



**The Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
Regular Council Meeting Agenda**

Monday, October 21, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Land Acknowledgement**
- 3. Invocation**
- 4. Roll Call**
- 5. Announcements/Addenda**
- 6. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**
- 7. Notice of Upcoming Public Meetings and Open Houses**
 - 7.1 2025 Budget Meeting Schedule**

Council-in-Budget Committee Meetings:

 - Monday, November 25, 2024 - Capital Budget and Forecast;
 - Wednesday, December 4, 2024 - Water and Wastewater Operating Budget and User Fee Analysis
 - Wednesday, January 29, 2025 - Fort Erie Public Library, Assessment Analysis and General Levy Operating Budget;
 - Wednesday, February 5, 2025 (if required).

Budget By-laws:

 - Monday, December 2, 2024 - Preliminary Capital Budget; Monday, December 16, 2024 - Rates and User Fees;
 - Monday, February 24, 2025 - General Levy Budget and General Capital Budget.
 - 7.2 Public Meeting - 2649 Stevensville Road**

Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision - Owner - Howard Wood, Judith Lynn Wood, Susan Ward and the Estate of Margaret Plyley -

Agent - Upper Canada Consultants c/o Joe Tomaino - Monday, November 4, 2024 - 6:00 p.m. - Council Chambers, Town Hall. The information report will be available by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2024.

8. **Regional Councillor Report**

9. **Presentations and Delegations**

- 9.1 Presentation to Charlene A. Nigh
Re: Volunteer Recognition

10. **Public Meetings**

11. **Consent Agenda**

11.1

Minutes

- 11.1.1 Regular Council Meeting - September 23, 2024
11.1.2 Council-in-Committee Meeting - October 7, 2024

11.2 Correspondence

- 11.2.1 Proclamation - Positive Living Niagara - November 24 - December 1, 2024 - HIV/AIDS Awareness Week; December 1, 2024 - World AIDS Day; December 1-8, 2024 - Indigenous HIV/AIDS Awareness Week

Resolution:

That: Council proclaims November 24 - December 1, 2024 as "HIV/AIDS Awareness Week"; December 1, 2024 - "World AIDS Day" and December 1-8, 2024 - "Indigenous HIV/AIDS Awareness Week", and approves their flag be flown at Town Hall.

- 11.2.2 Receive and Support - Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) - SolvethetheCrisis.ca to Address Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions

11.3 Board/Committee Minutes

- 11.3.1 Receive - Community Gaming Development Corporation - June 26, 2024 and Annual General Meeting - June 23, 2023
11.3.2 Receive - Community Health Care Services Committee - September 24, 2024
11.3.3 Receive - Affordable Housing Advisory Committee - September 11, 2024
11.3.4 Receive - Crystal Beach Business Improvement Area Board of Management - September 11, 2024
11.3.5 Receive - Traffic Coordinating Minutes - September 18, 2024
11.3.6 Receive and Approve Recommendation - Accessibility Advisory Committee - September 24, 2024:

Resolution:

Whereas the Accessibility Advisory Committee has been made aware of many service concerns since Niagara Region Transit took over service provision in Fort Erie; and

Whereas there are no longer dedicated vehicles in Town to provide transit services, both OnDemand and Specialized; and

Whereas the service hours only allow booking until 10:00 p.m., rather than the advertised 11:00 p.m. like other areas in the Region; and

Whereas the Transit service provision does not seem to support the service needs of the community; and

Now therefore be it resolved,

That: Council be requested to invite the Niagara Region Transit and service provider, Voyago, to attend a future Council meeting to explain:

- the service provisions for Fort Erie including:
 - how many spots per day are available to be booked in Fort Erie and if this is a fixed number; and
 - how bookings in general are allocated; and
 - how many vehicles are available for OnDemand and Specialized and if there is a fixed number for Fort Erie,
- performance standards and policies for abandoned ridership;
- complaints received specific to Fort Erie riders and how they have been addressed;
- ridership numbers for Fort Erie including the number of bookings that were attempted but no rides were available;
- and address concerns shared by the Accessibility Advisory Committee related to dedicated vehicles, booking times and hours of service.

