



**Minutes of Guelph City Council
Held in the Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall on
Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.**

Attendance

Council: Mayor C. Guthrie
Councillor P. Allt
Councillor B. Bell
Councillor C. Billings
Councillor C. Downer
Councillor D. Gibson
Councillor J. Gordon
Councillor J. Hofland
Councillor L. Piper
Councillor M. MacKinnon
Councillor M. Salisbury
Councillor A. Van Hellemond
Councillor K. Wettstein

Staff: Ms. A. Pappert, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. D. Thomson, Deputy CAO, Public Services
Ms. K. Dedman, General Manager, Engineering and Capital Infrastructure Services/City Engineer
Ms. D. Jaques, General Manager, Legal and Realty Services/City Solicitor
Mr. A. McIlveen, Manager, Transportation Services
Mr. D. Kudo, Deputy City Engineer
Mr. S. Robinson, Senior Heritage Planner
Ms. T. Agnello, Deputy City Clerk
Mr. D. McMahon, Council Committee Coordinator

Others: Mr. Phillip Rowe, R.J. Burnside and Associates Limited
Mr. Owen Scott, CHC Limited

Open Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

Niska Road Improvements

Ms. Ann Pappert, Chief Administrative Officer, provided introductory remarks regarding the history of the Niska Road Improvements project.

Mr. Don Kudo, Deputy City Engineer, introduced Mr. Phillip Rowe of R.J. Burnside and Associates Limited who provided a presentation and described to Council the different phases of a Schedule 'C' Class Municipal Environmental Assessment process, the community consultation and engagement that occurred as part of the project, the different options available regarding the Niska Bridge, Niska Road and the intersection of Niska Road and Downey Road as well as the decision making process that led to the recommendations provided.

Ms. Kealy Dedman, General Manager, Engineering and Capital Infrastructure Services/City Engineer, clarified that the EA was undertaken due to the poor quality of Niska Bridge and Road, that the outcome was not predetermined and that 70% of the total cost of reconstruction will be covered by development charges.

Council recessed at 7:55 pm and resumed at 8:01 pm.

Delegations:

Ms. Eileen Hammill discussed her family's purchase of the Niska Farm approximately 60 years ago. Ms. Hammill indicated that she objects to the widening of Niska Road and urged Council to close the Niska Bridge and leave it in place as a heritage feature.

Mr. Vince Hanson discussed liability issues surrounding the building of the Niska Road Bridge and the impact that additional traffic on Niska Road will have on those living there. Mr. Hanson presented a petition to Council and indicated that the majority of residents in the area do not support a two lane bridge.

Mr. Shugang Li discussed the deterioration of the natural environment in China as a result of decisions based on money and without regard to the environment. Mr. Li urged City Council to reject the proposed two lane bridge.

Ms. Hanna Boos, reading Jo Marie Powers Correspondence, urged Council not to approve the staff recommended two lane bridge as it would increase traffic and be unsafe. Additionally, Ms. Boos advocated in favour of several traffic calming measures on Niska Road.

Ms. Nicole Abouhalka urged Council to recognize the benefit of the Conservation Area and the environmental damage that would result the staff proposal.

Mr. Bhaju Tamot spoke against the building of a two lane bridge on Niska Road as a means of protecting the surrounding environment for the enjoyment of all Guelph residents.

Mr. Peter Lennie discussed the current use of the Niska Road Bridge by those living and operating businesses nearby and suggested that the upgrading of the bridge, road and intersection would benefit residents and businesses. In addition, Mr. Lennie suggested the current bridge was too old and damaged to salvage and that the quality of the Speed River in this area is poor.

Ms. Lin Grist urged Council to reject the staff proposal to build a two lane bridge as a means of protecting the significant natural heritage of the area.

Mr. John Hart urged Council to keep the existing one lane bridge. Mr. Hart suggested that the one lane bridge was able to accommodate current traffic and is inexpensive to repair. Mr. Mike Schreiner urged Council to protect the unique environmental area surrounding the Niska Bridge by rejecting the staff proposal. In addition Mr. Schreiner suggested that the staff recommendation may not be consistent with provincial policy statements or City of Guelph policies relating to transportation, development and environmental protection.

Ms. Marlene Hart spoke in support of the current one lane bridge and advised that the building of a two lane bridge would lead to tree loss and environmental destruction. Ms. Hart indicated that she supports the closing of the one lane bridge to vehicular traffic.

Ms. Dorothy Griggs described the change she has seen in the Niska Road area over many years and felt that there would be further negative changes if a two lane bridge were built to replace the existing one lane bridge.

Mr. John Core urged Council not to be persuaded by the legal opinion that appeared within the agenda addendum. Mr. Core suggested that if the staff proposal is approved it would require approval from Puslinch Town Council. Additionally, Mr. Core believes there is enough access to the City from the west and that if more access is required it should come from an extension to Stone Road.

Mr. Larry Brazolot spoke about the number of heavy trucks using the Niska Road Bridge despite signage. Mr. Brazolot suggested that while the proposed two lane bridge solves the weight problem it does so at cost to the social and natural environments. Mr. Brazolot indicated that if the bridge was intended to be temporary then it should be removed in favour of a pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Martin Collier provided a brief overview of transportation demand management in relation to the staff proposal regarding the Niska Road Bridge. Mr. Collier recommended permanently closing the bridge to vehicular traffic.

Ms. Susan Ratcliffe described the Hanlon Conservation Area as of significant cultural and natural heritage value. Specifically, Ms. Ratcliffe spoke about the unique value of the existing bridge and urged Council to designate the area and bridge as a natural heritage site.

Ms. Tia Carey encouraged Council to make decisions that protect the natural environment. Ms. Carey suggested that the Blue Dot Pledge approved by City Council is not consistent with the staff recommendation and urged Council to reject the proposal.

Ms. Laura Murr indicated that the current staff proposal is inconsistent with the Hanlon Creek Watershed Plan and that there is no documented indication that this area is to be developed. The road was proposed to be closed at the Niska Bridge. The area around the Niska Road Bridge was to be left as the last ecological gateway for wildlife. She also spoke against the infringement of the reconstruction on the wetlands.

Ms. Arlene Slocombe suggested that water quality within the Speed River has improved and that future decisions of Council must maintain this trend. In addition, Ms. Slocombe expressed concern about the impact of increased salt run off from the new double lane bridge and its impact on wildlife in the area.

Ms. Laura Murr read a statement on behalf of Ms. Patricia Herdman encouraging Council to vote to reject the two lane bridge and protect the natural environment of the Hanlon Creek Watershed.

Mr. Hugh Whiteley indicated that he was giving his presentation under protest because the City has not followed its Community Engagement policies. Mr. Whiteley suggested that the natural value of the area surrounding the Niska Bridge made it unsuitable for development and that,

because of its link to the Second World War, the existing Bailey bridge should be turned into a memorial honouring veterans of the Second World War.

Ms. Dorothy Griggs, speaking on behalf of Bill Hammill, spoke about the historical and heritage value of the Niska Road Bridge. Ms. Griggs urged Council to maintain the current bridge as part of a veteran's way to honour Canadian military sacrifice. Ms. Griggs asked that Council refer the report back to staff for further review.

Ms. Sandy Nicholls indicated that the area surrounding the Niska Bridge was designated as conservation land in 1977 and that the City must honour this commitment by rejecting the staff proposal. In addition, Ms. Nicholls suggested that the City may turn the proposed two lane bridge into a four lane bridge and that lands from the GRCA will be used to build low density housing.

Recommendation:

1. Moved by Councillor MacKinnon
Seconded by Councillor Hofland
 1. That the report from Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise dated December 3, 2015, regarding the Niska Road Improvements Schedule 'C' Class Environmental Assessment be received.
 2. That staff be authorized to complete the Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process and issue a notice of completion to place the Environmental Study Report on the public record for the mandatory 30 day public review period and proceed with the implementation of the preferred alternatives as outlined in the Council Report dated December 3, 2015.
 3. That staff develops a public consultation process for use during the detailed design phase of the Niska Bridge that includes elements to address truck traffic and vehicle speeds.

Extension of meeting per the Procedural By-law

2. Moved by Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor Gordon

That Section 21.1 of the Procedural By-law be invoked to allow Council to continue to 11:59 p.m.

CARRIED

Referral

3. Moved by Councillor Gordon
Seconded by Councillor Bell

That the motion be referred to staff to give due process to the Heritage Guelph motion that would designate Niska Road as a cultural Heritage Landscape and confirm or disavow our long-standing commitment to a Hanlon Creek Conservation Area before moving forward with the staff recommendation for Niska Road Improvements.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Councillors Bell, Gordon, Salisbury and Van Hellemond (4)
VOTING AGAINST: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper and Wettstein (9)

DEFEATED

Referral

4. Moved by Councillor Salisbury
Seconded by Councillor Bell

That the motion be referred to the IDE Committee to consider with the completion of the Transportation Master Plan Update.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Councillors Bell, Gordon, Salisbury and Van Hellemond (4)
VOTING AGAINST: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper and Wettstein (9)

DEFEATED

Suspension the Procedural By-law

5. Moved by Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor Gordon

That the Procedural By-law be suspended to allow Council to continue beyond 12:00 a.m.

CARRIED

Amendment

6. Moved by Councillor Billings
Seconded by Councillor Salisbury

That Clause 2 be amended by inserting the following words after the word "alternatives" and before the words "as outlined...":

"except for the signalization at Niska Road and Downey Road" .

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)
VOTING AGAINST: (0)

CARRIED

Main Motion as Amended

Councillor MacKinnon requested that the motions be voted upon separately.

7. Moved by Councillor MacKinnon
Seconded by Councillor Hofland

1. That the report from Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise dated December 3, 2015, regarding the Niska Road Improvements Schedule 'C' Class Environmental Assessment be received.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (12)

VOTING AGAINST: Councillor Gordon (1)

CARRIED

8. Moved by Councillor MacKinnon
Seconded by Councillor Hofland

2. That staff be authorized to complete the Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process and issue a notice of completion to place the Environmental Study Report on the public record for the mandatory 30 day public review period and proceed with the implementation of the preferred alternatives, **except for the signalization at Niska Road and Downey Road**, as outlined in the Council Report dated December 3, 2015.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper and Wettstein (9)

VOTING AGAINST: Councillors Bell, Gordon, Salisbury and Van Hellemond (4)

CARRIED

9. Moved by Councillor MacKinnon
Seconded by Councillor Hofland

3. That staff develops a public consultation process for use during the detailed design phase of the bridge that includes elements to address truck traffic and vehicle speeds.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

VOTING AGAINST: (0)

CARRIED

Motion from the Floor

10. Moved by Councillor Piper
Seconded by Councillor Allt

1. That staff be directed to refer the Heritage Guelph recommendation to designate the Niska Road/Hanlon Creek Conservation precinct as a cultural heritage landscape to the IDE Committee for consideration of bringing forward a notice of intent to designate.
2. That staff be directed to preserve the superstructure of the current Bailey Bridge and work with Heritage Guelph and the Township of Puslinch to bring forward a recommendation for relocation/recycling of the bridge to a new location.

Councillor Bell requested that the motions be voted upon separately.

11. Moved by Councillor Piper
Seconded by Councillor Allt

1. That staff be directed to refer the Heritage Guelph recommendation to designate the Niska Road/Hanlon Creek Conservation precinct as a cultural heritage landscape to the IDE Committee for consideration of bringing forward a notice of intent to designate.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

VOTING AGAINST: (0)

CARRIED

12. Moved by Councillor Piper
Seconded by Councillor Allt

2. That staff be directed to preserve the superstructure of the current Bailey Bridge and work with heritage Guelph and the Township of Puslinch to bring forward a recommendation for relocation/recycling of the bridge to a new location.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (12)

VOTING AGAINST: Councillor Bell (1)

CARRIED

Adjournment (12:21. a.m., December 4, 2015)

14. Moved by Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor Salisbury

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Minutes to be confirmed on December 14, 2015.

Mayor Guthrie

Tina Agnello – Deputy City Clerk