



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
January 12, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
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

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Jane Fraser, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer
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 11:39 a.m., and recessed at 12:23 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:19 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – December 15, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the minutes of December 15, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

5. 2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan (Council Priorities)

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 15, 2020
- A staff presentation entitled 2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan (Council Priorities)

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of the 2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan (Council Priorities) and gave a presentation.

Jacques Dubé, Jane Fraser, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/ Chief Financial Officer, Brad Anguish, Executive Director of Transportation and Public Works, Dave Reage, Executive Director of Halifax Transit, Kelly Denty, Executive Director of Planning and Development, and Daniel Kinsella, Chief of Halifax Regional Police, answered questions regarding council priorities and staff initiatives identified in the 2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Budget Committee approve the 2021-2025 Council Priorities Plan and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop 2021-2022 business plans and budgets consistent with this Plan.

Councillors spoke in favour of adopting language concerning priority outcomes to “achieve net-zero in municipal operations” in favour of “strive to achieve”. Jacques Dubé noted that staff drafted the council priorities around net-zero recognizing that this priority area involves multiple actors including the municipality but also private and public partners.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to draft changes to the 2021-2025 Council Priorities Plan priority outcomes concerning Net-Zero Emissions to “achieve net-zero municipal operations by 2030, and strive for community-wide emissions reductions of 75% by 2030 and net-zero by 2050”

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

In response to questions from Councillors expressing concern regarding the importance of sufficient references to suburban and rural priorities, John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, noted that most if not all priority areas refer to the "municipality" rather than a specific area to ensure the priorities are comprehensive across urban and rural areas.

The motion as amended now reads:

THAT Budget Committee approve the 2021-2025 Council Priorities Plan with draft changes to priority outcomes concerning Net-Zero Emissions to “achieve net-zero municipal operations by 2030, and strive for community-wide emissions reductions of 75% by 2030 and net-zero by 2050”, and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop 2021-2022 business plans and budgets consistent with this Plan.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. 2021/22 Capital Budget Advance Tenders

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 18, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Budget Committee recommend Regional Council approve the schedule of 2021/22 advanced tender projects as per Attachment 1 of the staff report dated December 18, 2020.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk