



**CITY OF  
Welland**

**MINUTES OF THE**

**MARCH 10, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING**

**CIVIC SQUARE, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
60 EAST MAIN STREET**

Council met in Committee-of-the-Whole closed to the public at 6:02 p.m. and in open session at 7:02 p.m. on the above date.

His Worship Mayor Frank Campion in the Chair.

**Members Present:**

Councillors J. Chiochio, T. DiMarco (virtual at 7:02 p.m.), B. Fokkens, B. Green, M.A. Grimaldi (virtual), J. Lee, D. McLeod, A. Moote, C. Richard, S. Setaram, G. Speck (6:04 p.m.), and L. Van Vliet.

**Members of Staff and Others Present:**

Chief Administrative Officer, J. Ruddell

Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk, T. Stephens

Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy City Clerk, S. Conidi

Director of Community Services, J. McPetrie

General Manager of Corporate & Enterprise Services/CFO, S. Nagel

Acting Fire Chief, M. Richardson

Director of Infrastructure Services, SM. Millar

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development, L. DeChellis

Chief Communications & Public Engagement Manager, M. MacDonald (7:02 p.m.)

City Treasurer, M. Steele

Manager of Planning, M. Greenlee (7:02 p.m.)

Network Analyst, M. Van Helvert (7:02 p.m.)

Supervisor of Parking & By-law Enforcement, J. Cronshaw (7:02 p.m.)

**2026 - 37**

**26-25** Moved by Fokkens and McLeod

THAT Council meet, with the Mayor as Chair, in Committee-of-the-Whole closed to the public at 6:02 p.m. to consider:

- personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and
  - Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Attendance and Membership Review.
  - Citizen appointment to the Welland Arenas Advisory Committee.
- a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization:
  - Grant Funding Agreement Authorization.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 38**

**26-25** Moved by Richard and Lee

THAT Council arise from its closed Committee-of-the-Whole meeting at 6:52 p.m. with report.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 39**

**26-1** Moved by Setaram and Moote

THAT Council hereby approves and adopts the minutes of the Regular Council Meetings of February 10, 17, 2026 and Special Council Meeting of February 24, 2026, as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 40**

**26-41** Moved by Chiocchio and Speck

THAT Council waives the rules to bring a time sensitive subject public meeting regarding governance in the region.

**YEAS:** Mayor Campion, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Fokkens, Green, Grimaldi, Lee, McLeod, Moote, Richard, Setaram and Speck.

**NAYS:** Van Vliet.

**CARRIED  
2/3 MAJORITY**

**26-41** Moved by Chiocchio and Green  
 Municipalities across Niagara have been holding public discussions regarding governance and potential amalgamation. This is an important issue that could impact residents across our region. To date, our community has not had the opportunity to speak on it, I believe Welland residents deserves the chance to hear information and provide input.

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**26-41** Moved by Green and McLeod  
 THAT Welland host a public meeting at the March 24 General Committee Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**FOLLOWING THE VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT, THE MAIN MOTION WAS PUT AS AMENDED AND.....**

**YEAS:** Mayor Champion, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Fokkens, Green, Grimaldi, Lee, McLeod, Moote, Richard, Setaram, Speck and Van Vliet.

**NAYS:** None.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 41**

**99-99** Moved by Green and Van Vliet (in block)  
 THAT Council directs staff to present the following recommendation in open session for Council consideration:

THAT Council authorizes staff to execute a funding agreement enabling the City to formally accept grant funding to offset detailed design costs for the Civic Square Plaza Revitalization project and reduce the overall municipal contribution; and further  
 THAT Council approves the reallocation of previously approved capital funds - made available as a result of the Civic Square Revitalization funding agreement - to the St. George Park Wetland Project to replace the unsuccessful grant application to the Wetland Conservation Partnership Program, ensuring both projects proceed as planned.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 42**

**05-51** Moved by Chiocchio and McLeod  
 THAT Council receives for information the competitive purchase results as per the Procurement Policy & By-Law 2025-110.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 43**

**25-108** Moved by Chiocchio and McLeod  
 THAT Council selects its preferred funding strategy as Option \_\_\_\_, to satisfy its local share contribution commitment to the South Niagara Hospital; and further  
 THAT Council directs staff to plan to use funds from the Economic Development Reserve (where applicable), the Hospital Reserve and debt financing as outlined in that option to meet this commitment; and further

THAT Council directs staff to plan to include an annual tax levy increase in each of the following 3 budget years (2027, 2028 and 2029) as outlined in that option to support the debt payments commencing in 2028; and further

THAT Council approves the creation of a new Hospital Reserve and direct the annual tax levy increases until payment of the commitment is required to this reserve; and further

THAT Council directs staff to incorporate a separate dedicated hospital levy line on the City's tax bill.

\*Note: Option A does not include the use of the Economic Development Reserve.

**OPTION G**

THAT Council selects its preferred funding strategy as Option \_\_\_\_, to satisfy its local share contribution commitment to the South Niagara Hospital; and further

THAT Council directs staff to plan to use funds from Economic Development Reserve as outlined in that option to meet this commitment.

**(Councillor Van Vliet disclosed an interest in this matter and did not take part in the consideration and discussion of same, and refrained from voting thereon, as his wife is an employee in the Niagara Health System).**

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**25-108** Moved by McLeod and  
THAT Council selects Option A.

**NOT PUT**

**25-108** Moved by Green and Lee  
THAT Council selects Option E.

**YEAS:** Chiocchio, Fokkens, Green, Lee and Richard.

**NAYS:** Mayor Campion, DiMarco, Grimaldi, McLeod, Moote and Setaram.

(Councillors Speck is not in his seat during vote).

