



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
April 14, 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
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer
Chief Ken Stuebing, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services
Jerry Blackwood, Director of Corporate and Customer Services
Denise Schofield, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ashley Blissett, Program Manager for Development Engineering
Sherryl Murphy, A/Municipal Clerk
Liam MacSween, A/Deputy Clerk

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.

The special meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Council recessed at 2:40 p.m. and reconvened in at 2:45 p.m. Council recessed at 3:45 p.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m. Council moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 4:42 p.m. and reconvened at 5:16 p.m. Council adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Additions: None

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Council agreed to remove item 8.1.2 from the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve agenda item 6.1.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – April 2, 2020

6.1 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

This matter was approved as part of the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

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.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

The Clerk noted that correspondence was received for items 8.2.2 and 9.2. This correspondence was circulated to Council.

7.2 Petitions

7.2.1 Councillor Adams

Councillor Adams submitted a petition from residents seeking to re-establish passing lanes on several on the Old Sambro and Ketch Harbour Roads.

8. REPORTS

8.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

8.1.1 Award – 20-100 for the Purchase of One (1) New Mid Mount, 100' Aerial Apparatus

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 17, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT Halifax Regional Council award Tender 20-100 for the purchase of one (1) new mid mount, 100' aerial apparatus to Mic Mac Fire for \$1,854,744 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account No. CE180002 - Fire Fleet Replacement, (to be changed to CE200002 in 2020/21) as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated March 17, 2020.

Chief Stuebing, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services and Jerry Blackwood, Director of Corporate and Customer Services responded to questions regarding the tendering process and the bid competitiveness.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.1.2 Award - Sole Source Contract, Lower Water Street Active Transportation Bikeway

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 13, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council award the design and construction of a protected bike lane along a portion of Lower Water Street fronting the Queens Marque development to the Armour Group Ltd. in the amount of \$225,619.84 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Budget CR200007 – Regional Centre AAA Bikeways as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated March 13, 2020, pending approval of the 2020/21 Capital Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Not Present: Councillor Mason

8.1.3 Municipal and CSAP Elections - Election Methods and Alternative Voting Dates

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 19, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt Option 1 as outlined in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 19, 2020 and direct:**
 - (a) that use of a telephone and a personal computing device as the only method of voting to be used in the 2020 Municipal and CSAP Elections during alternative polling days, including during the advance polls; and**
 - (b) that paper ballot be used as the only method of voting on ordinary polling day.**
- 2. Set the dates for alternative voting to commence on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and run continuously through to Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

In response to questions from Council, John Traves, Municipal Solicitor advised that some segments of the public are unable to vote electronically. Traves noted that if it is not possible to conduct a paper ballot vote due to public health requirements than staff would be able to conduct an all electronic vote.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.

The following alternative motion was proposed:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt option 3 as outlined in attachment A of the staff report dated Mach 19, 2020 and direct:

- (a) that the use of telephone and a personal computing device for voting be used in the 2020 Municipal and CSAP Elections during alternative polling days, including during the advance polls;**
 - (b) that Electronic and Paper Voting be available at one polling location per district on two advanced polling days;**
 - (c) that paper ballot be used as the only method of voting on ordinary polling day.**
- 2. Set the dates for alternative voting to commence on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and run continuously through to Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

The following amendment was proposed:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council amend the motion to request a supplementary staff report regarding options to increase the number of polling locations in all electoral districts, increase the number of in-person electronic and paper voting locations per district from one to three during advanced polling aligning with federal and provincial locations

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The motion before Council now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt option 3 as outlined in attachment A of the staff report dated Mach 19, 2020 and direct:

- (a) that the use of telephone and a personal computing device for voting be used in the 2020 Municipal and CSAP Elections during alternative polling days, including during the advance polls;**
- (b) that Electronic and Paper Voting be available at a minimum of one location per district on two advanced polling days;**
- (c) that paper ballot be used as the only method of voting on ordinary polling day.**

2. Set the dates for alternative voting to commence on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and run continuously through to Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

3. Request a supplementary staff report regarding options to increase the number of polling locations in all electoral districts, increase the number of in-person electronic and paper voting locations per district from one to three during advanced polling aligning with federal and provincial locations.

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.1.4 Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 14, Respecting the Application of Interest Charges on Outstanding Accounts and Administrative Order 18, Respecting Revenue Collections Policy - Property Tax Deferral and Financial Relief Measures in Response to COVID-19

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 2, 2020
- A staff presentation dated April 14, 2020

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 14, Respecting the Application of Interest Charges on Outstanding Accounts, and Administrative Order 18, the Revenue Collections Policy Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment 3 of the staff report dated April 2, 2020.

Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer provided a presentation on the proposed amendments to Administrative Orders 14 and 18.

