
- Kinnear Park Asphalt Walkway reduced by \$20,586 (deferred to 2021)
- Parks Picnic Table replacement reduced by \$4,414
- Nickel Beach Capital Reserve Transfer reduced by \$10,000
- City Hall carpet/paint replacement reduced by \$5,000
- Fire Station Upgrades reduced by \$5,000

CARRIED

No. 57

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That Council authorizes the Director of Corporate Services to distribute the \$260,000 fund set aside by resolution of Council at the March 23, 2020 Budget Meeting as follows:

- IT Cyber Security Detection and Monitoring - \$30,000
- Engineering ArcGIS Online Cloud Based GIS System (partnership with Niagara Region) - \$10,000
- Project Management Software - \$3,000
- HR Manager Position - \$101,800 (planned 50% expenditure in 2020 \$55,900, including recruitment software \$5,000)
- Head School Crossing Guard Position - \$7,000
- Software licensing - \$54,834
- COVID-19 Pandemic stabilization reserve - \$53,366

Moved in Amendment by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That the main motion be amended by striking out the seventh bullet.

CARRIED

The vote was then called on the main motion, as amended, as follows:

That Council authorizes the Director of Corporate Services to distribute the \$260,000 fund set aside by resolution of Council at the March 23, 2020 Budget Meeting as follows:

- IT Cyber Security Detection and Monitoring - \$30,000

- Engineering ArcGIS Online Cloud Based GIS System (partnership with Niagara Region) - \$10,000
- Project Management Software - \$3,000
- HR Manager Position - \$101,800 (planned 50% expenditure in 2020 \$55,900, including recruitment software \$5,000)
- Head School Crossing Guard Position - \$7,000
- Software licensing - \$54,834

CARRIED

5. Engineering and Operations Department, Engineering Division, Report 2020-53, Subject: Project 2020-05, Line Painting – City Wide

No. 58

Moved by Councillor H. Wells
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That the Council of the City of Port Colborne award the Tender No. 2020-05 Line Painting – City Wide to Apex Pavement Markings Inc. of Bailieboro, Ontario, for the total tendered price of \$53,934.00 for 2020, plus applicable taxes;

That funding for Project No. 2020-05 be financed under GL Account: 0-500-74210-3328;

That the By-law be prepared and the City Clerk and Mayor be authorized to execute the Contract Agreement.

CARRIED

6. Engineering and Operations Department, Engineering Division, Report 2020-54, Subject: Project 2020-12, Sidewalk Construction – City Wide

No. 59

Moved by Councillor H. Wells
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That Council of the City of Port Colborne award Tender 2020-12 Sidewalk Construction – City Wide, to Signature Contractors Windsor Inc. of Oldcastle, Ontario for the total tendered price of \$ 219,375.00, plus applicable taxes;

That funding for contract 2020-12 be financed under the following GL accounts:

0-500-74385-3328 Sidewalk Maintenance
0-500-73651-3328 Curb Maintenance

6-595-76320-3328 Water Service Replacements
7-590-76230-3328 Sanitary Sewer Laterals
3-500-33155-3328 Sidewalk Replacements
(Capital Funds)

That the By-law be prepared and the City Clerk and Mayor be authorized to execute the Contract Agreement.

CARRIED

**8. Region of Niagara Re: Considerations of City of Niagara Falls
Withdrawing from Regional Waste Management Services**

No. 60 Moved by Councillor H. Wells
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That the correspondence received from the Region of Niagara Re: Considerations of City of Niagara Falls Withdrawing from Regional Waste Management Services, be received for information.

CARRIED

**9. Region of Niagara Re: Development Applications Monitoring Report –
2019 Year End (PDS 4-2020)**

No. 61 Moved by Councillor D. Kalailieff
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That the correspondence received from the Region of Niagara Re: Development Applications Monitoring Report – 2019 Year End, be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Proclamations:

None.

Councillors' Items:

(a) Olga Drive Pipe Repairs (Bagu)

In response to Councillor Bagu's request for an update on the Olga Drive pipe repairs, the Director of Engineering and Operations informed Council that a new design for the pipe has been prepared as well as priced out and the hired Contractor will be undertaking the required repairs in the coming weeks.

(b) Roof Repairs at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre (Bagu)

In response to Councillor Bagu's request for an update on repairing the leaks in the roof at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre, the Director of Engineering and Operations confirmed that two-thirds of the project is completed. He indicated that gutter liners and fittings are the last items outstanding in the project and that this cannot be completed until after the Province lifts the restrictions of essential services.

(c) Railroad Crossing at Sugarloaf and Elm Streets (Bagu)

In response to Councillor Bagu's request for an update on the repairs to be conducted on the railroad crossing at Sugarloaf Street and Elm Street, the Director of Engineering and Operations confirmed that since the budget for this item has been approved, staff is currently working with Trillium on sorting out the details of the work and the intent is to have it completed soon.

(d) Budget Preparation Recommendation (Bagu)

Councillor Bagu made a recommendation for later in the year when next year's budget preparation begins, that staff be very aware of what projects are currently underway and not to put too many projects on their plate for the following year. The Chief Administrative Officer confirmed that he will remind Directors of this at the upcoming Directors' meeting.

(e) Thank you to Healthcare Workers (Beauregard)

Councillor Beauregard thanked Personal Support Workers as well as all healthcare workers for their hard work in the long term care facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

(f) Sidewalk on Clarke Street (Beauregard)

Councillor Beauregard expressed appreciation towards the Director of Engineering and Operations for repairing the sidewalk on Clarke Street.

(g) Meadow Heights (Bruno)

In response to Councillor Bruno's request for a status on the next phase of the Meadow Heights development, the Chief Administrative Officer confirmed that the Consulting Firm had submitted updated plans to the Engineering Department on April 16 and informed staff that the developer could attend a conference call in order to discuss next steps. Further, the Chief Administrative Officer advised that following that conference call, there will be a report brought to Council with input from the Developer regarding the entering into a new Subdivision Agreement.

(h) Post COVID-19 Infrastructure Projects (Bruno)

Councillor Bruno informed Council that the Federal Cabinet Minister for Infrastructure and Communities had been in discussion with the Provinces on post COVID-19 infrastructure projects and indicated that transportation, active transportation, and specifically trails would be high on the list of projects that would be explored. In response to Councillor Bruno's inquiry regarding whether there are any grant-related proposals or projects on the trails that could be planned for post COVID-19, the Director of Engineering and Operations indicated that re-surfacing of the trails and an already designed culvert to be located on the Friendship Trail could be applicable depending on the guidelines of the grants. The Chief Administrative Officer further indicated that certain aspects of the Downtown CIP project could also be applicable as it is a transportation initiative; however if the Downtown CIP project does not qualify for the grants, then there are a multitude of projects regarding active transportation under the Parks and Recreation Division's Master Plan that could be subject to grant funding.

(i) Illegal Dumping (Desmarais)

Councillor Desmarais informed Council that there has been an increase in illegal dumping in various areas around the City and asked staff to investigate this issue.

(j) Animal Droppings (Desmarais)

Councillor Desmarais informed Council that there has been many cases of animal waste not being picked up around the City and asked staff to examine how this could be better enforced. The Mayor mentioned that staff had recently received a complaint about this, they had addressed the issue at that time and that they will continue to keep an eye out for similar cases.

(k) Safety Concerns at the end of Stanley Street (Kalailieff)

In response to Councillor Kalailieff's request for an update on the investigation of the safety concerns at the end of Stanley Street, the Director of Engineering and Operations indicated that since there are a number of intersections that have been brought to the attention of staff with various safety concerns, it is suggested that a formal RFP process ensue in order to obtain a consultant that will conduct an in-depth analysis and traffic study in a number of areas around the City. He further informed Council that he will bring a report forward at the May 25, 2020 meeting that will provide additional information on this topic as well as recommend reducing the speed limit on Stanley Street.

(l) Speeding on Lakeshore Road West (Kalailieff)

Councillor Kalailieff informed Council that she has received a number of complaints about cars speeding along Lakeshore Road West near Cement Plant Road. The Mayor indicated that an email has been sent to the Staff Sergeant in Port Colborne to inform him of the speeding that is occurring at this exact area as well as another area in the City.

(m) Open Burning (Kalailieff)

Councillor Kalailieff requested clarification on the update the Fire Chief released to the public regarding open burning and fireworks being banned. She wanted to know if sparklers qualified as a fireworks and whether or not the use of sparklers was permitted at this time. The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that he would pass along that question to the Fire Chief and ask that he respond to Councillor Kalailieff via email.

(n) Council Meeting Schedule (Kalailieff)

In response to Councillor Kalailieff's inquiry regarding whether the regular Council Meeting Schedule could resume since Councillors are now able to participate electronically, the City Clerk indicated that as of right now there are only enough reports coming forward for one meeting a month; however, should there be more reports coming forward, then the regular Council Meeting Schedule could resume.

(o) Pleasant Beach Access Gate (Wells)

Councillor Wells informed Council that the Pleasant Beach access gate has been recently damaged and asked that staff either repair or replace it. The Director of Engineering and Operations confirmed that he would have staff repair it.

(p) Update on Report Regarding Road Ends in Ward 4 (Wells)

Councillor Wells requested an update on the report being prepared with regards to the implementation and development of the Ward 4 road end consistencies program. The Director of Engineering and Operations confirmed that Engineering and Operations staff as well as Parks and Recreation Division staff and By-law Enforcement Division staff are coordinating to prepare this report which will include costs, different options to consider and recommendations. He further reported that the intention is to have the report drafted by end of June or early July.

(q) Dust Suppressant to be used in 2020 (Wells)

Councillor Wells reported that he has received various queries regarding the type of dust suppressant used by the City in the past as well as its effectiveness. In response to Councillors Wells' inquiry regarding whether the intent is to use the same type of dust suppressant in 2020, the Director of Engineering and Operations confirmed that the City has used and will continue to use a Liquid Calcium Chloride application which has been approved by the Province. Councillor Wells asked if he could receive the MSDS for this application and the Director of Engineering and Operations confirmed that he would provide that to him.

(r) Training for Electronic Participation in Council Meeting

Councillor Bruno expressed appreciation towards the Clerk's Division and the Mayor for the extensive training offered to prepare for electronic participation in this Council meeting.

10. Minutes of Boards, Commissions & Committees:

None.

11. Consideration of By-laws:

No. 62 Moved by Councillor M. Bagu
 Seconded by Councillor D. Kalailieff

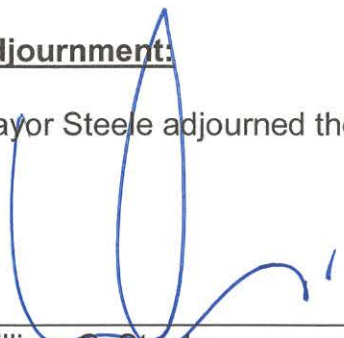
That the following by-laws be enacted and passed:

6775/25/20	Being a By-law to Authorize Entering Into a Contract Agreement with Apex Pavement Markings Inc. Re: Project 2020-05, Line Painting – City Wide
6776/26/20	Being a By-law to Authorize Entering Into a Contract Agreement with Signature Contractors Windsor Inc. Re: Project 2020-12, Sidewalk Construction – City Wide
6777/27/20	Being a By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne at its Regular Meeting of April 27, 2020


CARRIED

12. **Adjournment:**

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:29 p.m.



William C. Steele
Mayor



Amber LaPointe
City Clerk

AL/cm

Not This Year: A Message To City Council
A poem written by: Michael Marceau(1st ever poem)

Canal Days, is a superb opportunity to spend time with
Family, and friends, enjoy the sunshine, soak up some rays, and make it a day.
But, if council proceeds with the event as scheduled,
Vulnerable members of the public; will be the ones who pay.
Not this year,
Think of the loved ones we hold dear.

I understand, the economic losses could be great,
It's a big decision that members have, on their plate.
But please consider this, what would be worse, less bread in the baskets?
Or a city, region, province and country, full of caskets?
Not this year,
Think of the loved ones we hold dear.

Many visitors attend Canal Days; they drive from regions near and far,
How will we know, if they've got COVID in the car?
The streets will be crowded and densely packed, and a single sneeze,
Could be enough, to bring local hospitals and front liners, to their knees.
Not this year,
Think of the loved ones we hold dear.

My wife and I attend Canal Days every year,
The event makes us REALLY happy, that much is clear.
But this year, my wife doesn't think it should take place, and it's because she's a front liner,
I of course agree with her, and proudly stand behind her.
Not this year,
Think of the loved ones we hold dear.

Mary and I know, it will be hard for all of you, not to think of the lost dollars and cents,
But we ask that you think about the value of a human life, because that's what makes sense.
Considering all of the carnage, COVID has caused since it reared its ugly head,
It only makes sense, to at least for this year, put Canal Days to bed.
Not this year,
Think of the loved ones we hold dear.

I want to thank each and every member,
It's common sense leadership; that the people will remember.
I trust that each one of you; will make the right call,
And will surely do, what's best for all.
Not this year,
Think of the loved ones we hold dear.

Peace & Love,

MM



MAYOR'S REPORT – APRIL 27, 2020

Good evening and thank you for joining us for our first virtual council meeting.

As you can see, the council chambers is very empty.

I am here with our CAO Scott Luey, City Clerk Amber LaPointe and Deputy Clerk Charlotte Madden along with our camera crew from Wee Stream.

I would like to welcome our eight city councilors and various city directors who are each attending from home.

We hope to all be back together in the council chambers soon, but for the time being, we will be conducting our meetings in this manner and I ask for your understanding if we have a few missteps this evening.

I would like to start this evening with a moment of silence as we remember the victims of last week's shooting in Nova Scotia including R.C.M.P. Constable Heidi Stevenson, a 23 year veteran of the force and also the loss of our fellow councillor from Pelham, Mike Ciolfi, who grew up in Port Colborne.

(moment of silence)

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of all of the victims of this criminal act and as well, all who have succumbed to COVID-19.

I would like to extend our appreciation to all of the essential workers in our community who are maintaining our emergency, medical, long term care and city services and all the staff and owners who are keeping businesses open during this unprecedented time in our history.

I ask that you check in with your neighbours, friends and family, especially those who are more vulnerable, to ensure their well-being.

Over the past three weeks, the city has worked with Community Support Services Niagara and our local grocery stores to establish a grocery delivery service for individuals over the age of 65 or adults with a disability.

My thanks go out to Sobey's, Bodner's Market and No Frills for participating and helping put this essential service together.

If you need this service or know of someone who does, please contact Community Support Services Niagara at 905-682-3800 Ext 706.

Also, if you would like to become a volunteer in the community to help with the grocery delivery program, you can call the same number, again, 905-682-3800 Ext 706.

I would really like to thank Carolyn Askeland, Executive Director of Community Support Services Niagara for working with my office, city staff and the grocery stores to bring this service to Port Colborne.

Last Friday, Community Support Services Niagara also announced their Volunteer Phone Chat and Safety Reassurance Call program. Arrangements can be made to call seniors who are lonely or isolated on a daily or weekly basis. To access this program, call 905-682-3800, Ext 0.

The Mayors and CAOs in the region have been holding weekly teleconferences to discuss issues related to COVID-19 in our communities and how we are dealing with them.

MP Badawey has also been holding weekly meetings with myself and the Mayors of Welland and Thorold keeping us apprised of developments and assistance offered by the federal government.

This week I and CAO Scott Luey will be meeting via conference call with MPP Burch.

Our economic development officer, Julian Douglas-Kameka has been meeting with her colleagues in the region and in consultation with our area Chambers of Commerce and Business Improvement Areas, as well as businesses in Port Colborne are developing a Regional Economic Recovery Plan. If you are a business owner, I urge you to go to our COVID-19 webpage for valuable resources and information.

Every business in our community has been affected by this pandemic, but together we can work to recover and reopen businesses and services and we ask for your continued support and diligence in keeping yourself and your family safe.

As this pandemic evolves, the information provided also evolves and changes. To stay informed about COVID-19 updates in Port Colborne and Niagara, visit our designated webpage, www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19, or follow us on social media. Our Customer Service Representatives are also here to answer your City related questions, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by calling City Hall at 905-835-2900.

Your ward councilors continue to be available through email and telephone to look after any concerns or inquiries during this pandemic. Please continue to reach out and I thank council for their dedication and understanding.

Last week was National Volunteer Week and I would like to give a shout out to all of the wonderful volunteers who help the city with their programs and services and also help our many non-profit organizations.

None of us would be able to maintain these programs and services without the help of our dedicated volunteers. We do thank you.

On a final note, I want to thank all of you for your continued efforts in helping Niagara beat this pandemic. I know it is tough on all of us not being able to gather with friends, family or neighbours, use our sports facilities, library, museum and not being able to fully support those businesses that are closed.

But in the words of Winston Churchill *“Success is never found. Failure is never fatal. Courage is the only thing. Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival.”*

Council, staff and citizens, we will persevere and recover. Please stay safe and I thank you.