



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
April 2, 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  
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer  
Brad Anguish, Director of Transportation and Public Works  
Kelly Denty, Director of Planning and Development  
Dave Reage, Director of Halifax Transit  
Denise Schofield, Director of Planning & Development  
Caroline Blair-Smith, Director of Human Resources

*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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The special meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m., and recessed at 4:10 p.m. Council reconvened at 4:25 p.m. Council moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 4:35 p.m. and reconvened at 4:50 p.m. Council adjourned at 5:15 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. introducing members of Council.

### **1.1 Municipal Update on COVID-19 – Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer**

The following was before Council:

- Correspondence from Jillian Banfield, Steve Bedard, Ella Dodson, Meghan Doucette and Sarah Manchon; Sandy Greenberg; Peggy Cameron; Margaret Sagar; Norm Collins; Nicholas Carson; and Jessie Harlow

Mayor Savage and Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer thanked residents and HRM staff for their cooperation, kindness, work and commitment in these difficult times.

Jacques Dubé, CAO expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Mayor and Council and thanked HRM partners and staff for their work. Dubé went on to outline efforts made by municipality to flatten the curve of COVID-19 infection and outlined the way forward on the approval of the 2020/21 Operating and Capital Budgets. They further noted that HRM was working to assist with tax relief.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Budget Committee January 29, January 31, February 5, February 12 and February 25, 2020 and Regional Council February 25 and March 10, 2020**

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Whitman

**THAT the minutes of Budget Committee January 29, January 31, February 5, February 12 and February 25, 2020 and Regional Council February 25 and March 10, 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

There were no additions to the agenda.

The Deputy Mayor introduced a motion to suspend certain sections of Administrative Order 1 to enable virtual meetings.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mason

**WHEREAS in an order dated March 22, 2020, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing ordered all municipalities in the Province to discontinuance meetings in person;**

**AND WHEREAS the order only allows meetings to be held virtually by video or telephone;**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Halifax Regional Council suspends sections:**

- 19 (agenda review must determine the body to hear requests for presentations);
- 25 (location of meetings of Council);
- 27 (placement of the mace before meeting called to order);
- 30 (order of the seating of Members);
- 32 (people within the bar without consent);
- 33 (placing items on the desk or distributing materials without Clerk's consent);

- 84 (decorum during voting)
  - 87 (waiting for the mace to be removed before leaving their place);
  - 88 (Members must be seated during voting); and
  - 91 (method of voting);
- of the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order to enable virtual special meetings of Council to be held by video and telephone.

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not Present: Councillor Karsten

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Council agreed to remove items 7.1.1 and 7.6.1 from the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Halifax Regional Council approve the following items: 7.1.3, 7.1.4, 7.1.6, 7.2.2, 7.3.1 and 7.4.1**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Karsten

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

The Clerk noted that correspondence was received for items: 1.1, 6.3.1 and 7.1.5. This correspondence was circulated to Council.

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

**6.2 Petitions - NONE**

**6.3 Presentations**

**6.3.1 Halifax Partnership COVID-19 Response Plan**

The following was before Council:

- A presentation from the Halifax Partnership entitled: Halifax Partnership Covid-19 Response Plan
- Correspondence from Luc Erjavec, John Sutherland, and Tom Vokey

Wendy Luther, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Partnership provided a presentation respecting the Halifax Partnership COVID-19 Response plan.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT Halifax Regional Council directs that:**

- 1. Halifax Partnership be designated to lead the development of a plan to address post COVID-19 economic recovery in Halifax Regional Municipality, and;**
- 2. this plan will be presented via the Chief Administrative Officer to Regional Council for consideration, and;**
- 3. a staff report is prepared to determine a source of funding and determine a regular reporting schedule in consultation with Halifax Partnership and municipal staff.**

Following questions, the **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Council Karsten

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

#### **7.1.1 Administrative Order 50, Disposal of Surplus Property – PID 41079807, 4 Fernhill Drive, Dartmouth - Supplementary Report**

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 16, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Halifax Regional Council**

- 1. Amend the permitted intended use as set out in the terms and conditions of the conveyance of 4 Fernhill Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (currently identified as PID 41079807) to be for the delivery of Lake City Employment Services Association's programs and services for adults living with mental illness;**
- 2. Amend the terms and conditions of the conveyance of the said property situated at 4 Fernhill Drive, Dartmouth, to remove the requirement to consolidate it with Lake City Employment Services Association's existing land, and instead to require the said Association to enter a Buy-Back Agreement; and**
- 3. Release Lake City Employment Services Association from the Buy-Back Agreement dated June 7, 2001, applied to the previous conveyance of lands identified as PID 40522096 and a Portion of PID 00063354 Windmill Road, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.**

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Austin

**THAT consideration of this matter be deferred to the April 14, 2020 virtual special meeting of Council pending an opportunity for the Association to more fully review the report.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillors Karsten and Adams

#### **7.1.2 Case 22212 – Amendments to the Regional Plan and the Municipal Planning Strategy for Planning District 5 (Chebucto Peninsula) for 1246 Ketch Harbour Road, Ketch Harbour**

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 6, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to maintain the current Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and MPS for Planning District 5 (Chebucto Peninsula).**

Councillor Adams requested members of Council defeat this motion and support an alternative which would allow the process to move forward.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.** (7 in favour, 9 against)

In favour: Councillors Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn and Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Whitman

Not present: Councillor Karsten

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to initiate the RMPS and MPS amendment process and follow the public participation program for municipal planning strategy amendments as approved by Regional Council on February 27, 1997. A decision of Council to initiate a process to consider amending the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning District 5 (Chebucto Peninsula) Municipal Planning Strategy is not appealable to the NS Utility and Review Board as per Section 262 of the HRM Charter.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (11 in favour, 5 against)

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

Against: Councillors Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary

Not present: Councillor Karsten

### **7.1.3 First Reading Proposed By-law A-702, an Amendment to By-law A-700, Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership**

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 5, 2019

This matter was approved as part of the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Halifax Regional Council give First Reading to By-law A-702, amending By-law A-700, the Animal By-law as set out in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated February 5, 2019.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Karsten

#### **7.1.4 Encroachment Agreement – Halifax Port Authority Traffic Monitoring Equipment\***

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 20, 2020

This matter was approved as part of the consent agenda

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Halifax Regional Council approve the Encroachment Agreement attached to the staff report dated January 20, 2020, subject to non-substantive amendments, if any, allowing the installation of three transponder readers, traffic monitoring cabinet, and associated electrical conduit at the proposed location within the right of way.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Karsten

#### **7.1.5 Award – Request for Proposal (RFP) 19-348, Supply and Deliver Up To One-Hundred and Fifty (150) 12.2m Transit Buses Over a Three (3) Year Period, with Option to Renew for Two (2) Additional One (1) Year Periods**

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 10, 2020
- Correspondence from Robt. Miller, Johanna Aucoin-Slaunwhite, and Peggy Cameron

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Award RFP 19-348 for up to 150 buses over a three-year period with option to renew for up to 40 additional buses over two additional one-year periods to the highest scoring proponent, Nova Bus Ltd;**
- 2. Authorize a total purchase of \$19,517,340 (net HST included) with funding from CM200006 – Conventional Bus Replacement and \$3,252,890 (net HST included) from CM180008 – Moving Forward Together Plan for the purchase of 35 buses as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated March 10, 2020.**
- 3. Authorize staff to purchase up to a total of 87 - 12.2-meter Transit Buses in years two and three of the agreement with funding from CM200006 – Conventional Bus Replacement and CM180008 – Moving Forward Together Plan, subject to approval of the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Project Budgets by Halifax Regional Council.**

Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit, responded to questions regarding refit vs replacement, the impact of the purchasing at this time and why HRM is not moving to electric buses directly.

Councillor Russell requested that the vote be split by dealing with recommendation 3 separately.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Award RFP 19-348 for up to 150 buses over a three-year period with option to renew for up to 40 additional buses over two additional one-year periods to the highest scoring proponent, Nova Bus Ltd;**
- 2. Authorize a total purchase of \$19,517,340 (net HST included) with funding from CM200006 – Conventional Bus Replacement and \$3,252,890 (net HST included) from CM180008 – Moving Forward Together Plan for the purchase of 35 buses as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated March 10, 2020.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (15 in favour, 2 against)

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

Against: Councillors Whitman and Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mason

**3. Authorize staff to purchase up to a total of 87 - 12.2-meter Transit Buses in years two and three of the agreement with funding from CM200006 – Conventional Bus Replacement and CM180008 – Moving Forward Together Plan, subject to approval of the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Project Budgets by Halifax Regional Council.**

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

Against: Councillors Zurawski, Whitman, Russell

**7.1.6 Municipal and CSAP 2020 Election – Information Sharing Agreement with Elections Nova Scotia\***

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 25, 2020

This matter was approved as part of the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve the Information Sharing Agreement with Elections Nova Scotia, as set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated March 25, 2020, and authorize and direct the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Municipality; and**
- 2. Authorize the Municipal Clerk to enter into and execute Agreements to Use Information on behalf of the Municipality, generally in the form of Attachment 2 of the staff report dated March 25, 2020.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Karsten

**7.2 AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

**7.2.1 Agreement between HRM and Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC) re: HRWC's payment of (i) grants in lieu of certain taxes, and (ii) dividends from the surplus of HRWC's undertakings HRM**

The following was before Council:

- A report from the Audit and Finance Standing Committee dated March 11, 2020 with attached staff recommendation report dated February 25, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. The proposed three-year Agreement between HRM and HRWC, shown in draft as Attachment 1**

of the staff recommendation report dated February 25, 2020 and as may be further negotiated to the reasonable satisfaction of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), subject to the review and approval of certain amounts payable thereunder by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (“NSUARB”); and

2. That at least one-year prior to the renewal of the three-year Agreement HRM staff, in collaboration with HRWC staff, commence with the development of a long-term policy framework and formula to calculate payments of dividends and grants in lieu of taxes beyond the fiscal year 2022/2023.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **7.2.2 Contribution to Mobile Food Market Vehicle\***

The following was before Council:

- A report from the Audit and Finance Standing Committee dated March 11, 2020 with attached staff recommendation report dated February 25, 2020

This matter was approved as part of the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

1. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or designate to enter into a Contribution Agreement with MetroWorks Employment Association, as the designate member organization of the Mobile Food Market, defining HRM’s requirements for the contribution, as outlined in the Discussion section of the staff recommendation report dated February 25, 2020; and
2. Approve an unbudgeted reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$75,000 from the General Contingency Reserve Q421 for the purchase of a food distribution vehicle in 2020, replacing HRM’s in-kind vehicular contributions, pending the CAO’s approval of a contribution agreement with MetroWorks Employee Association.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Karsten

### **7.3 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE**

#### **7.3.1 Penalties for Illegal Dumping\***

The following was before Council:

- A report from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee dated March 6, 2020 with attached staff report dated January 29, 2020

This matter was approved as part of the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:**

1. Prepare amendments to the Solid Waste By-law (S-600) for Council’s consideration to address illegal dumping and litter abatement; and
2. Assess staffing requirements to support the implementation of the proposed by-law amendments.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Karsten

## **7.4 TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **7.4.1 Flexible Working Hours\***

The following was before Council:

- A report from the Transportation Standing Committee dated February 28, 2020 with attached staff report dated December 17, 2020

This matter was approved as part of the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to promote and encourage the use of the Flexible Work Arrangements Business Practice for all non-union employees as an option for managing congestion and reducing single occupancy vehicle trips in alignment with the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) and that staff return to the Transportation Standing Committee in six months with an update on implementation of the flexible work arrangements business practice.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Karsten

## **7.5 HALIFAX AND WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **7.5.1 Case 21916 - Amendments to the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy and Halifax Mainland Land Use By-law and Development Agreement for a 12-storey mixed-use development at 3514 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax**

The following was before Council:

- A report from Halifax and West Community Council dated March 12, 2020 and attached staff report dated February 12, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman

**THAT Halifax Regional Council give First Reading to consider the proposed amendments to the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy and Halifax Mainland Land Use By-law, as set out in Attachments A and B of the staff report dated February 12, 2020, to enable streetwall heights of up to 5 storeys and overall building heights of up to 12 storeys within 'Area A' of the Plan Dutch Village Road Area by development agreement, and schedule a joint public hearing.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7.6 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **7.6.1 Marketing Levy Special Events Major Hosting Grant Report 2019/2020**

The following was before Council:

- A report from the Special Events Advisory Committee dated March 12, 2020 with attached staff report dated January 20, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve an Event Grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the 2019/2020 Community and Events Reserve, Q621 to fund the Tokyo 2020 Women's Final Paralympic Qualification Tournament from the 2019/2020 Distinguished Events program; and**
- 2. Approve an Event Grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the 2019/2020 Community and Events Reserve, Q621 to fund the 2020 U SPORTS Men's Hockey Championships.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **8. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

### **8.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – February 25, 2020**

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of February 25, 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

### **8.2 PERSONNEL MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

The following was before Council:

- A private and confidential staff report dated March 6, 2020

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated March 6, 2020; and**
- 2. Not release the private and confidential report dated March 6, 2020 to the public.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **8.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – 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 Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Karsten

**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 UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **8.4 LEGAL MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

The following was before Council:

- A private and confidential staff report dated March 24, 2020

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential staff report dated March 24, 2020; and**
- 2. Not release the private and confidential staff report dated March 24, 2020 to the public.**

#### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

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

#### **9. NOTICES OF MOTION**

##### **9.1 Councillor Nicoll**

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on April 14, 2020 I propose to move First Reading of proposed By-law S-311, amending By-law S-300, Respecting Streets, the purpose of which is to:

- 1) broaden the Engineer's power to grant Annual Permits,
- 2) exempt Roadside Memorials from certain provisions, and
- 3) remove gender specific language.

##### **9.2 Deputy Mayor Blackburn**

TAKE NOTICE at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on April 14, 2020 I intend to move amendments to Administrative Order 14, Respecting the Application of Interest Charges on Outstanding Accounts, Administrative Order 18, the Revenue Collections Policy Administrative Order, and any other applicable policies, the purpose of which is to extend the due date and the date interest accrues for the payment of residential and commercial property taxes for the first tax bill for the 2020/2021 fiscal until June 1, 2020 due to covid-19.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Sherryll Murphy  
A/Municipal Clerk