



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
MAY 12, 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  
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant  
Denise Schofield, Director Parks and Recreation  
Bruce Fisher, Manager Financial Policy and Planning  
Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor  
John MacPherson, Manager Corporate Facility Design and Construction  
Christopher Davis, Supervisor, Right of Way  
Mary Chisholm, Senior Policy Advisor  
Richard Harvey, Supervisor Community Planning

*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 9:03 a.m., and recessed at 10:49 a.m..  
Council reconvened at 11:00 a.m. Council recessed at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened in at 1:11 p.m. Council  
adjourned at 2:08 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and Council paused for a moment of reflection to remember the victims of Portapique and the victims of the HMCS Fredericton helicopter crash including Sub-Lt. Abigail Cowbrough and Dylan Ehler.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE**

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

Councillor Whitman requested Information Item 6 Memorandum from the CFO/Director of Finance, Asset Management, & ICT dated April 1, 2020 re: Award of Contracts – Quarterly Report October to December 2019 be added to the May 26, 2020 Council agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Council agreed to remove item 8.1.1 from the consent agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Halifax Regional Council approve agenda items 8.1.5, and 8.1.6.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **6.1 Correspondence**

The Clerk noted that correspondence was received for item 6.3.1, 7.1, 8.1.3, 8.1.6 and 8.1.8. 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 COVID-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan**

The following was before Council:

- A presentation dated May 12, 2020
- Correspondence from Paul MacKinnon and Tim Rissesco, on behalf of the Business Improvement Districts of: Downtown Dartmouth, Downtown Halifax, North End Halifax, Porter's Lake, Quinpool Road Area, Sackville Drive Area, Spring Garden Area, Spryfield and Village on Main

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer and Wendy Luther, President and CEO Halifax Partnership, gave an update of HRM and Halifax Partnership's economic response and recovery plan to the Covid-19 pandemic. Dubé and Luther discussed the actions to be taken by HRM and the Halifax Partnership in each of the plan's three phases that will be aligned with public health criteria and measures. The goal is to come out of the COVID-19 crisis with a stronger economy that adapts to new economic opportunities including the green economy. Luther detailed the Partnership's efforts to continue to attract new businesses to HRM. The plan will take upwards of 18 months to be fully implemented and will need to be responsive.

Dubé and Luther responded to questions regarding the development of opportunities in the e-economy and the hydrogen economy. Luther answered questions regarding how the Halifax Partnership is helping local businesses to access various supports during the COVID-19 pandemic including pre-existing and new federal and provincial government programs and subsidies. Luther also answered questions regarding working with businesses and commercial landlords to access the federal rent relief program, Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance, to ensure the continuation of business.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Halifax Regional Council approves the Halifax COVID-19 economic response and recovery plan presented by Halifax Partnership May 12, 2020, and further directs that \$75,000 be approved to fund the Halifax Partnership's response and recovery plan activities.**

**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, Zurawski, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Adams

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT Halifax Regional Council request that the CAO delegate staff to work with the Business Improvement Districts to support the development of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Main Streets & Downtowns plan, specifically focusing on identifying streets and green spaces in the Business Improvement Districts that could be closed to vehicular traffic for the summer.**

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor and Dubé answered questions regarding the motion and working with the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) as well as other groups to create temporary public spaces for non-vehicular traffic as people return to work. Dubé said that guidance from public health will be followed and fairness will be applied to other areas in HRM where businesses are not represented by BIDs.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (13 in favour, 4 against)

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

Against: Councillors Hendsbee, Adams, Zurawski and Whitman

## 7. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – April 28, 2020

### 7.1 Councillor Whitman - Progress Report - Conveyance of 1588 Barrington Street, Halifax

The following was before Council:

- A staff information report dated January 28, 2020
- Correspondence from Emily Davidson, President, Turret Arts Space Society

Bruce Fisher, Manager Financial Policy and Planning, answered questions regarding the current status of 1588 Barrington Building Preservation Society, next steps in the Society's renovations of the building, and details of the two year buy back agreement.

### 7.2 Councillor Whitman - HRM Public Safety Strategy Update

The following was before Council:

- A staff information report dated March 12, 2020

Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor gave an overview of the progress of the HRM Public Safety Strategy.

