



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
December 15, 2020**

PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Tim Outhit
Councillors: Cathy Deagle Gammon
David Hendsbee
Becky Kent
Trish Purdy
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Kathryn Morse
Patty Cuttell
Iona Stoddard
Pam Lovelace
Lisa Blackburn
Paul Russell

STAFF:

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Jane Fraser, Director Executive of Finance & Asset Management/CFO
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – December 1, 2020 Special Meeting

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the special meeting minutes of December 1, 2020 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no speakers who had registered to speak to Council.

4. Fiscal Sustainability Strategy

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 30, 2020
- A staff presentation entitled Fiscal Sustainability Strategy

Jane Fraser, Director of Finance & Asset Management/CFO, and Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Policy and Planning, gave a presentation regarding the Fiscal Sustainability Strategy and answered questions from Council.

Jane Fraser noted that staff is scheduled to return to Council with a report regarding Strategic Initiatives on January 20, 2020.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Develop, "Strategic Initiative" Reserves, as part of the 2021/22 budget process, for projects that are tied to an approved Council strategy and are significant enough to lead to a discernable increase in the tax rate or special funding that is outside the normal budget process. This should include any required changes to debt and reserve policies and should be eligible to be funded through dedicated tax levies;**
- 2. Starting with the 2021/22 budget and replacing the two-year detailed budget, develop a long-term Financial Plan, focused on sustainability, that includes a one-year Budget, a three-year outlook and a long-term plan based on Council's Strategic Vision that supports the operating, capital and reserve budgets and allows the Municipality to meet its long-term goals; and**
- 3. For the 2022/23 budget, provide a Tax and Fee Revenue Strategy to Budget Committee that will establish guiding principles for user fees and property taxes.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk