



# The Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie

## Special Council Meeting Minutes

**Monday, June 5, 2023**

### **Council Chambers**

Meetings are being held in-person and via Video Teleconference as may be permitted. All meetings can be viewed at: Town's Website:

<https://www.forterie.ca/pages/CouncilAgendasandMinutes>

Town's YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/townofforterie](http://www.youtube.com/townofforterie)

or click on the YouTube icon on the home page of the Town's website ([www.forterie.ca](http://www.forterie.ca)) or Cogeco "YourTV"

#### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Redekop called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Present: His Worship Mayor Redekop and Councillors Christensen, Dubanow, Flagg, Lewis, McDermott, Noyes

Staff: A. Carter, C. McQueen, C. Patton, A. Preston

#### **3. Announcements/Addenda**

There was one addendum which revised Item No. 6 Motion (a) to include the following:

**That:** Council directs the Chief Administrative Officer to develop options for Council and the Community Health Services Committee to consider, on or before its July 24th Regular Council meeting for creation of the business plan, that would include identifying resources and funding required, to meet the immediate and long-term health care needs of residents of Fort Erie, and further

"Niagara Health Coalition" be added to the list of individuals to be circulated the resolution.

#### **4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

## 5. New Business

- (a) Niagara Health Media Release - Keeping Niagara Health's Emergency Departments Open

Resolution No. 1

Moved by: Councillor Christensen

Seconded by: Councillor Flagg

**That:** Council receives correspondence from Niagara Health dated May 31, 2023 regarding "Keeping Niagara Health's Emergency Departments Open" for information purposes.

**(Carried)**

- (b) Town of Fort Erie Media Release - Official Statement Regarding Urgent Care Services in Fort Erie and Port Colborne

- (c) City of Port Colborne - Reducing Hours at Port Colborne and Fort Erie Urgent Care Centres

Resolution No. 2

Moved by: Councillor Noyes

Seconded by: Councillor Dubanow

**That:** Council receives correspondence from the City of Port Colborne, dated May 31, 2023 regarding the reduction of hours at Port Colborne and Fort Erie Urgent Care Centres.

**(Carried)**

## 6. Motion

- (a) Maintenance of Fort Erie Urgent Care Centre Hours of Operation

Resolution No. 3

Moved by: Councillor McDermott

Seconded by: Councillor Noyes

**Whereas** the Town of Fort Erie has experienced continuously reduced hospital services since the Provincial Government implemented the Hospital Restructuring Plan in 1998; and

**Whereas** on May 31, 2023, Niagara Health announced that they are reducing the hours of operation for the Fort Erie and Port Colborne Urgent Care Centres by half as of July 5, 2023;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved,**

**That:** The Council of the Town of Fort Erie calls on Niagara Health to reverse its decision to reduce hours at the Fort Erie Urgent Care Centre effective July 5, 2023, and ensure a continuation of full-service hours, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; and further

**That:** The Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that Niagara Health work with the Town of Fort Erie to secure the necessary human resources and funding required to permit Niagara Health to continue operation of the Fort Erie Urgent Care Centre on a full-time basis; and further

**That:** The Council of the Town of Fort Erie calls on the provincial government to work with Fort Erie and Niagara Health to facilitate the creation of a provincially funded health team for Fort Erie, either stand-alone or in conjunction with the City of Port Colborne, to meet the immediate and long-term primary, urgent and associated health care needs of our residents; and further

**That:** The Council of the Town of Fort Erie calls on the provincial and federal governments to immediately take all steps necessary to alleviate the chronic staffing shortages experienced in our hospitals and health care systems, including implementing streamlined processes to permit individuals qualified to practice as doctors, nurses and other health professionals in other countries to practice their profession in Canada; and further

**That:** Council directs the Chief Administrative Officer to develop options for Council and the Community Health Services Committee to consider, on or before its July 24th Regular Council meeting for creation of the business plan, that would include identifying resources and funding required, to meet the immediate and long-term health care needs of residents of Fort Erie; and further

**That:** Staff deliver a copy of this resolution to Ontario Premier, Doug Ford; Ontario Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; President and CEO of Niagara Health, Lynn Guerriero; the Board of Directors of Niagara Health; Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau; Minister of Health for Canada, Jean-Yves Duclos; Mayor of Port Colborne, Bill Steele; Region of Niagara Chair, Jim Bradley; Niagara Regional Councillors; MPP Wayne Gates and all other Niagara Members of Provincial Parliament; Members of Parliament for Canada, Tony Baldinelli and Vance Badawey, and all other Niagara Members of Parliament;

Executive Director of the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, Jennifer Dockstader; Executive Director of the Niagara Chapter of Native Women, Wendy Sturgeon; members of Fort Erie's Community Health Care Services Committee, Niagara Health Coalition; and all municipalities in Niagara for their consideration and support. **(Carried)**

## 7. Consideration of By-laws

Resolution No. 4

Moved by: Councillor Flagg

Seconded by: Councillor Christensen

**That:** By-law No. 97-2023: To Confirm the Actions of Council at its Special Council Meeting Held on June 5, 2023 is given first and second reading. **(Carried)**

Resolution No. 5

Moved by: Councillor Lewis

Seconded by: Councillor Christensen

**That:** By-law No. 97-2023 is given third and final reading to be signed by the Mayor and Clerk under the corporate seal. **(Carried)**

## 8. Adjournment

Resolution No. 6

Moved by: Councillor Dubanow

Seconded by: Councillor Noyes

**That:** Council adjourns at 6:33 p.m. to reconvene into a Regular Meeting of Council on June 26, 2023. **(Carried)**

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Mayor

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Deputy Clerk