



SPECIAL COUNCIL #26-2005

Monday, May 16, 2005
Meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

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- PRESENT:** Mayor Phil Poirier, Councillors Naresh Bhargava, Joël Côté, Glen Grant, Jacques Lemire, Mark MacDonald, Denis Moquin, Leslie O'Shaughnessy and Chris Savard
- REGRETS:** Councillors Perry Lalonde and Korey Kennedy
- ADMINISTRATION:** Cecil Vincent, Chief Administrative Officer, Denise Labelle-Gélinas, City Clerk, Dave Dick and Paul Fitzpatrick
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Mayor Phil Poirier called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

A Special Meeting was called to review "Topics for Discussion" that will be brought forward to our Local M.P.P. Mr. Jim Brownell and the Ontario Minister of Economic Development and Trade, the Honourable Mr. Joseph Cordiano at a special planned visit scheduled for Friday May 27th, at the Cornwall Civic Complex.

The following subject matters were brought forward for Council's consideration:

Municipal Revenues/Taxation

- ▶ In order to ensure Cornwall's competitiveness in its ongoing business development initiatives, the Government of Ontario must ensure that the City receives the necessary funding to address the expenses associated with the delivery of services downloaded from the provincial government a number of years ago.
- ▶ Appropriate revenue must be generated from the Ontario Power Generation property in Cornwall given its '*full assessed value*' versus the '*grant-in-lieu*' funding received presently. If '*full assessed value*' was used in determining municipal taxation, the City would receive additional funding in excess of \$6 million which would assist in the completion of various capital projects and/or reduction in our tax rates.
- ▶ The education rate paid in Cornwall is higher than other municipalities in Eastern Ontario and consideration must be given to an equalized provincial education rate which would equate to the average of all education rates across Eastern Ontario.

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Transportation Issues

- ▶ Cornwall's transportation/logistic sector has grown in the past few years and appropriate transportation infrastructure is necessary to support these activities. An improved full service 401 Interchange is required at Boundary Road. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation is in the process of conducting a study on various interchanges along this corridor, however, the findings and improvements to the Boundary Road interchange must be addressed and acted upon at the earliest possible opportunity.
- ▶ Consideration be given to expanding the runway at the Cornwall Regional Airport from 3,500' to 5,000' to accommodate a greater variety of corporate aircraft.

Training Requirements

- ▶ There is a lack of appropriate training assistance to assist businesses when establishing a new operation. Too often, training is provided in a very broad range to address the needs of displaced employees, however, no funding is made available to employers in the process of creating permanent jobs which require training activities to meet the specific needs of the positions being created. This form of assistance would be extremely attractive in dealing with potential business development clients.

Downtown Revitalization Loan

- ▶ The City's outstanding debt associated with the *Downtown Revitalization Loan* be forgiven by the Province of Ontario. In return, the City would use the funding presently directed to the repayment of this loan towards downtown revitalization projects.

Government of Ontario Offices

- ▶ The planned expansion to the Cornwall Provincial Courthouse facility be undertaken as soon as possible.
- ▶ Cornwall be considered as a potential location in any decentralization and/or relocation of provincial offices outside of the GTA.

Domtar Inc. - Cornwall Mill

- ▶ On April 4th, 2005 representatives from Domtar Inc.; the Communications Energy & Paper Workers Union of Canada and the City of Cornwall met with government representatives at Queen's Park. To date, no response has been received to the representations made. The forest industry in Ontario is an important one and warrants similar attention and consideration given to the auto industry in Ontario.

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Economic Development Initiatives

- ▶ Consideration should be given to establish an *Eastern Ontario Economic Development Fund* similar to the funding assistance provided in Northern Ontario.
- ▶ Given the job losses in Cornwall/S.D.&G. during the past year, MEDT should provide a special '*one time funding*' to assist in greater marketing initiatives as well as assist in the development of the regional Economic Development Strategic Plan.

In addition, the Council offered additional submissions as follows:

- ▶ Lack of COMRIFF funding
- ▶ Provincial Gas Tax
- ▶ OMPF Legislation is too vague in terms of benefits to municipalities
- ▶ Our disappointment in OSTAR funding for Water Purification Plant.
- ▶ Funding for Cornwall Community Hospital
- ▶ Improvements to our Recreational facilities
- ▶ That municipalities receive sustainable funding rather than one time funding
- ▶ 100% funding for Public Health


It was Moved by Councillors Naresh Bhargava and Chris Savard that the above suggestions be added to the modified suggestions.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillors Glen Grant and Leslie O'Shaughnessy that the Special Council Meeting of Monday, May 16, 2005, be adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


DENISE LABELLE-GÉLINAS
CITY CLERK


PHIL POIRIER
MAYOR



[Faint, illegible handwritten text or scribbles]

