



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
January 15, 2020**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
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
Stephen Adams
Richard Zurawski
Matt Whitman
Paul Russell
Tim Outhit

STAFF: Jane Fraser, Director of Finance & Asset Management/CFO
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Liam MacSween, Acting Deputy 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 9:35 a.m., and recessed at 12:15 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:10 p.m. and adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

The Budget Committee agreed by consensus to consider Item 5. Human Resources before Item 4. Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Chief Administrative Office

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 10, 2020 with attached staff presentation entitled “CAO 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation” and CAO 2020/21 Draft Budget and Business Plan
- Revised Slide No. 2 for the staff presentation entitled “CAO 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation”
- A staff memorandum dated January 14, 2020 with attached over/under list

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, delivered a presentation on the Proposed 2020/21 CAO Budget and Business Plan and answered questions for Council.

The Chair reviewed the rules of procedure for public participation and invited anyone wishing to speak to come forward. The Chair called three times for members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, and there were none.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Budget Committee direct the CAO to prepare the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan, incorporating Regional Council’s fiscal direction as per the January 7, 2020 Budget Committee meeting and as proposed in the accompanying presentation, and furthermore to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council’s Committee of the Whole on Budget.

Regarding the number of new Halifax Regional Police positions added with the 2019/2020 Operating Budget, Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, agreed to provide the number of new Halifax Regional Police positions added with the 2019/2020 Operating Budget as follow up information. In response to questions from Councillors regarding the African NS Affairs Integration Office strategy, Tracy Jones-Grant, Managing Director of the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, agreed to provide Councillors with information regarding the members of specific participating members and stakeholders.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the African NS Affairs Integration Office/Halifax Partnership Economic Strategy (\$50,000) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Budget Committee returned from discussion to vote on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 1 against)

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

Against: Councillor Whitman

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Cleary and Zurawski

4. Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 31, 2019 with attached staff presentation entitled "Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation" and Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs 2020/21 Draft Budget and Business Plan
- Revised Slides No. 3 and 14 for the staff presentation entitled "Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation"

John Traves, Q.C., Director of Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs, delivered a presentation on the Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan and answered questions for Council.

The Chair reviewed the rules of procedure for public participation and invited anyone wishing to speak to come forward. The Chair called three times for members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, and there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Budget Committee direct the CAO to prepare the Legal, Municipal Clerk & External Affairs 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan, incorporating Regional Council's fiscal direction as per the January 7, 2020 Budget Committee meeting and as proposed in the accompanying presentation, and furthermore to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council's Committee of the Whole on Budget.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Proposed Legislative Assistant for the Clerk's Office (\$67,200) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Streach and Mancini

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Economic Development Strategy with Halifax Partnership (\$135,000) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mason, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Whitman, Russell and Outhit

Against: Councillor Smith

Not present: Councillors Streach, Karsten and Mancini

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Proposed 3-year Navigator Program (\$60,000) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Streach and Mancini

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

THAT the Unfunded legal position (\$122,600) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 4 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Hendsbee, Karsten, Austin, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Zurawski and Russell

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillors Nicoll, Whitman and Outhit

Not present: Councillors Streach and Mancini

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Unfunded support staff (\$113,870) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (12 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Hendsbee, Karsten, Nicoll, Austin, Mason, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Russell and Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillors Smith and Whitman

Not present: Councillors Streach and Mancini

Budget Committee returned from discussion to vote on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Streach and Mancini

5. Human Resources

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 3, 2020 with attached staff presentation entitled "Human Resources 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation" and Human Resources 2020/21 Draft Budget and Business Plan

Caroline Blair-Smith, Director of Human Resources, delivered a presentation on the Human Resources 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan and answered questions for Council.

The Chair reviewed the rules of procedure for public participation and invited anyone wishing to speak to come forward. The Chair called three times for members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, and there were none.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Budget Committee direct the CAO to prepare the Human Resources 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan, incorporating Regional Council's fiscal direction as per the January 7, 2020 Budget Committee meeting and as proposed in the accompanying presentation, and furthermore to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council's Committee of the Whole on Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage

6. Finance Asset Management and ICT

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 20, 2019 with attached staff presentation entitled "FAM&ICT 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation" and Financial Asset Management and ICT 2020/21 Draft Budget and Business Plan
- Revised Slide No. 11 for the staff presentation entitled "FAM&ICT 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation"

Jane Fraser, Director of Finance & Asset Management (FAM&ICT)/CFO, delivered a presentation on the FAM&ICT 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan and answered questions for Council.

The Chair reviewed the rules of procedure for public participation and invited anyone wishing to speak to come forward. The Chair called three times for members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, and there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct the CAO to prepare the Finance Asset Management & ICT 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan, incorporating Regional Council's fiscal direction as per the January 7, 2020 Budget Committee meeting and as proposed in the accompanying presentation, and furthermore to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council's Committee of the Whole on Budget.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the ICT Partnership with VOLTA (\$125,000) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Mancini, Smith and Outhit

Councillors expressed an interest in separating the Over Budget item for ICT New Microsoft Licenses into two parts, security enhancements and new Microsoft Office licenses.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the ICT New Microsoft Licenses, Security Enhancements (\$120,000) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Mancini, Smith, Zurawski and Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the ICT New Microsoft Licenses, License Expansion (\$400,000) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Mancini, Smith and Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the Corporate Planning Citizen Survey (\$75,000) be added to the Parking Lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Mancini, Smith and Outhit

Budget Committee returned from discussion to vote on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Mancini, Smith and Outhit

7. Office of the Auditor General

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 8, 2020 with attached staff presentation entitled "Office of the Auditor General 2020/21 Budget Presentation" and Office of the Auditor General 2020/21 Draft Budget and Business Plan

David Marr, Audit Manager with the Office of the Auditor General, delivered a presentation on the Office of the Auditor General 2020/21 Budget and answered questions for Council.

The Chair reviewed the rules of procedure for public participation and invited anyone wishing to speak to come forward. The Chair called three times for members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, and there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Office of the Auditor General 2020/21 Budget Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation, and furthermore to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council's Committee of the Whole on Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Streach, Karsten, Mancini, Smith, Cleary and Outhit

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk