COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Ugulini, Councillor Neale, Councillor Handley, Councillor Longo, Councillor DeRose, Councillor Wilson, Councillor Sentance, Councillor Kenny, Councillor Dekker


OTHERS: Tim Whalen, Regional Councillor

Note: Minutes have been recorded in the order in which they appear on the agenda.

Note: All motions are carried unanimously unless otherwise specified.

Note: Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order**
   The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **First Nations Acknowledgement**
   The statement was not read.

3. **Declarations of Interest**
   None

4. **Adoption of the Agenda**
   MOVED BY: Councillor Sentance
   SECONDED BY: Councillor Dekker

   That Council adopt the agenda for the meeting of February 2, 2021.  
   CARRIED

5. **Adoption of the Minutes**
   a. Council Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021
MOVED BY: Councillor Longo
SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilson

That the Council meeting minutes of January 19, 2021, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

6. **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Ugulini thanked those who reached out to offer condolences regarding the passing of his brother.

On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, the Heads of Council of the Local Area Municipalities met virtually with Minister Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries to discuss the rollout of the messaging campaign initiated by the Province: "Stay Home, Stay Safe, Save Lives".

Mayor Ugulini advised that the Niagara Regional budget was finalized on January 21, 2021 and approved on January 28, 2021. He advised that there is a 1.8% increase on the Regional portion of the levy to which Regional Councillor Whalen will speak during his presentation.

Mayor Ugulini reported that on January 22, 2021, he attended a virtual event with Chief Administrative Officer, Manoj Dilwaria and Economic Development Manager, Marco Marino at which Brock University and the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA Ports) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He advised that the partnership will provide experiential learning opportunities, including co-op placements and research collaborations, that support marine and industry needs.

On Monday, January 25, 2021, Mayor Ugulini chaired the Town and Gown Committee Meeting. Councillors Wilson and Kenny were also in attendance. The Committee reviewed first semester issues, discussed second semester concerns and preparations for St. Patrick’s Day. Mayor Ugulini advised that he requested a digital copy of the "Studentification Guide for North America - Delivering Harmonious Town and Gown Associations" to be distributed to the Committee and Council.

Mayor Ugulini reported that on Friday, January 29, 2021, HOPA Ports announced a new tenant to the Thorold Multimodal Hub. He advised that Tora Inc., a St. Catharines based company offering warehousing, sorting, assembly and other services for domestic and international manufacturers, will occupy 60,000 square feet of warehouse space within the Thorold Multimodal Hub.
Mayor Ugulini reported that a virtual announcement was held on February 1, 2021, regarding the City’s successful application under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Community, Culture, and Recreation Infrastructure Stream for funding of the rehabilitation of Battle of Beaverdams Park. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities announced $267,366 in Federal funding and Niagara West MPP Sam Oosterhoff, representing Minister of Infrastructure, Laurie Scott, announced $222,783 in Provincial Funding.

Mayor Ugulini noted that February marks Black History Month which celebrates Black culture and recognizes the many accomplishments and contributions made in Niagara and across Canada by those in the Black Community. He commented that events that have occurred over the past year have shown that anti-Black racism is still an issue that deserves everyone’s attention. Mayor Ugulini advised that in September 2020, all twelve Municipal Mayors and the Regional Chair signed onto the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities reflecting a shared commitment to work toward policies that eradicate racism and discrimination and promote human rights and diversity.


Mayor Ugulini announced his intention to bring forth a Notice of Motion to lower the flag at City Hall for three days beginning on Friday, March 12, 2021, to honour those who have died of COVID-19 over the past year. The City of St. Catharines is doing the same and working with the Niagara Region for a Region-wide acknowledgement of the loss of more than 300 Niagara residents and the impact it has had on families and friends. He expressed condolences to all families who have lost someone.

On February 2, 2021, Mayor Ugulini, Chief Building Official, Jason Simpson, and representatives from Ontario Power Generation (OPG) met to discuss safety concerns with skating, hockey games and outdoor winter activities taking place on the ice on Lake Gibson and Marlatt’s Pond (Beaverdams) area. The OPG representatives stated that ice forming near OPG dams and stations is often much thinner than ice elsewhere due to changing flows and water conditions, making the ice unsafe for winter activities. The area near OPG dams and hydroelectric stations have warning signs, buoys, fences, booms and barriers to warn people of the potential dangers and the OPG will be increasing their media campaign and enforcement in this regard.
7. **Public Meetings**

None

8. **Regional Councillor Update**

a. Tim Whalen, Councillor, Region of Niagara, and Chair, Thorold Runway of Recognition Committee

Regional Councillor Whalen provided an update on the Niagara Region budget, approved on January 21, 2021. He reported that as part of the 2021 budget deliberations, the Region undertook a comprehensive public engagement process. Some highlights of the budget include: $17.8 million for pandemic response funded by the Safe Restart Agreement and other Provincial funding to mitigate future risk to public health; $1.5 million for the annual contribution to the reserve to rebuild the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital and expand health services in West Niagara; $1.3 million for Emergency Medical Service system transformation to ensure high quality patient care while avoiding incremental costs of ambulances; $2 million dedicated to enhancing funding for critical infrastructure, such as roads reconstruction and bridge replacement; use of $4.3 million in reserves to mitigate the impacts of operating budget pressures on the taxpayers. The operating budget for 2021 contains a tax levy of $405.3 million, which funds the daily business of Niagara Region, its boards and agencies. The operating budget also supports the $500.3 million capital program. The Region has allocated funding toward the construction of the South Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility to support population growth and new economic opportunities. The 2021 tax increase is 1.8%.

Councillor Handley inquired about the projected timeframe and area for the expansion of water and sewer toward the Rolling Meadows area. Regional Councillor Whalen advised that the intended completion date is the end of 2025. A new pumping station proposed at Black Horse Corners to connect to the Peel Street pumping station. Mayor Ugulini advised that the plan is to take the load from the Peel Street pumping station, shift by forcemain up to Black Horse Corners and from there to the new station by gravity. Mayor Ugulini responded that the forcemain load would be diverted the other way and thinks that it will include Port Robinson East as well.

Councillor Handley inquired about the plans for servicing the Highway 20 corridor from Rice Road to Highway 406. Regional Councillor Whalen responded that the area is mostly greenbelt but he believes the diversion will take a lot of pressure off of that side of the Canal. Mayor Ugulini
advised that the Regional Official Plan process will allow comments on the servicing of the Highway 20 corridor.

Councillor Handley inquired if contingency monies were included in the budget for overruns in expenditures for the 2021 Canada Summer Games infrastructure. Regional Councillor Whalen advised that any overruns will be taken over by the Region and the current overrun is possibly $2.5 million but the Region is confident that upper levels of government will cover any overrun. Regional Staff will be providing an update soon.

Tim Whalen, Chair of the Runway of Recognition, advised that the gala is not likely to occur in March as planned but is hopeful that it can occur at a later date depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Update will be provided once available but, he asked that tickets be kept because they will be accepted when the gala occurs.

He further advised of the establishment of the White Family Foundation Scholarship and thanked the Foundation, especially the founding donor, Jerry White. He provided a history of Mr. White, including his involvement in hockey and his working career highlights. Mr. White was inducted in the Thorold Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. Tim Whalen noted that over the next 25 years the scholarship program will allow students to prepare to attain their goals in life. He advised that applications are available online at White Family Foundation – Thorold for any athletes believed to be deserving of the scholarship. The first two recipients, one male and one female, will be chosen in summer 2021. The deadline is the end of May.

9. **Civic Recognition**

None

10. **Presentations**

a Bill VanderKlippe, Thorold Housing Group

Bill VanderKlippe, Thorold Housing Group provided information through a PowerPoint presentation about the housing challenges in the community.

Councillor Handley inquired if the vacant City-owned property on St. David’s Road East could be used to create affordable housing. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that an Environmental Assessment would need to be conducted and an update to the current study about contamination and remediation.

Councillor Dekker inquired about the intent for the St. Charles Elementary School property after its closure. Mayor Ugulini responded that the land is not currently for sale. The Director of Finance advised that the municipality
would have first right of refusal for the property, however, School Boards traditionally dispose of property at market value.

11. **Motions for Council Support**

   a. City of Thorold

   MOVED BY: Councillor Neale  
   SECONDED BY: Councillor Kenny

   That a proposal from Rolling Meadows Development Co. (Glen Gordon) to establish a walking, cycling trail on Decew Road from Merrittville Highway to just past Faywell Road be referred to budget for discussion, be approved and supported.

   **CARRIED**

12. **Motion to Receive and File Minutes or Adopt Recommendations of Council, Committees, Boards**

   a. Minutes to Review for Information Purposes

   MOVED BY: Councillor DeRose  
   SECONDED BY: Councillor Handley

   That Council receive and file the minutes of the Committees of Council/Local Boards, as presented.

