



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
January 27, 2023**

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

REGRETS: Councillor Trish Purdy

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
 Caroline Blair-Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
 Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
 Financial Officer
 John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal
 Solicitor
 Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
 Annie Sherry, 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 9:30 a.m. and recessed at 11:58 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:03 p.m. and adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Purdy, Mason, Outhit

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted there were no registered speakers and called three times of any speakers present; there were none.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Chief Administrative Office

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Revised staff report dated January 17, 2023

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Chief Administrative Office proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation of the revised staff report dated January 17, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cuttall

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 3 from the revised staff report dated January 17, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 2. Include Alternative 3, an increase of \$482,800 to create positions to support the Public Safety Strategy as outlined in the Briefing Note BN006 within the proposed 2023/24 Chief Administrative Office proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

Dr. Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the timeline for a forthcoming public safety strategy report, staffing considerations, and efforts to identify external funding sources for public safety projects.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding timelines and scope of forthcoming reports on homelessness and public safety strategies, and de-tasking/re-tasking the police. O'Toole further noted that the completion of these reports would provide guidance in identifying resources across the organization to support community safety efforts in forthcoming budget cycles.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillor Cleary

Not present: Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cuttall

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 from the revised staff report dated January 17, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include Alternative 2, an increase of \$125,000 to GREA for the expansion of the Street Navigator Program as outlined in the Briefing Note BN006 within the proposed 2023/24 Chief Administrative Office proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and Mary Chisholm, Senior Policy Advisor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Councillor Russell stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair.

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair.

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

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell

Not present: Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cuttall

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 from the revised staff report dated January 17, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 4. Include Alternative 1, a reduction of \$260,700 for removal of financial support from Government Relations and External Affairs (GREA) to VOLTA Labs, Halifax Civic Innovation Outpost as outlined in the Briefing Note BN006 within the proposed 2023/24 Chief Administrative Office proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

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

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Councillor Outhit

Not present: Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a staff report to explore the possibility of funding the Street Navigator positions be funded either entirely or partially by the local Business Improvement District rates that the Navigators serve.**

Councillor Hendsbee proposed to strike "staff report," replace it with "Briefing Note," and add "to the Budget Adjustment List" to the end of the motion. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a Briefing Note to explore the possibility of funding the Street Navigator positions be funded either entirely or partially by the local Business Improvement District rates that the Navigators serve to the Budget Adjustment List.**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that consultation with the Business Improvement Districts would be required prior implementation of changes to funding.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (7 in favour, 8 against)

In favour: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Smith, Stoddard, Outhit

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Mason, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Lovelace, Blackburn

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillor Purdy

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Budget Committee:

1. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Chief Administrative Office proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation of the revised staff report dated January 17, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.**
2. **Include Alternative 3, an increase of \$482,800 to create positions to support the Public Safety Strategy as outlined in the Briefing Note BN006 within the proposed 2023/24 Chief Administrative Office proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.**
3. **Include Alternative 2, an increase of \$125,000 to GREA for the expansion of the Street Navigator Program as outlined in the Briefing Note BN006 within the proposed 2023/24 Chief Administrative Office proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.**
4. **Include Alternative 1, a reduction of \$260,700 for removal of financial support from Government Relations and External Affairs (GREA) to VOLTA Labs, Halifax Civic Innovation Outpost as outlined in the Briefing Note BN006 within the proposed 2023/24 Chief Administrative Office proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Kent, Purdy

6.2 Finance & Asset Management

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Revised staff report dated January 18, 2023

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Finance & Asset Management proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation of the revised staff report dated January 18, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, and Kim Jollimore, Director, Customer Contact Centres responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 from the staff report dated January 18, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 2. Include Alternative 2, a reduction of \$75,000 for Reduced Full-Service Operations – 311 Customer Contact Centres as outlined in the Briefing Note BN008 within the proposed 2023/24 Finance & Asset Management budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Kim Jollimore, Director, Customer Contact Centres responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding communication efforts in respect to changes in service and noted that the proposed reduction would result in reduced service on statutory holidays.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Purdy

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, and Jane Pryor, Director, Procurement responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding scope of the social procurement policy.

Renée Towns, Director of Revenue/Treasurer, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 from the staff report dated January 18, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include Alternative 1, a reduction of \$70,000 for Admin Fee Area Rate as outlined in the Briefing Note BN007 within the proposed 2023/24 Finance & Asset Management budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating revenue under budget option for consideration.**

Renée Towns, Director of Revenue/Treasurer, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding streamlined processes for administering contribution agreements.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillor Cuttell

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Mason

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Budget Committee:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Finance & Asset Management proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation of the revised staff report dated January 18, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.
2. Include Alternative 2, a reduction of \$75,000 for Reduced Full-Service Operations – 311 Customer Contact Centres as outlined in the Briefing Note BN008 within the proposed 2023/24 Finance & Asset Management budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.
3. Include Alternative 1, a reduction of \$70,000 for Admin Fee Area Rate as outlined in the Briefing Note BN007 within the proposed 2023/24 Finance & Asset Management budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating revenue under budget option for consideration.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Purdy

6.3 Legal & Legislative Services

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated January 16, 2023

John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Legal & Legislative Services proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation of the staff report dated January 16, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding a forthcoming staff report on facilitating hybrid meetings, and preparation for the 2024 Municipal Election.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Purdy

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk