



---

**March 26, 2024, 4:30 p.m.**

Council Members Present: Councillor Tim Balasiuk, Councillor Gary Burroughs, Councillor Wendy Cheropita, Councillor Maria Mavridis (4:42 p.m.), Councillor Sandra O'Connor, Councillor Nick Ruller (5:32 p.m.) Councillor Adriana Vizzari, Councillor Erwin Wiens, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

Staff Present: Shaunna Arenburg - Deputy Clerk, Kirsten McCauley - Director of Community and Development Services, Jay Plato - Fire Chief, Kyle Freeborn - Director of Corporate Services/ Treasurer, Grant Bivol - Town Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Bruce Zvaniga, CAO (Interim)

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Lord Mayor Zalepa called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by: Councillor Sandra O'Connor  
Seconded by: Councillor Gary Burroughs

That item 6.3 - Councillor O'Connor - Tourism NOTL Motion be moved to be discussed with item 5 - Presentations.

**APPROVED**

Moved by: Councillor Sandra O'Connor  
Seconded by: Councillor Gary Burroughs

That the agenda be adopted as amended

**APPROVED**

**3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

#### **4. BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES**

##### **4.1 Budget Review Committee - February 29, 2024**

Moved by: Councillor Gary Burroughs

Seconded by: Councillor Tim Balasiuk

That the Budget Review Committee - February 29, 2024 minutes be received.

**APPROVED**

#### **5. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **5.1 Minerva Ward, President & CEO, Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce & Tourism NOTL - 2024 Budget Request Update**

Minerva Ward, President & CEO, Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce & Tourism NOTL presented the updated 2024 Budget Requests for the Chamber of Commerce.

Council asked Ms. Ward questions of clarity.

Councillor Mavridis arrived at 4:42 p.m.

Item 6.3 -Councillor O'Connor - Tourism NOTL Motion - was moved up for discussion during the adoption of the agenda.

Council discussed the motion.

Councillor Maria Mavridis joined the meeting at 4:42 pm.

Moved by: Councillor Erwin Wiens

Seconded by: Councillor Maria Mavridis

That the second phrase - *further that money from parking otherwise allocated to Tourism NOTL be applied to the reduction of the operating budget* from the original motion be deleted

Councillor Burroughs requested a recorded vote.

Yea (5): Councillor Tim Balasiuk, Councillor Maria Mavridis, Councillor Adriana Vizzari, Councillor Erwin Wiens, and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

Nay (3): Councillor Gary Burroughs, Councillor Wendy Cheropita, and Councillor Sandra O'Connor

Absent (1): Councillor Nick Ruller

**APPROVED (5 to 3)**

Moved by: Councillor Sandra O'Connor  
Seconded by: Councillor Maria Mavridis

That the Town does not fund Tourism NOTL because they receive 50% MAT for such activities; ~~and~~  
~~Further that money from parking otherwise allocated to Tourism NOTL be applied to the reduction of the operating budget.~~

**APPROVED**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**6.1 2024 Proposed Operating Budget - CS-24-001**

Council discussed and asked questions about the report.

Director Freeborn confirmed the increase is currently at 6.75%.

Moved by: Councillor Gary Burroughs  
Seconded by: Councillor Erwin Wiens

That:

1. Council approves the 2024 Operating budget as noted in "Appendix I," attached to this report, which includes an operating levy of \$16,111,963 and a Special Area Levy for Storm Water of \$961,600, be approved and;
2. The Clerk prepare the necessary by-law to set and levy the tax rates for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake purposes, for Niagara Region purposes, and for Educational purposes for the 2024 tax year after budgets are approved.

**APPROVED**

**6.2 2024 Water and Wastewater Rates - CS-24-002**

Council discussed and asked questions about the report.

Councillor Vizzari left the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Councillor Ruller arrived at 5:32 p.m.

Moved by: Councillor Erwin Wiens  
 Seconded by: Councillor Tim Balasiuk

That:

1. Council approve the proposed 10.8% increase to the 2024 water fixed and variable rate;
2. Council approve the proposed 12% increase to the 2024 wastewater fixed and variable rate, and
3. The proposed variable rate of \$1.7086 per m3 for water (\$1.5421 per m3 in 2023) and the proposed variable rate of \$1.5646 per m3 (\$1.3970 per m3 in 2023) for wastewater be approved.
4. The fixed rates for both water and wastewater as set out in the below table be approved:

<b>Fixed Charge Per Month</b>				
<b>Meter Size</b>	<b>Water (10.8% Increase)</b>		<b>Waste Water (12% Increase)</b>	
	2023	<b>2024</b>	2023	<b>2024</b>
Up to 3/4"	25.25	<b>27.98</b>	29.9	<b>33.49</b>
1"	35.38	<b>39.20</b>	41.86	<b>46.88</b>
1.5"	45.48	<b>50.39</b>	53.82	<b>60.28</b>
2"	73.27	<b>81.18</b>	85.47	<b>95.73</b>
3"	277.93	<b>307.95</b>	328.87	<b>368.33</b>
4"	353.72	<b>391.92</b>	418.58	<b>468.81</b>
6"	530.57	<b>587.87</b>	627.86	<b>703.20</b>
8"	732.70	<b>811.83</b>	867.05	<b>971.10</b>
12"	1010.62	<b>1119.77</b>	1195.93	<b>1339.44</b>

5. Council direct Staff to provide notice to the public of the revised rates;

6. The proposed variable and fixed rates for water and wastewater become effective on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024; and
7. The necessary by-law(s) be amended to reflect the water and wastewater rates as presented in this report.

**APPROVED**

**6.3 Councillor O'Connor - Tourism NOTL Motion**

This item was moved to be discussed with item 5 under adoption of the agenda.

**7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**7.1 Staff Memo re: CIB irrigation funding**

Council discussed and asked questions about the memo.

Moved by: Councillor Maria Mavridis

Seconded by: Councillor Erwin Wiens

That item 7.1 - Staff Memo re: CIB irrigation funding be received.

**APPROVED**

**8. BY-LAWS**

**8.1 By-law 2024-017 - Water Waste-Water Rates**

**8.2 By-law 2024-018 - Council Proceedings March 26, 2024**

Moved by: Councillor Erwin Wiens

Seconded by: Councillor Maria Mavridis

That leave be given to introduce By-laws: By-law 2024-017 and 2024-018 and that the same be considered read a first, second and third time and passed this 26th day of March 2024.

**APPROVED**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

Councillor O'Connor advised that she will be closely examining the Chamber of Commerce budget requests next year and how they relate to their mandate.

Councillor Cheropita put forth a motion to raise Council salaries to \$20,000.00 a year.

Lord Mayor Zalepa ruled Councillor Cheropita's motion out of order.

Councillor Cheropita put forward a notice of motion on Council salary.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Councillor Maria Mavridis

Seconded by: Councillor Sandra O'Connor

That this Council adjourn at 5:47 p.m. to the next regular Council meeting of March 26, 2024 and if a special meeting is required, it will be held at the call of the Lord Mayor.

**APPROVED**