



The Municipal Corporation of the
Town of Fort Erie

Special Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 8, 2021

Council Chambers via Video Teleconference

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic all Meetings are being held via a Hybrid Model. All meetings can be viewed at: Town's Website:

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

Town's YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/townofforterie

or click on the YouTube icon on the home page of the Town's website (www.forterie.ca) or Cogeco TV

1. Call to Order

Mayor Redekop called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Mayor Redekop acknowledged the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the New Credit, and Anishinaabe people, many of whom continue to reside in this area.

2. Roll Call

Present (In Council Chambers): His Worship Mayor Redekop, Councillors Dubanow, Lubberts, McDermott, and Noyes

Present (Via Zoom Teleconference): Councillors Butler, and Zanko

Staff (In Council Chambers): K. Davis, T. Kuchyt, C. Schofield, J. Tessmer

Staff (Via Zoom Teleconference): A. Butler, J. Janzen, E. Melanson and K. Walsh

This meeting was held in compliance with the electronic participation provisions of Council Rules of Procedure By-law No. 36-2016, as amended.

3. Announcements/Addenda

None.

4. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

5. **Correspondence**

- (a) Receive & Support - City of Niagara Falls - Request Federal Government to Remove COVID-19 Testing at Land Border Crossings for Fully Vaccinated Travellers.

Resolution No. 1

Moved by: Councillor McDermott

Seconded by: Councillor Dubanow

That: Council receives and supports correspondence from the City of Niagara Falls requesting the Federal Government to remove COVID-19 testing at land border crossings for fully vaccinated travellers.

Resolution No. 1A

Moved by: Councillor McDermott

Seconded by: Councillor Dubanow

That: The correspondence be postponed to the November 22, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. **(Carried)**

6. **Motions**

- (a) Councillor Dubanow

Re: COVID-19 Testing - Land Border Crossings

Resolution No. 2

Moved by: Councillor Dubanow

Seconded by: Councillor McDermott

Whereas the Canada-United States border along the Niagara Frontier forms an integrated binational community bound by families, friends and economic growth and prosperity that was detrimentally impacted by its unprecedented closure during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

Whereas the United States has announced that they will open their land border with Canada to non-essential discretionary traffic on November 8th 2021, after Canada opened theirs on August 9th 2021, and

Whereas the United States will require travelers over eighteen years of age to be fully vaccinated from COVID-19 with no pre-arrival testing, and

Whereas entry to Canada from the United States at the land border currently requires proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test (including, but not necessarily limited to, a PCR test) within 72 hours of the date of entry in addition to vaccination for all individuals aged twelve and older, regardless of whether that test was obtained in Canada or the United States, and

Whereas access and costs of molecular testing (including PCR) is a significant barrier to the flow of individuals across the Canada-United States border, preventing economic recovery and family unification, and

Whereas there remain businesses in Fort Erie that rely on cross-border visitors from the United States that are still closed due to this testing barrier, despite otherwise being permitted to operate at full pre-pandemic capacity under provincial public health regulations with proof of vaccination alone and no further testing requirements, and

Whereas with COVID-19 vaccination offering protection to residents in both countries and being readily available, it is desirable to proceed with normalizing the movement of people and goods across the Canada-US land border;

Now therefore be it resolved,

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Canadian Federal Government discontinue the requirement for pre-arrival molecular testing at land ports of entry along the Canada-US border, and further

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie continues to extend their appreciation to all officials in both Canada and the United States who were involved in the efforts to reunify our binational community, and further

That: This resolution be circulated to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety, The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health (Canada), Tony Baldinelli, Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls, all Members of Parliament representing constituencies located along the

Canada-US border, and all Canadian municipalities located along the Canada-US border.

Resolution No. 2A

Moved by: Councillor Dubanow

Seconded by: Councillor McDermott

That: This motion be postponed to the November 22, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. **(Carried)**

7. Consideration of By-laws

Resolution No. 3

Moved by: Councillor Noyes

Seconded by: Councillor Dubanow

That: By-law No. 138-2021: To Authorize the Entry into a Transfer Payment Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the Municipal Modernization Intake 2 Program (Town of Fort Erie Permits, Planning and Business Processes Integration Program) is given first and second reading. **(Carried)**

Resolution No. 4

Moved by: Councillor Dubanow

Seconded by Councillor Noyes

That: By-law No. 138-2021 is given third and final reading to be signed by the Mayor and Clerk under the corporate seal. **(Carried)**

Resolution No. 5

Moved by: Councillor Butler

Seconded by: Councillor Zanko

That: By-law No. 139-2021: To Confirm the Actions of Council at its Special Council Meeting Held on November 8, 2021 is given first and second reading.

Resolution No. 6

Moved by: Councillor Lubberts

Seconded by: Councillor McDermott

That: By-law No. 139-2021 is given third and final reading to be signed by the Mayor and Clerk under the corporate seal. **(Carried)**

8. Adjournment

Resolution No. 7

Moved by: Councillor Dubanow

Seconded by: Councillor Noyes

That: Council adjourns at 5:46 p.m. to reconvene into a Regular Meeting of Council on November 22, 2021. **(Carried)**

Mayor

Clerk