12. Reports

13. New Business/Enquiries

- 13.1 Attendance - Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference - January 19-21, 2025

Resolution:

That: In accordance with the requirements of the Expense Allowance Policy By-law 142-06, as amended, Council authorizes Councillor George McDermott and Councillor Joan Christensen to attend the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference on January 19-21, 2025 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto, Ontario.

14. Closed Session

14.1 Closed Meeting Minutes - October 7, 2024

14.2 Community Gaming Development Corporation Appointment

(Deferred from the September 23, 2024 Council Meeting and the October 7, 2024 Council-in-Committee Meeting)

Pursuant to Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act, 2001, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

14.3 Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Appointment

Pursuant to Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act, 2001, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

14.4 Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Appointments

Pursuant to Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act, 2001, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

14.5 214 Windmill Point Road South (Report PDS-67-2024)

Pursuant to Section 239 (2) (e) of the Municipal Act, 2001, litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local board

15. Back to Open Session

16. Motions

16.1 Councillor Dubanow

Re: Establish an Assistance Program for Residents Dealing with Rodent Control

Resolution:

That: Council directs staff to prepare a report on the implementation and budgetary impacts of a Rodent Control Rebate program for property owners in the Town of Fort Erie as outlined in the memo presented to council on September 18, 2023.

16.2 Mayor Redekop

Re: Request Provincial Funding Currently Provided for the Operation of the Fort Erie Urgent Care Center, including Palliative Care Services, remain available to Support Fort Erie's Primary Care Initiative

Resolution:

Whereas the Douglas Memorial Hospital was built primarily with funds left by the estate of William Douglas on his death in 1929; and

Whereas the Douglas Memorial Hospital ("the Hospital") opened for operation in 1931; and

Whereas the Hospital operated in the black during all of its years of operation (1931-

1998) as a full-service hospital under the management and guidance of its own Board of Trustees; and

Whereas the Health Services Restructuring Commission (“HSRC”) recommended in 1998 that Douglas Memorial continue operation as a hospital within the new Niagara Health System (“NHS”), with acute and chronic care beds, emergency and ambulatory services and a range of diagnostics; and

Whereas despite the creation of a standing committee of the NHS Board for Fort Erie, pursuant to recommendation of the HSRC, to assure local input into Board decision making and that no decision to eliminate any inpatient or emergency services would be made unless approved by such standing committee, the NHS embarked on a systematic reduction or elimination of various services at the Hospital until the adoption by the NHS of its “Hospital Improvement Plan” (“HIP”) in 2008; and

Whereas pursuant to the HIP the NHS eliminated emergency and all other health care services at the Hospital in 2009, with the exception of a 24-hour Urgent Care Centre (“UCC”), chronic care beds, palliative care beds and some diagnostics, without the approval of the Hospital standing committee; and

Whereas in July 2023 Niagara Health (“NH”), as it is now designated, reduced the hours of operation of the Hospital UCC to 12 hours, although the public only has access to the UCC from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily; and

Whereas NH has recently adopted a 3 hospital model for the future of hospital services in Niagara that intends to completely close the Hospital, resulting in no urgent, chronic or palliative or diagnostic services in Fort Erie once the new South Niagara Hospital is opened in or about 2028; and

Whereas the most recent population data available indicates that Fort Erie’s current population is 36,200, far greater than projected during deliberations with respect to Niagara Region’s new Official Plan, adopted in July 2022; and

Whereas the Niagara Region’s population is growing at a rate far greater than anticipated by the Province or NH, particularly when projections were being made for the hospital needs of South Niagara when planning for the new South Niagara Hospital; and

Whereas there are over 7,000 Fort Erie residents unattached to a primary care physician, necessitating a primary care “safety net”, such as a UCC or alternative to avoid first point of health care contact at local emergency departments; and

Whereas the UCC at Douglas Memorial forms that primary health care “safety net” in the absence of sufficient primary care physicians or service providers in Fort Erie; and

Whereas the removal of UCC services, chronic care beds, palliative care beds and diagnostics from the Hospital will result in an unreasonable and unnecessary hardship for current and future residents of Fort Erie and will foreclose the use of the Hospital as a safety valve for NH patients anywhere in Niagara in the event the new South Niagara Hospital is unable to meet the demands that the increasing

population of Niagara will place on it; and

Whereas a prudent approach to managing the hospital and health care needs of Niagara, particularly South Niagara and Fort Erie, would recognize the value of retaining a fully-operational UCC, with diagnostics and clinics, as well as chronic care and palliative care beds at the Hospital; and

Whereas there is no indication that NH has any intention of changing course on its 3 hospital model for Niagara despite requests by the Town of Fort Erie to continue the services available at the Hospital; and

Whereas the residents of Fort Erie need and deserve equitable primary health care services, including 24-hour Urgent Care and associated services;

Now therefore be it resolved,

1. **That** the Council for the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Minister of Health commit to funding all necessary services at the new South Niagara hospital without the removal or reallocation of operational funding from the Douglas Memorial for the UCC and other current health services, and further
2. **That** the Council for the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Minister of Health direct any and all funding from the Province of Ontario for the operation of the UCC (primary care), chronic care beds and palliative care beds, and all diagnostic and associated services at Douglas Memorial remain in Fort Erie for use by Niagara Health as part of a revised hospital model for Niagara or an alternative model operated by a qualified designated health care services entity working in collaboration with the Town of Fort Erie should NH close Douglas Memorial as a hospital site, either before or following the completion and opening of the new South Niagara Hospital, and further
3. **That:** the Mayor and Town of Fort Erie staff enter into discussions with the Minister of Health and Niagara Health and such other health care providers as deemed appropriate to ensure the continued operation of primary care and other current services at Douglas Memorial, with or without the involvement of NH, and further
4. **That:** the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Ford, be requested to support this initiative, and further
5. **That:** a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Ford; the Ontario Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; the Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Justin Trudeau; the federal Minister of Health, Mark Holland; the four MPPs and MPs who represent Niagara; the Niagara Region and the other 11 local area municipalities in Niagara for support.

17. **Notice of Motion**

18. **Consideration of By-laws**

18.1 102-2024

- To Amend Business Licensing By-law 217-05, as amended (Short-Term Rentals)
- 18.2 103-2024
 - To Authorize the Entry into a Development Agreement with Niagara Pines Developments Ltd. (Paul Savoia) – 92 Adelaide Street
- 18.3 104-2024
 - To Accept and Declare Lands as Public Highway – Nigh Road and Burleigh Road (3404 Nigh Road - Joshua Mackenzie)
- 18.4 105-2024
 - To Accept and Declare Land as Public Highway – Hazel Street and Prospect Point Road North (3624 Hazel Street – S.R. Niagara Investments Inc. (Salvatore and Rita Visca))
- 18.5 106-2024
 - To Accept and Declare Lands as Public Highway – Rebstock Road (3967 Rebstock Road – Amanda and Thomas Hamilton)
- 18.6 107-2024
 - To Designate 168 High Street as Being of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
- 18.7 108-2024
 - To Designate 400 Holloway Bay Road South as Being of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
- 18.8 109-2024
 - To Designate 45 Princess Street as Being of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
- 18.9 110-2024
 - To Designate 487 Niagara Boulevard as Being of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
- 18.10 111-2024
 - To Amend Zoning By-law 129-90, as amended 576 Ridge Road North (Block 50)
- 18.11 112-2024
 - To Enact an Amendment to the Official Plan Adopted by By-law 150-06 for the Town of Fort Erie Planning Area - Amendment 85 - 576 Ridge Road North, Fort Erie- 2846300 Ontario Inc. (Bryce Ivanchuk) – Owner
- 18.12 113-2024
 - To Confirm the Actions of Council at its Council-in-Committee Meeting Held on October 7, 2024 and its Council Meeting Held on October 21, 2024

19. Scheduling of Meetings

20. Adjournment