   1. Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee  
      Re: Minutes of December 10, 2020 Meeting

   2. Special Events Advisory Committee  
      Re: Minutes of November 19, 2020 Meeting

   3. Darlene Ryan Port Robinson Community Centre  
      Re: Minutes of February 10, 2020 Meeting

   4. Thorold Public Library Board  
      Re: Minutes of December 16, 2020 Meeting

   5. Committee of Adjustment  
      Re: Minutes of December 17, 2020 Meeting

   6. Active Transportation Advisory Committee  
      Re: Minutes of November 12, 2020 Meeting

   7. Town and Gown Committee  
      Re: Minutes of October 26, 2020 Meeting

   **CARRIED**
13. **Statement by Councillors**

1. Councillor Handley expressed concerns about the length of time it is taking MPAC to provide assessments for new homeowners on Turner Road. The Director of Finance advised she will follow up with MPAC.

14. **Delegations to Report**

None

15. **Consent Reports**

MOVED BY: Councillor Dekker  
SECONDED BY: Councillor Sentance

That Council approve the following consent reports.

a CC2021-03

1. That Council receive and file the items listed in City Clerk’s Report CC2021-03  
CARRIED

16. **Discussion Reports**

a PWCS2021-06

MOVED BY: Councillor Handley  
SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilson

That Council approve the removal of the ice in the Doherty Arena as outlined in this report.  
CARRIED

b CC2021-04

MOVED BY: Councillor DeRose  
SECONDED BY: Councillor Sentance

That Council appoint the following individual to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- Gloria Leahey  
CARRIED

c CC2021-05

MOVED BY: Councillor Sentance  
SECONDED BY: Councillor Kenny

1. That Thorold City Council establish a Road Safety Committee.
2. That the City Clerk be directed to advertise for four (4) at-large members to the Committee.

3. That Council appoint one Council Representative to the Committee.

4. That the Terms of Reference for the Committee be approved.  
   CARRIED

   MOVED BY: Councillor Kenny
   SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilson

   That Councillor DeRose be appointed as the Council Representative to the Active Transportation Committee.  
   CARRIED

   d CC2021-06

   MOVED BY: Councillor Neale
   SECONDED BY: Councillor Longo

   1. That staff be directed to submit a grant application under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Funding for Municipal Asset Management Plans (MAMP) for consideration of the following project:
      - Creation of an Asset Management Plan for Non-Core Infrastructure Assets

   2. That the attached resolution be adopted as required for the submission of the grant.  
      CARRIED

17. Notices of Motion

   Councillor Handley advised he will bring a motion to the February 16, 2021 meeting about the correspondence received from the Niagara Regional Police Services Board about Medical Cannabis Grow Operations and Public Safety Concerns.

   Mayor Ugulini advised he will bring a motion to the February 16, 2021 meeting about lowering of the flag at City Hall to mark the one year anniversary of COVID-19.

18. Closed Meeting

   MOVED BY: Councillor Neale
   SECONDED BY: Councillor Dekker
That Council resolve into a closed meeting session at 7:43 p.m. for the purpose of dealing with matters pertaining to

a Interim Director of Planning and Development Services Verbal Report (Advice Subject to Solicitor-Client Privilege)

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Councillor Longo
SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilson

That Council does now arise and reconvene from closed session at 8:16 p.m.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Councillor Dekker
SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilson

That the Verbal Report from Interim Director of Planning and Development Services be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

19. **By-laws**

a First Reading of By-laws

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilson
SECONDED BY: Councillor Longo

That leave be given to introduce the following By-law(s):

By-law 15-2021

Being a By-law to Exempt Block 156, Plan 59M-445 from Part Lot Control (37, 39, and 41 Lamb Crescent) – Hansler Heights Subdivision

By-law 17-2021

Being a Site Alteration By-law to Regulate the Removal, Placing or Dumping of Fill in the City of Thorold

By-law 18-2021

A by-law to confirm, adopt and ratify matters dealt with by Council resolution

And that the same now be read a first time.

CARRIED
b  Final Reading of By-laws
MOVED BY:  Councillor Wilson
SECONDED BY:  Councillor Longo

That the By-laws just read a first time be read a second and third time, and do pass, and that the Mayor and Clerk do sign and seal the same, any rule of this Council to the contrary notwithstanding.

CARRIED

20.  Adjournment
MOVED BY:  Councillor Kenny
SECONDED BY:  Councillor Neale

That this meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

CARRIED

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Terry Ugulini, Mayor              Donna Delvecchio, City Clerk