**LOST**

**25-108** Moved by Moote and McLeod  
THAT Council selects Option C.

**YEAS:** Mayor Campion, Moote and Setaram.

**NAYS:** Chiocchio, DiMarco, Fokkens, Green, Grimaldi, Lee, Richard,  
and McLeod.

(Councillor Speck is not in his seat during vote).

**LOST**

**25-108** Moved by McLeod and Moote  
THAT Council selects Option B.

**YEAS:** Mayor Campion, McLeod and Richard.

**NAYS:** Chiocchio, DiMarco, Fokkens, Green, Grimaldi, Lee, Moote and Setaram.

(Councillor Speck is not in his seat during vote).

**LOST**

**25-108** Moved by Fokkens and Green  
THAT Council calls the question.

**YEAS:** Mayor Campion, DiMarco, Fokkens, Green, Grimaldi, Richard, and Lee.

**NAYS:** Chiocchio, McLeod, Moote and Setaram.

(Councillor Speck is not in his seat during vote).

**CARRIED**

**25-108** Moved by Lee and Setaram  
THAT Council selects Option D.

**YEAS:** Mayor Campion, Chiocchio, Fokkens, Green, Grimaldi, Lee, McLeod, Moote, Richard and Setaram.

**NAYS:** DiMarco and Speck.

**CARRIED**

**FOLLOWING THE LOST VOTES TO THE AMENDMENTS, THE MAIN MOTION WAS PUT AS AMENDED WITH OPTION D AND ..... CARRIED**

**2026 - 44**

**26-22** Moved by DiMarco and Green  
THAT Council approves Report BYL -2026-02: Response to Council Notice of Motion – Parking on Gram Avenue; and further  
THAT Council directs staff to install a 15 metre “no stopping” corner restriction at the corner of Gram Avenue and Forest Road; and further  
THAT Council directs staff to hold an open house to receive feedback from residents on implementing additional parking restrictions on Gram Avenue, Forest Road, Edgewood Avenue, and Abbey Road.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 45**

**26-22** Moved by Green and Van Vliet (in block)

THAT Council approves Report BYL-2026-03: Updates to Traffic and Parking By-law 89-2000 – Parking Prohibitions and Designated Fire Routes; and further THAT Council approves the recommendations as outlined in APPENDIX I.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 46**

**26-41** Moved by Green and Speck

THAT Council directs staff to include in the next council agenda all public correspondence from the Mayor of Welland to the Chair of the Niagara Region and all public statements on the topic of amalgamation in 2026.

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**26-41** Moved by Chiocchio and Green

THAT Council includes “and also any discussions regarding decreasing the size of Welland council and abolishing the Niagara Region”.

**CARRIED**

**FOLLOWING THE VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT, THE MAIN MOTION WAS PUT AS AMENDED AND .....**

**YEAS:** Chiocchio, Fokkens, Green, Grimaldi, Lee, Setaram, Richard, and Speck.

**NAYS:** Mayor Champion, McLeod, Moote and Van Vliet.

(Councillor DiMarco did not vote).

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 47**

**26-42** Moved by McLeod and Lee

THAT Council receives Report FIN-2026-04: Water and Wastewater Long Range Financial Plan for information; and further THAT Council approves the Water Financial Plan presented as Appendix I, acknowledge that the drinking water system is financially viable, and authorize submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) as mandated under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* and Ontario Regulation 453/07; and further THAT Council directs staff to submit the Water Financial Plan to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) as part of the City’s application to renew its Municipal Drinking Water Licence under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

**CARRIED**

**2026 - 48****26-44** Moved by McLeod and Moote

THAT Council approves the direct negotiation and purchase of the cybersecurity monitoring and managed detection and response (MDR) platform; and further THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute all necessary agreements with the vendor, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, on behalf of the Corporation of the City of Welland.

**CARRIED****BUSINESS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE (IN-CAMERA)****2026 - 49****99-99** Moved by Green and Van Vliet (in block)

THAT Council directs staff to present the following recommendation in open session for Council consideration:

THAT Council authorizes staff to execute a funding agreement enabling the City to formally accept grant funding to offset detailed design costs for the Civic Square Plaza Revitalization project and reduce the overall municipal contribution; and further THAT Council approves the reallocation of previously approved capital funds - made available as a result of the Civic Square Revitalization funding agreement - to the St. George Park Wetland Project to replace the unsuccessful grant application to the Wetland Conservation Partnership Program, ensuring both projects proceed as planned.

**CARRIED****2026 - 50****26-19** Moved by Green and Van Vliet (in block)

THAT Council appoints Matthew Taylor to the Welland Arenas Advisory Committee for the term March 10, 2026, to November 14, 2026.

**CARRIED****BY-LAWS**

Moved by Green and Van Vliet (in block)

THAT Council having given due consideration to the following By-law, as reproduced in this evening's Council Agenda, now read a first, second and third time and pass same, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign and seal same.

**26-22**

BYL 2026 - 7

A By-law to amend By-law 89-2000, being a By-law regulating Traffic and Parking with the City of Welland (Schedules V and VI).

**CARRIED**

Moved by Fokkens and Moote

THAT Council having given due consideration to the following By-law, as reproduced in this evening's Council Agenda, now read a first, second and third time and pass same, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign and seal same.

**26-1**

BYL 2026 - 8

A By-law to adopt, ratify and confirm proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Welland at its meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

**CARRIED**

Council adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

These Minutes to be approved and adopted by Motion of Council this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.