



## **Corporation of the City of St. Catharines**

### **Governance Committee**

### **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 21, 2012**

**4:30 p.m. – City Hall**

---

**Attendance:** Mayor Brian McMullan  
Alan Caslin, Regional Councillor  
Bruce Timms, Regional Councillor  
Peter Secord, Councillor, City of St. Catharines  
Mathew Siscoe, Councillor, City of St. Catharines  
Dr. John McTavish, Community Representative  
Mike Sullivan, Community Representative  
Brett Sweeney, Community Representative

**Absent:** Jeff Burch, Councillor, City of St. Catharines

**Staff:** Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk  
Susan Dods, Clerk's Service Leader

**Guest:** Dr. David Siegel, Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences, Brock University

---

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Moved by Regional Councillor Caslin:

That the City of St. Catharines Governance Committee ratify the minutes of February 15, 2012, as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Dr. David Siegel, Professor, Brock University, Faculty of Political Science, provided an overview of the policy brief prepared by the Niagara Community Observatory entitled, "Representation on Municipal Councils in Ontario".

Dr. Siegel addressed his remarks to the current model in Niagara Region and advised that to truly have representation by population, Regional Council could have 70 members. He stated that one solution to the issue of inequity in representation is to have "weighted

voting". For example, one vote from St. Catharines would count as two or more votes. Dr. Siegel also suggested a Regional ward system based on communities crossing municipal boundaries could be another option for representation at the Region.

Following his presentation, Dr. Siegel responded to questions from the Committee.

### **New Business**

4. a) It is noted for the minutes that the Terms of Reference for the Governance Committee were approved by City Council at its meeting of February 27, 2012.

- b) Moved by Regional Councillor Caslin:

That City Council be requested to authorize engaging the Brock University Niagara Community Observatory in discussions on exploring opportunities to work with them on the governance issue.

- c) The Chair raised the matter of next steps respecting the correspondence sent to the other municipalities regarding the Governance Committee's activities and it was determined that the Committee's City Councillors would make presentations to the other area Councils.

5. The Chair asked for an adjournment.

Moved by Regional Councillor Caslin:

That the meeting hereby adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

CARRIED.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012 AT 4:30 P.M.**

**LOCATION: CITY HALL, ATRIUM, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**