



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
May 19, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell, Chair
Councillor Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair
Councillor Hendsbee
Councillor Purdy
Councillor Cleary
Councillor Morse
Mayor Savage

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General, Halifax Regional Municipality
Katie Chaulk, Communications Coordinator and Office Administrator, Office of the Auditor General
Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Culture and Events
Andrew Cox, Senior Civic Events Coordinator
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant

Please note these minutes require approval at a future meeting of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

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 10:03 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 29, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the minutes of the April 29, 2021 Audit and Finance Standing Committee be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence – None

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation – None

12. REPORTS

12.1 AUDITOR GENERAL

12.1.1 Annual Audit Priorities Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A report titled, “2020-21 Annual Report and 2021-22 Audit Priorities”
- A presentation titled, “2020-21 Annual Report and 2021-22 Audit Priorities” dated May 19, 2021

Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General, presented on the 2020-21 Annual Report and 2021-22 Audit Priorities. Topics included:

- Reports Released and Reports in Progress
- Strategic Goals from 2019-2021 and planning for 2021-22 and beyond
- Performance Measures
- Audit Priorities for the year ahead
- Details of a funding request to expand in-house processes for IT audits

Evangeline Colman-Sadd responded to questions and provided clarification to members of the Committee regarding property tax management, the scope of audits that have already taken place, and

outlined the process for monitoring the progress a Business Unit has made when implementing recommendations from a previous audit.

Responding to questions regarding training provided by the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation for Regional Council in 2019, Colman-Sadd provided details on the scope of the training and noted that the Office of the Auditor General would work with the Council Support Office to provide this training to members Regional Council in the future.

Responding to a question from the Committee regarding public input on audits, Evangeline Colman-Sadd highlighted a fraud and waste reporting form on the website for the Office of the Auditor General. Further, they noted that the Auditor General's Office will use social media to share with the public when audits will take place and encourage the public to provide information in the year ahead.

12.2 STAFF

12.2.1 HRM Supports for Open Streets Initiatives

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 15, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to continue to consider the Open Streets events under the terms of Administrative Order Number 2014-010-ADM, Respecting Special Events Task Force Process for Events, Parades & Street Closures, and Administrative Order Number 2014-021-GOV, Respecting Regional Special Events Grants.

Elizabeth Taylor, Manager of Culture and Events, responded to questions from members of the Committee regarding the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act and noted that cities like Ottawa and Toronto have flexibility in their open street events due to amendments made to the Ontario Motor Vehicle Act.

Andrew Cox, Senior Civic Events Coordinator, responded to questions from members of the Committee regarding the use of off-duty Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Halifax Regional Police officers at open street events.

Councillor Cleary clarified that they would like the Committee to defeat this motion in order for Alternative Recommendation 1 to be put forward as outlined in the staff report.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council approve an unbudgeted withdrawal from the Community and Events Reserve (Q621) in the amount of \$13,000 to be allocated to Switch Open Streets Event in the Regional Special Events program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERS - NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Approval of the In Camera (In Private) Minutes – April 29, 2021

This matter was dealt with in Public.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of April 29, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 16, 2021

19. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Annie Sherry
Legislative Assistant

DRAFT