



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
June 9, 2020**

PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn
Councillors: Steve Streach
David Hendsbee
Bill Karsten
Lorelei Nicoll
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Richard Zurawski
Matt Whitman
Paul Russell
Tim Outhit

STAFF:

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Sherryl Murphy, A/Municipal Clerk
Robyn Dean, 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 or audio (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The special meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. and adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Additions:

12.1 Ratification from Budget Committee June 9, 2020 – Proposed 2020-21 Budget and Business Plan

12.2 Ratification from Budget Committee June 9, 2020

Halifax Regional Council agreed to defer item 8.1 Cart Based Garbage and Recycling Collection to the next meeting of Halifax Regional Council on June 23, 2020.

It was also agreed that item 10.1 Ratification from Budget Committee May 22, 2020 and 12.1 Ratification from Budget Committee June 9, 2020 – Proposed 2020-21 Budget and Business Plan be discussed immediately following the approval of the order of business.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve agenda items 9.1.2 and 9.1.3.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

The Clerk noted that correspondence was received for items: 9.3.1 and 10.2. This correspondence has been circulated to Council.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

7.2 Petitions – None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – May 26, 2020

8.1 Councillor Austin – Cart Based Garbage and Recycling Collection

The following was before Council:

- An information report dated March 11, 2020

During the approval of the order of business, this matter was deferred to the next meeting of Regional Council on June 23, 2020.

9. REPORTS

9.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

9.1.1 Dutch Village Road Complete Streets Functional Plan

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 24, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 7, the Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order;**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed with the detailed design of Dutch Village Road between Alma Crescent / Supreme Court and Joseph Howe Drive / Bayers Road as described in the Discussion section of the staff report dated January 24, 2020; and,**
- 3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to consider the addition of streetscaping elements such as trees, benches, bicycle racks, waste receptacles and potentially other elements to beautify the corridor during detailed design, and if included, ensure the corridor is maintained as an 'Enhanced Maintenance Area'.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

9.1.2 Administrative Order 2019-006-ADM, Respecting Grants to Business Improvement Districts – Uniform Sum Amount*

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 12, 2020

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Set the uniform sum amount pursuant to clause 14(1)(c) of Administrative Order 2019-006-ADM, the Business Improvement District Grants Program Administrative Order, at a fixed dollar amount of \$5,000 for each business improvement district for fiscal year 2020-2021; and**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include in the preparations of budget for fiscal years after 2021-2022, a uniform sum in the amount of \$5,000 for each business improvement district, and such inclusion continue until such time as Council directs otherwise.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.3 Bedford West Capital Cost Contribution Review*

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 20, 2020

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve an amended Infrastructure Master Plan for projects in the Bedford West Secondary Plan Area by revising the projects list as outlined and identified on Attachment C of the staff report dated February 20, 2020, and subject to availability of funding in future Capital Budgets.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.4 Recommendations to the Current Provincial Aid-to-Municipality Program

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 25, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 7 of the Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference under Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order; and**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the necessary amendments to By-Law S-400 to implement Option No. 1 as outlined in the Discussion Section of the staff report dated February 25, 2020 as the preferred approach for cost-sharing with the Province and abutters on the paving of provincially-owned village and subdivision streets.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

9.1.5 Case 22322 – Incentive or Bonus Zoning Agreement 1872-1874 Brunswick Street, Halifax

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 30, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Halifax Regional Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Incentive or Bonus Zoning Agreement as provided in Attachment C of the staff report dated April 30, 2020 for the twelve-storey hotel at 1872-1874 Brunswick Street, Halifax.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Halifax Regional Council defer item 9.1.5 pending a supplementary staff report to provide information on the following: how the gallery will operate, public access (including entry costs), who will determine what art will hang on the walls, and what kind of engagement have they had and/or plan to have with First Nations and Indigenous peoples.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Whitman

Not present: Councillor Karsten

9.2 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Case H00489 - Substantial Alteration to Municipally Registered Heritage Properties at 1724 and 1740 Granville Street, Halifax

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated June 3, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the substantial alteration of 1724 Granville Street, Halifax known as the Acadian Recorder Building, as proposed in the committee report dated June 3, 2020 and its attachments;**
- 2. Approve the substantial alteration of 1740 Granville Street, Halifax known as the Kenny-Dennis Building, as proposed in the committee report dated June 3, 2020 and its attachments; and**
- 3. Give consideration that:**
 - **The contingency plans exist to ensure the structural integrity with the retention of the heritage façade of each building during the construction of the parking garage**
 - **Developers give some consideration to the incorporation of public art that is contextually sensitive, including the blank wall on Barrington Street**
 - **The Developer must remain consistent with the plan as shown in Attachment E of the staff report dated March 1, 2020, with particular attention to the depth of the heritage façade on the Granville Street elevation.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

9.3 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

9.3.1 Councillor Hendsbee – Infrastructure Funding Application for Active Transportation Enhancement to the Mineville Road

The following was before Council:

- A request for Council's consideration form from Councillor Hendsbee
- Correspondence from Grant MacDonald and Tim Brooks

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report regarding submitting an Infrastructure Funding Application to the Province of Nova Scotia for Active Transportation enhancements to the Mineville Road.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Ratification from Budget Committee May 22, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Endorse the capital projects in Attachments A and B of the staff report dated May 21, 2020, as well as the Halifax Regional Water Commission shovel ready projects attached to the staff report dated May 21, 2020 for potential infrastructure funding; and**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to submit these projects for funding in the event a Federal and/or Federal/Provincial infrastructure program is established.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (16 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Karsten, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Whitman

10.2 Councillor Zurawski

The following was before Council:

- Correspondence from James Boyer

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Adams

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report for a plan for the creation of a park at the Blue Mountain Birch Cove wilderness reserve. I request that this report include considerations for, projected land acquisition needs for the creation of the park, expected costs associated with land acquisition, projected costs of maintenance of the park before, during and after the acquisition of the necessary lands, staff requirements to maintain the park, boundaries of the park, timeline for the creation of the park, potential sources of funding for the creation and maintenance of the park, and mitigation of threats to park at this juncture. The staff report is required because of the changing nature our municipal budgets, and because of threats to the existing forests from fire, pests, and overuse.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

11.1 PROPERTY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report

The following was before Council:

- A private and confidential staff report dated April 27, 2020

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential staff report dated April 27, 2020; and**
- 2. Not release the private and confidential staff report dated April 27, 2020 to the public.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

11.2 PROPERTY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report

The following was before Council:

- A private and confidential staff report dated February 26, 2020

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential staff report dated February 26, 2020; and**
- 2. Not release the private and confidential staff report dated February 26, 2020 to the public.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Hendsbee

Not present: Councillor Karsten

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Ratification from Budget Committee June 9, 2020 – Proposed 2020-21 Budget and Business Plan

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT it is hereby resolved that:

A) The Operating Budget in the amount of \$955,255,300 gross expenditures (which includes \$787,055,300 in municipal expenditures including the reserve withdrawals specified in the Operating and Project Budget); \$753,640,300 in property tax revenues (including area rate revenues) and \$201,615,000 in other revenues be approved;

B) The Capital Budget in the amount of \$149,826,333 be approved;

C) The general rates of taxation on residential and resource property be set at

(i) \$0.670 for the urban area

(ii) \$0.637 for the suburban area; and

(iii) \$0.637 for the rural area per \$100 of taxable assessment;

D) The general rates of taxation on commercial property be set at

(i) \$3.000 for the urban area;

(ii) \$3.000 for the suburban area; and

(iii) \$2.658 for the rural area per \$100 of taxable assessment;

E) The Halifax Transit Annual Service Plan and the tax rates associated with Transit Taxation be set at

(i) \$0.047 for the Regional Transportation tax rate;

(ii) \$0.098 for the Local Transit tax rate per \$100 of taxable assessment;

F) (i) The boundaries of the urban, suburban and rural areas are delineated in Attachment A of the staff report dated May 30, 2020, the “Tax Area Map”;

(ii) The boundary of the Regional Transportation Area includes all properties within communities included within Attachment B of the staff report dated May 30, 2020, the “Regional Transportation Area”; and,

(iii) The boundary for the Local Transit area includes all properties within 1km walking distance of any HRM transit stop;

G) Fire Protection rates shall be set at the rate of \$0.014 per \$100 for all residential and resource assessment and at \$0.040 per \$100 of the commercial assessment for properties which are within 1,200 feet of a hydrant that is designed and operated for public fire protection purposes;

H) The Provincial Area Rate for Mandatory Education on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.306; and at a rate of \$0.311 for all commercial assessment;

I) The Provincial Area Rate for Property Valuation Services on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.016; and at a rate of \$0.009 for all commercial assessment;

J) The Provincial Area Rate for Corrections Services on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.015; and at a rate of \$0.007 for all commercial assessment;

K) The Provincial Area Rate for Metro Regional Housing Authority on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.007; and at a rate of \$0.008 for all commercial assessment;

L) Supplementary Education, under Section 80 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, shall be set at the rate of \$0.023 per \$100 of the residential and resource assessment and at \$0.066 per \$100 of the commercial assessment;

M) The final tax bills will become due on Friday, October 30, 2020;

N) The interest rate on the Special Reserve Funds, designated as requiring interest under Section 121(2) of the Halifax Charter, be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021;

O) The interest rate on all reserves except for those identified in (n) above will be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021;

P) Withdrawals from Reserves (capital and operating) in the amount of \$111,860,100 are approved, as detailed in Attachment D “Schedule of Withdrawals from Reserves - 2020-21” of the staff report dated May 30, 2020;

Q) Multi-Year Projects are approved in the amount of \$241,984,300 from 2020/21 to 2024/25, found in the “Schedule of Multi-Year Projects” in Attachment C of the staff report dated May 30, 2020 are approved; and,

R) The “Schedule of Area Tax Rates” (Attachment E), and “Schedule of Budgeted Expenditures & Revenues for 2020/21 Area Rated Services” (Attachment F of the staff report dated May 30, 2020) are approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (16 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Karsten, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Whitman

12.2 Ratification from Budget Committee June 9, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT Halifax Regional Council rescind the decision to reserve fund the armored vehicle and return the funds (\$500,000) to the Vehicle Fleet and Equipment Reserve Q531.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Zurawski, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Adams

Not present: Councillor Karsten

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT Halifax Regional Council include the following funding in the recast 2020-21 budget: \$53,500 in programming dollars for the Office of Diversity & Inclusion: \$25,000 for special projects plus \$11,000 to support Business Units to advance Public Safety Strategy actions in the Public Safety Office, and use the remaining funds (\$300,000) to support anti-Black racism efforts and initiatives with funding to come from the General Contingency Reserve Q421.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

13.1 Councillor Outhit

TAKE NOTICE that, at the next regular Regional Council meeting, to be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, I intend to request a staff report that outlines the history and identifies possible land use options for HRM owned lands located off Shore Drive in Bedford (a portion of PID 40918161).

13.2 Councillor Mason

TAKE NOTICE that, at the next meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on June 23, 2020, I propose to move a motion to rescind the Contribution Agreement terms and conditions outlined in Table 1 of the staff report dated June 18, 2018 and incorporated by reference in part 2 of the motion passed for item 14.2.3 from the December 11, 2018 meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be able to amend the contribution agreement terms and conditions based on a request from the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth.

13.3 Councillor Austin

TAKE NOTICE that, at the next meeting of Halifax Regional Council, to be held on June 23, 2020, I propose to introduce a Policy pursuant to Section 325 of the Halifax Municipality Charter, Administrative Order SC-94, the purpose of which is to close a portion of Mount Hope Avenue, Dartmouth described as Parcel "X".

13.4 Councillor Cleary

TAKE NOTICE that, at the next meeting of Council, to be held on June 23, 2020, I intend to move the following: That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to amend section 2CA.(1) of Administrative Order 17 so there is no increase in Council member remuneration for the period from November 1, 2020, to October 31, 2021.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
A/Municipal Clerk