



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday June 01, 2020

06:00 PM

PRESENT:

This meeting was held via Video Conference due to COVID-19 and public health concerns and was able to be viewed via Livestream on the Town's website.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Councillors: Erwin Wiens, Stuart McCormack, Wendy Cheropita, Gary Burroughs, Al Bisback, Norm Arsenaault, Clare Cameron, John Wiens

REGRETS:

STAFF:

Sheldon Randall	Chief Administrative Officer (I)
Kyle Freeborn	Director, Corporate Services
Craig Larmour	Director, Community & Development Services
Nick Ruller	Fire Chief
Kevin Turcotte	Director, Operations (A)
Jeff Vyse	Manager of Public Works
Peter Todd	Town Clerk

OTHERS:

Callum Shedden	Daniel & Partners LLP
----------------	-----------------------

MEDIA:

Due to COVID-19 and public health concerns this meeting is not open to the Public but can be viewed via Livestream on the Town's website.

CALL TO ORDER

Lord Mayor Betty Disero called the meeting to order 6:01 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council agreed to amend the closed session to include:

Municipal Act 2001, Economic Development Services, section 106 Assistance prohibited and section 107 General power to make grants.

Moved by Councillor John Wiens, seconded by Councillor Al Bisback that the agenda be adopted, as amended .

--	--	--

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT	X	
ALLAN BISBACK	X	
GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS	X	
JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	
TOTALS	9	0

-resolution # 1 **APPROVED, AS AMENDED.**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared at this time.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Sheldon Randall CAO(I) provided an update regarding operations and maintenance with respect to grasscutting measures on Niagara Parks Commission and Parks Canada lands; and Queen's Parade.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero called upon Lauren Kruitbosch, Community Engagement Coordinator and Beth Audet, Executive Assistant & Communications Officer to the Lord Mayor & CAO to provide a communications update.

"Lord Mayor Disero asked that we provide an update to Council regarding the Town Communications efforts.

Beth and I have been working hard to ensure communication from the Town is consistent, accurate, and timely. The public has come to expect consistent messaging from us, and we are working with the Emergency Control Group to provide regular updates regarding the Town's response to COVID-19.

To date the Town has released....

- 16 videos regarding Town Updates (mostly from Lord Mayor Disero, a few from Fire Chief Nick Ruller and Acting Senior By-law Enforcement Officer Henry Boese)
- 5 creative videos (such as the Thank you to Front Line Workers)
- 35+ Media Releases, Public Notices
- A number of statements and messages from the Lord Mayor and Interim CAO
- Several community engagement campaigns such as #StayHomeNOTL, #MakeNoiseNOTL, Volunteer Week, and the Virtual Tour of a NOTL Fire Station

We've found that online engagement has significantly increased on all the Town's social media platforms – particularly in response to our original videos. We've also seen a significant amount of traffic to the COVID-19 page on the Town website – it's seen close to 14,000 views since its creation. These platforms (Town website, Facebook, Twitter,

and Instagram) have been our primary outlets for sharing information, in addition to our three local newspapers and our email blasts. Every new release, video etc. is sent via email to over 200 people including media contacts, committee members, representatives of local groups and associations etc.

As announced last week, the Town is cautiously transitioning to phase three of its response to COVID-19. This phase is referred to as “Recovery”. While the Town has already made a number of provisions within this phase, a major communication transition was announced late last week with respect to the new message of #StaySafeNOTL in place of #StayHomeNOTL. While the #StayHomeNOTL proved to be extremely effective during phases 1 and 2, with recovery measures being taken by the Province and more and more businesses, facilities etc. reopening, we recognized that the message of “stay home” just wasn’t resonating with people anymore. “Stay Safe” was introduced as a messaging bridge towards recovery. In this phase we hope to empower residents and the public to stay safe by providing them with a variety of safety regulations and suggestions such as washing hands, avoiding busy locations, consider wearing a mask etc.

The revised message of #StaySafeNOTL has been announced in a Media Release, updated on the Town’s electronic signage such as the sign on the lawn out front of the Administration Building and the sign at the Community Centre, posted to the Town’s website homepage, COVID page, social media platforms, and will be in the three local newspapers this week. Additionally, local businesses, churches and residents have been invited to share this message on their electronic screens, message boards and/or front windows.

We have also worked with our team to design a graphic to accompany this new message. This graphic provides visual recommendations and suggestions for ways to stay safe. These graphics can be viewed on the Town’s COVID page and social media platforms and elements of it will soon be posted in Town facilities and amenity areas.

Additionally, we’ve started working on a “Stay Safe” video campaign. This campaign will use video to highlight ways to stay safe during this recovery phase. The first video we are working on is with respect to masks. The video will highlight various community members sharing why they choose to wear a mask. We hope to share that video next week with more videos to follow.

A few other communication pieces we’ve created to assist the public during recovery is our “it’s ok to and it’s not ok to” graphic. This graphic highlights various outdoor activities in Niagara-on-the-Lake and advises the public which activities are OK to do and not OK to do during this time. We’ve shared this graphic several times on social media and it is also displayed on our COVID-19 page.

The Town’s Join the Conversation page, while not used for COVID communication up to this point, will start to be utilized in the days to come. Following the lead of other municipalities with similar platforms, we intend to utilize our Join the Conversation platform to share various recovery efforts, resources and some unique engagement elements for residents, members of the public and business owners. We hope to have these pages up and running by the end of the week.

We have a number of other releases set to go out this week and next regarding various updates on event cancellations, closures, community guide updates etc. Incoming information is steady, and we are working hard to meet communication needs.

Two other projects we wanted to quickly share with you are a Grad Video we are working on as well as another Fire Station Tour Video. We recognize that there are many local graduates who aren't able to celebrate with a ceremony this year. We are creating a compilation video (incorporating messages from various Councillors, school representatives and community members, to lift the spirits and honour the hard work of all the Elementary, High School, College, and University students who still graduated and earned their diplomas amid this global pandemic! The Fire Station Tour Video will follow Deputy Fire Chief Jay Plato and Fire Prevention & Public Education Officer Brad Disher through Station 1, and will be geared at educating Elementary aged school children about the Fire Department and general fire safety. This is another way in which our Fire Department is using alternative means of reaching and educating Niagara-on-the-Lake children while regular school activities are on hold. I think that's all we have to update you on at this time. We are happy to answer any questions that you may have."

Discussion took place and Lord Mayor Betty Disero thanked staff for their input.

CLOSED SESSION

- Closed meeting under Section 239 (2) (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, specifically relating to obligations under the Planning Act; and *COVID-19 relief measures for businesses*.

At 6:24 p.m. the following motion was read in open session:

Moved by Councillor Gary Burroughs, seconded by Councillor Clare Cameron that Council proceed to go into a closed meeting to consider matters that qualify under the Municipal Act 2001, as amended:

- Closed meeting under Section 239 (2)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose specifically relating to obligations under the Planning Act; and COVID-19 relief measures for businesses.

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT	X	
ALLAN BISBACK	X	
GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS	X	
JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	

TOTALS	9	0
--------	---	---

-resolution #2, **APPROVED.**

At 8:58 p.m. the following motion was read in open session:

Moved by Councillor Gary Burroughs, seconded by Councillor Clare Cameron that Council rise from the closed session to consider matters that qualify under the Municipal Act 2001, as amended:

- Closed meeting under Section 239 (2)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, specifically relating to obligations under the Planning Act; and COVID-19 relief measures for businesses, with no report.

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT (absent)		
ALLAN BISBACK	X	
GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS (absent)		
JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	
TOTALS	7	0

-resolution #3, **APPROVED.**

PROCEEDINGS BY-LAW

Clerk to read resolution for reading of by-law

5243-20 - A by-law to confirm the proceedings at the Special Council Meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 1, 2020

Moved by Councillor Gary Burroughs, seconded by Councillor Clare Cameron that leave be given to introduce By-law 5243-20 and that the same be consider read a first, second and third time and passed, any ruling of this Council to the contrary notwithstanding.

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT (absent)		
ALLAN BISBACK	X	
GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS (absent)	X	

JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	
TOTALS	7	0

-resolution #4, **BY-LAW RECEIVED THREE READINGS.**

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Moved by Councillor John Wiens, seconded by Councillor Al Bisback that the agenda be adopted, as amended .

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT	X	
ALLAN BISBACK	X	
GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS	X	
JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	
TOTALS	9	0

APPROVED, AS AMENDED.

2. Moved by Councillor Gary Burroughs, seconded by Councillor Clare Cameron that Council proceed to go into a closed meeting to consider matters that qualify under the Municipal Act 2001, as amended:
 - Closed meeting under Section 239 (2)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose specifically relating to obligations under the Planning Act; and COVID-19 relief measures for businesses.

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT	X	
ALLAN BISBACK	X	
GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS	X	
JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	
TOTALS	9	0

APPROVED.

3. Moved by Councillor Gary Burroughs, seconded by Councillor Clare Cameron that Council rise from the closed session to consider matters that qualify under the Municipal Act 2001, as amended:
 - Closed meeting under Section 239 (2)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, specifically relating to obligations under the Planning Act; and COVID-19 relief measures for businesses, with no report.

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT (absent)		
ALLAN BISBACK	X	
GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS (absent)		
JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	
TOTALS	7	0

APPROVED.

4. Moved by Councillor Gary Burroughs, seconded by Councillor Clare Cameron that leave be given to introduce By-law 5243-20 and that the same be consider read a first, second and third time and passed, any ruling of this Council to the contrary notwithstanding.

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT (absent)		
ALLAN BISBACK	X	
GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS (absent)	X	
JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	
TOTALS	7	0

APPROVED.

5. Moved by Councillor Gary Burroughs, seconded by Councillor Clare Cameron that this Council adjourn to the next regular meeting to be held June 22, 2020 and if a special meeting is required, it will be held at the call of the Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR	YEA	NAY
NORM ARSENAULT (absent)		
ALLAN BISBACK	X	

GARY BURROUGHS	X	
CLARE CAMERON	X	
WENDY CHEROPITA	X	
STUART MCCORMACK	X	
ERWIN WIENS (absent)		
JOHN WIENS	X	
LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO	X	
TOTALS	7	0

APPROVED.

VERBAL MOTIONS:

ADJOURNMENT: 09:05 PM

LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO

TOWN CLERK PETER TODD