

The "TWENTY SECOND MEETING" (SPECIAL) of the Port Colborne City Council was held at the Municipal Offices, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne on Wednesday, July 3, 2013 commencing at approximately 6:11 p.m.

## ATTENDANCE

Mayor Vance Badawey presided with the following members in attendance:

## COUNCILLORS

A. Desmarais	W. Steele
F. Danch (arrived at 6:13 p.m.)	Y. Doucet
R. Bodner	B. Kenny
	B. Butters

Absent: D. Elliott

## STAFF

R. Heil, Chief Administrative Officer  
P. Senese, Director of Community & Corporate Services  
A. Grigg, City Clerk  
D. D'Innocenzo, Recording Clerk

No other persons were in attendance.

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER – MAYOR VANCE BADAWEY**

### **1. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA**

**No. 163** Moved by Councillor B. Butters  
Seconded by Councillor B. Kenny

That the agenda of the Special Meeting of Council of July 3, 2013 be confirmed as circulated.  
CARRIED.

### **2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Nil.

### **3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **1. Department of Community & Corporate Services, Clerk's Division, Report No. 2013-15, Subject: Review of Ward and At-Large Electoral Systems and Council Composition**

The above referenced report presented the following options for Council's consideration:

#### **Electoral System:**

##### **Option 1 – Dissolution of Wards in Favour of an At-Large System:**

That a by-law be submitted to Council to dissolve the existing wards in accordance with Section 222 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* in order to move to an at-large election system beginning with the 2014 Municipal Election following public notice and public consultation; **OR**

##### **Option 2 – Ward Boundary Review:**

That the City Clerk be directed to initiate the process of conducting a Ward Boundary Review and report back concerning the issuance of an RFP for professional services, legislative parameters and administrative requirements; **OR**

**Option 3 – Combination of Ward and At-Large System:**

That the City Clerk be directed to initiate the process of implementing a Combination Ward and At-Large System and report back concerning the issuance of an RFP for professional services legislative parameters and administrative requirements; **OR**

**Option 4 - Question on the Ballot:**

That a question be included on the ballot for the 2014 Municipal Election concerning the dissolution of the City's Wards in favour of an At-Large electoral system, and that the City Clerk be directed to report back respecting legislative requirements and recommended wording of the question; **OR**

**Option 5 - Re-establishment of the Committee to Review Electoral Matters:**

That the Committee to Review Electoral Matters be re-established with the purpose of purpose undertaking a review and reporting back to Council concerning Ward versus At-Large electoral systems; and

That the City Clerk be directed to report back with regard to the process for the re-establishment of said Committee; **OR**

**Option 6 - Status Quo (Maintain the Current Ward System):**

That Community and Corporate Services, Clerk's Division Report 2013-15 be received for information and that the City's current electoral system be maintained.

**Council Composition:**

**Option 1 – Change in Council Composition**

That a by-law be submitted to Council to change the current composition of council to a total number of \_\_\_\_\_ members (including the Mayor), in accordance with Section 217 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, following public notice and public consultation; **OR**

**Option 2 - Question on the Ballot:**

That a question be included on the ballot for the 2014 Municipal Election concerning change the current composition of council to a total number of \_\_\_\_\_ members (including the Mayor), and that the City Clerk be directed to report back respecting legislative requirements and recommended wording of the question; **OR**

**Option 3 - Re-establishment of the Committee to Review Electoral Matters:**

That the Committee to Review Electoral Matters be re-established with the purpose of purpose undertaking a review and reporting back to Council concerning Council composition; and

That the City Clerk be directed to report back with regard to the process for the re-establishment of said Committee; **OR**

**Option 4 - Status Quo (Maintain Current Council Composition):**

That Community and Corporate Services, Clerk's Division Report 2013-15 be received for information and that the current composition of City Council be maintained.

Council engaged in discussion and made enquiries of staff. Highlights of the discussion are as follows:

Councillor Steele stated that a discrepancy in population exists between Wards One and Three and expressed the desire to review the boundaries

of these Wards. Councillor Steele advised that the boundaries of Wards One and Three were considered for adjustment in the past.

Councillor Butters questioned whether a ward boundary review warrants the issuance of a Request for Proposals and noted that professional services were not required when the boundaries of Wards Two and Four were adjusted in 2009.

Councillor Kenny recommended that a committee be mandated to review the City's electoral system and Council composition and to report back with a recommendation.

Councillor Doucet suggested that a ward boundary review could be undertaken internally, as was carried out for Wards Two and Four.

Mayor Badawey enquired whether members of Council desired a change and suggested that ward boundaries should be reviewed annually. The Mayor indicated his support for reviewing the size of Council and an at-large electoral system.

Councillor Doucet noted that a reduction in the size of Council may be warranted if it results in financial savings, however expressed concern about a negative impact on the provision of services to residents. Councillor Doucet expressed concern regarding an at-large electoral system and stated it would require all candidates to run a mayor-type election and some candidates may not be able to financially afford it.

Councillor Desmarais expressed support for reviewing ward boundaries. Councillor Desmarais advised that several residents in her ward are not in favour of an at-large system and that they prefer the representation provided with the ward system and the preservation of the community identities of each Ward. Councillor Desmarais expressed concern regarding vote plunking under an at-large electoral system. Councillor Desmarais advised of her support for the establishment of a committee and the option to place a question on the ballot.

Councillor Kenny suggested establishing six wards with a reduction in Council composition to have six Councillors, with one Councillor representing each ward. Councillor Kenny expressed support for putting a question on the ballot and for establishing a committee.

Councillor Bodner stated that if a question is put on the ballot education will be of importance so that members of the public can make an informed decision. Councillor Bodner stated that under a ward system each Councillor can represent the unique issues impacting their ward. Councillor Bodner stated that each of the City's Wards has a unique identity and that an at-large system would eliminate the ability for some candidates to run for election. Councillor Bodner informed that a reduction in Council size would warrant a review of remuneration.

Councillor Butters advised that residents do not see the need for a change. Councillor Butters stated that the ward system is an inclusive method and that the at-large system is exclusive because it excludes those without the financial means to run for election. Councillor Butters stated that Council functions well in its present form and expressed support for reviewing the boundaries of Wards One and Three, and the options to establish a committee and to put a question on the ballot.

Councillor Danch expressed support to maintain the status quo and stated that Councillors represent the interests of residents within and outside of their Wards. Councillor Danch advised that he is not in favour of a change or for putting a question on the ballot.

Councillor Steele recommended that the Councillors of Wards One and Three could meet to review the boundaries of Wards One and Three, which is where the largest population discrepancy exists.

The City Clerk informed that the Ontario Municipal Board provides that as much as is possible the total population in each ward should not be greater or less than twenty-five percent of the average population per ward. The Clerk informed that Ward Three is the only Ward outside this threshold, falling outside the acceptable variance by 22.06 people. The Clerk informed that the Ward Councillors can undertake a review of Wards One and Three, however due to the legislative timeline it is possible that the process may not be complete in time for changes to be in effect for the 2014 municipal election.

Mayor Badawey noted that a review of Wards One and Three may prompt a review of the other Wards, particularly if trying to achieve representation by population.

**No. 164** Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais  
Seconded by Councillor Y. Doucet

That Community and Corporate Services, Clerk's Division Report 2013-15 be received for information and that the City's current electoral system and the current composition of City Council be maintained; and

That the Councillors of Wards One and Three meet to review the population and boundaries of Wards One and Three for the purpose of considering the need for a ward boundary adjustment between these Wards.

CARRIED.

#### 4. **CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW**

**No. 165** Moved by Councillor B. Kenny  
Seconded by Councillor B. Butters

That the following by-law be read a first, second and third time and passed:

- 5978/84/13 Being a By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne at its Special Meeting of July 3, 2013

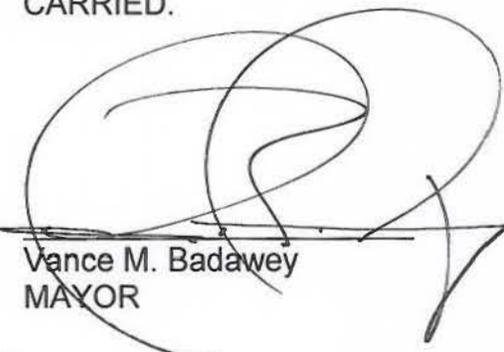
CARRIED.

#### 5. **ADJOURN**

**No. 166** Moved by Councillor B. Butters  
Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That there be no further business, the special meeting of Council be adjourned at approximately 6:59 p.m.

CARRIED.



Vance M. Badawey  
MAYOR



Ashley Grigg  
CITY CLERK