In response to questions from Council, Fraser advised that staff are in contact with banks respecting property tax payments and mortgage deferrals.

Fraser provided further clarification with respect to the proposed tax deferral and reduced interest rates including the impact on taxpayers who are currently in arrears.

The following amendment to the motion was proposed:

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the motion be amended to lower the interest rate from 15% to 5% for a period of six (6) months.

Fraser advised of a potential shortfall of approximately \$1.5 million in revenue with the proposed interest rate reduction.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer advised that staff will be coming forward to Council with more financial options by the end of May during the budget presentation and suggested that taking further action to reduce interest rates at the present time may be premature. Dubé encouraged Council to defer a

decision on further interest rate reductions until staff can bring back more options for Council on how to deal with financial challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to a follow up question, Fraser advised that if approved, tax bills will be due on June 1, 2020 and no interest will be charged for the month of May.

AMENDMENT PUT AND DEFEATED. (3 in favour, 14 against)

In favour: Councillors Hendsbee, Zurawski, Whitman

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

Fraser advised that if the staff recommendation is approved, a public service announcement and communications campaign will follow to advise residents of the changes.

In response to a follow up question Fraser further advised that staff will be deferring tax sales and that a report is forthcoming to Council on this matter.

In response to a follow up question, Dubé provided an overview of the proposed communications strategy on the deferral of property taxes and other COVID-19 financial relief measures. Dubé further noted that all communications will clearly note that this an interim measure until Council considers the updated Budget in May.

Fraser concluded by advising of savings related to gas and diesel prices, recreation programming, and reductions in employee travel and conference attendance.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.2 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

8.2.1 Councillor Nicoll - Protecting Registered Heritage Properties Affected by Development

The following was before Council:

- A Councillor request for consideration form

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report with recommendations in support of protecting registered heritage properties when they are affected by development by considering the following items:

- i. That a heritage impact statement as defined by HRM By-law H-200 be required in support of any discretionary planning application or site plan approval application that includes or abuts a registered heritage property; and**
- ii. That heritage impact statements submitted to the municipality as part of any planning or heritage application be signed by a heritage professional as recognized by the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.2.2 Councillor Hendsbee - Municipal Parkland Definition – Boat Launches

The following was before Council:

- A Councillor request for consideration form
- Correspondence from Jennifer Boyter

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to review the definition of municipal parkland with consideration that boat launch infrastructure throughout the Municipality not be deemed parkland as per By-Law P-600 – Respecting Parks.

Following debate, the motion was **withdrawn** with approval of Council.

8.2.3 Councillor Austin - Halifax Regional Municipality – Halifax Port Authority Fish Passage Project

The following was before Council:

- A Councillor request for consideration form

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council request that the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and staff engage with the Halifax Port Authority on the potential use of offsetting funds to enable fish passage from Sullivan’s Pond to Lake Banook and that the CAO report back to Council with results of that engagement to identify the potential for a joint project.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.2.4 Councillor Austin - Sidewalk Patio Placement

The following was before Council:

- A Councillor request for consideration form

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report on amending the design criteria in the Sidewalk Patio Administrative Order to eliminate the requirement for sidewalk patios to be contiguous with the applying business.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED (16 in favour; 1 against).

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

Against: Councillor Russell

8.2.5 Councillor Whitman - Letter of Support to HRM Staff

The following was before Council:

- A Councillor request for consideration form

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Adams

THAT Halifax Regional Council acknowledge support for all HRM staff and thank them for their unwavering service in these difficult times.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT Halifax Regional Council convene to In Camera (In Private).

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1 PROPERTY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report

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

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve the recommendation as outlined in the private and confidential Councillor Request for consideration form.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED (12 in favour; 5 against).

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Karsten, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Walker, Adams, Whitman

Against: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors, Cleary, Zurawski, Russell, Outhit

9.2 PROPERTY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report

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

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential staff report dated January 14, 2020; and**
- 2. Not release the private and confidential staff report dated January 14, 2020 to the public.**

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, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillors Cleary, Zurawski

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Councillor Mason

TAKE NOTICE that, at the next meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on April 28, 2020 I intend to move the following:

That Halifax Regional Council request a staff report regarding costs and opportunities for bringing the sidewalk on Lower Water Street west side between Prince and Sackville to current standards for accessibility.

10.2 Councillor Cleary

TAKE NOTICE that, at the next meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on April 28, 2020, I intend to move the following:

That Halifax Regional Council request an expedited staff report on providing safe mobility through an inexpensive, tactical, and temporary installation of bike lanes and active transportation routes along the lines of the already approved minimum grid network in the Integrated Mobility Plan or nearby, easily implemented streets.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
A/Municipal Clerk