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

#### 8.1.1 Increase to Contract – Stantec Consulting Limited - Geotechnical Services

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 14, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT Halifax Regional Council authorize an increase to the Purchase Order No. 2070820506 for changes to the contracted scope of work in the amount of \$21,639 (net HST included), with funding from Project No. B000011 – St. Andrew's Community Centre outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated April 14, 2020.**

John MacPherson, Manager, Corporate Facility Design and Construction, gave an overview of the progress of the project and that it is tracking to complete on or below the \$11.38 Million budget approved by Council.

**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, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Whitman

#### 8.1.2 Boulevard Gardening

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 13, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

**1. Suspends the rules of procedure under Schedule 7, the Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order; and**

**2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the necessary By-Law and Administrative Order amendments to permit the placement of boulevard gardens in the HRM public Right of Way, based on the guidelines outlined in the staff report dated February 13, 2020.**

Christopher Davis, Supervisor, Right of Way, answered questions regarding the guidelines for by-law and administrative order amendments to permit boulevard gardens by citizens in the HRM public Right of Ways. Davis will review what to do with rights of ways in areas without sidewalks before the guidelines and amendments are finalized. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, answered questions regarding the public hearing process when the guidelines require amendments to existing by-laws.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8.1.3 Proposed Administrative Order 2020-002-GOV, Social Policy Administrative Order – Social Policy**

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 3, 2020
- A staff presentation dated May 12, 2020
- Correspondence from Marcia DeSantis, Director Public Health, Central Zone; Dr. Jessica Jackman, Regional Medical Officer of Health, Public Health, Central Zone; and Holly Gillis, Healthy Communities Manager, Public Health, Central Zone

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the Social Policy Administrative Order 2020-002-GOV attached to the staff report dated March 3, 2020.**

Mary Chisholm, Senior Policy Advisor, gave a presentation regarding HRM's Social Policy and its' intent to ensure the strengthening of communities by enhancing the health, safety and quality of life of all HRM citizens. Chisholm answered questions regarding the Policy and its' implementation. Chisholm will consult with the Halifax Partnership to include internet connectivity going forward in the implementation of the Policy. Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, answered questions regarding the wording and implementation of the proposed Administrative Order.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8.1.4 Councillor Appointment to the Halifax Regional Water Commission**

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 29, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**That Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Waive Administrative Order One schedule 6 section 4 which outlines that the Executive Standing Committee shall act as the Membership Selection Committee of the Council with a mandate to function as the nomination committee for appointments to Boards and Committees.**
- 2. Appoint Stephen Adams to fill an unexpired term to November 2020 for consideration by Halifax Regional Council.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Smith

#### **8.1.5 Appointment of Building Officials\***

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 9, 2020

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Halifax Regional Council appoint Clayton Barker, Greg Jeans, Jessica Thompson and Aidan Woodford as Building Officials, pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Nova Scotia Building Code Act. This appointment is effective for the duration of their assignment to the duties of a Building Official with Halifax Regional Municipality.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **8.1.6 Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Community Centre Funding Application\***

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 15, 2020
- Correspondence from Kerry Reynolds-Reid, Cheryl Martin, Debbie MacLean, Robert Angus and Julia Richardson on behalf of the BLT Residents Association, Ken Donnelly, Ali Duale, Linda MacKay, Shane Mailman, Linda Moxsom Skinner and Marlene Dube

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to submit an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea Recreation Centre project, as outlined in the staff report dated April 15, 2020.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **8.1.7 Proposed Administrative Order 2020-009-ADM, Respecting Recommendations for the Allocation of Grants and Withdrawals from Reserves During COVID-19**

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 29, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt Administrative Order 2020-009-ADM, the Allocation of Grants and Withdrawals from Reserves During COVID-19 Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated April 29, 2020.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 8.1.8 Sheet Harbour Lions Club – Eastern Shore Lifestyles Centre

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 27, 2020
- Correspondence from Board of Directors, Eastern Shore Lifestyles Centre Society

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Karsten

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

- 1. Amend the Municipality's proposed Capital Budget to allocate funds for acquisition of land, consulting fees, and construction of a facility to house a recreation centre, library and fire station in Sheet Harbour as outlined in the staff report dated April 27, 2020, to include:**
  - a) \$600,000 in 2020/21 for land acquisition, due diligence, and consulting fees; and**
  - b) Remaining \$2,400,000 for the facility in 2021/22.**
- 2. Apply for Canada Infrastructure Program funding for the recreation centre and library; and**
- 3. Approve the acquisition of the subject lands identified on Attachment B of the staff report dated April 27, 2020 and negotiate and execute an Agreement of Purchase and Sale on behalf of the Municipality, in accordance with AO 2018-004-ADM and the terms and conditions outlined in Table 1 of the staff report dated April 27, 2020.**

Denise Schofield, Director, Parks and Recreation and Richard Harvey, Supervisor, Community Planning, answered questions regarding the application and the acquisition of lands. Schofield stated this application allows HRM to exercise due diligence in the purchase of the lands. As well, Schofield indicated the infrastructure funding application needs to be made before the application deadline expires at end of May. If the construction of the new building is not able to go forward as planned, HRM could use the infrastructure funding to perform needed repairs to the existing building

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 8.2 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

#### 8.2.1 Councillor Nicoll - Addition of Constable Heidi Stevenson to Commemorative Names List

The following was before Council:

- A Councillor Request for Consideration Form

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to add Constable Heidi Stevenson to the Halifax Regional Municipality's Commemorative Names List to honour her bravery and service to HRM, and to recommend naming or renaming a municipal asset in the Cole Harbour Area, where Constable Stevenson lived and worked for many years and where her husband and children reside.**

Councillor Nicoll gave an overview of the numerous community requests they have received to acknowledge Constable Heidi Stevenson as a RCMP officer and as a person. The final determination of whether a municipal asset will be named/renamed in their memory is up to the family when they are ready to make such a request. This application will make such a request easier. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor and Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, answered questions regarding the asset naming application process.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

### **9.1 PROPERTY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

A matter pertaining to providing instruction and direction to officers and employees of the Municipality pertaining to the acquisition / sale of land.

The following was before Council:

- A private and confidential recommendation report dated April 21, 2020

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential staff report dated April 21, 2020; and**
- 2. Not release the private and confidential staff report dated April 21, 2020 to the public.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **9.2 PROPERTY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

A matter pertaining to providing instruction and direction to officers and employees of the Municipality pertaining to the acquisition / sale of land.

The following was before Council:

- A private and confidential recommendation report dated April 24, 2020

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **10.1 Councillor Waye Mason**

**TAKE NOTICE** that, at the next special meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on May 26, 2020, I intend to move amendments to Administrative Order 15, the License, Permits and Processing Fees Administrative Order, the purpose of which is to waive the fees for sidewalk cafes for the 2020 café season.

### **10.2 Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn**

**TAKE NOTICE** that, at the next special meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on May 26, 2020, I intend to move amendments to Administrative Order 2020-009-ADM, the *Allocation of Grants and Withdrawals from Reserves During COVID-19 Administrative Order*, the purposes of which are:

1. to rename the administrative order as the *COVID-19 Administrative Order*; and
2. to temporarily require that public hearings be held virtually.

### **10.3 Councillor Outhit**

**TAKE NOTICE** that, at the next meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on May 26, 2020, I propose to move amendments to Administrative Order 29, Respecting Civic Addressing Policies, the purpose of which is to approve:

1. the naming of six new private lanes in Bedford, Queensland, Porters Lake, East Chezzetcook, Fall River and Dartmouth;
2. the retiring of the private lane name, Dogwood Drive in Cow Bay; and
3. the renaming of a portion of Symonds Road to Science Park Drive, Bedford.

### **10.4 Councillor Russell**

**TAKE NOTICE** that, at the next special meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on May 26, 2020, I intend to move the following:

That Halifax Regional Council

1. request that Province of Nova Scotia and the Federal government amend the COVID-19 Nova Scotia Rent Deferral Program, the intent of which is to help Nova Scotia's small business and not for profit communities remain viable in the wake of the COVID-19. Specific amendments to the program should include:
  - a. develop a path to transition landlords and tenants from the Province's program to the Federal Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CERCA) program, and;
  - b. ensure that any future programs to support commercial landlords requires, as a condition of eligibility, that the applicant has provided rent relief for their tenants by participating in CERCA and other relief programs, and;
2. write a letter to the Premier, with copies to each of the HRM area MPs requesting that they support this amendment, and;
3. request the Province of Nova Scotia immediately institute a temporary moratorium on any commercial rent default evictions, where the reason for the rent default is related to COVID-19.

### **10.5 Councillor Russell**

**TAKE NOTICE** that, at the next special meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on May 26, 2020, I intend to move the following:

That Halifax Regional Council send a letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Premier that:

- a) Thank them for their continued leadership through the COVID-19 crisis and the recent relaxation of the restrictions, including the ability to hold drive-in church services; and
- b) requests that we are also able to hold drive-in movies, for occasions like Canada Day, that follow a format similar to the drive-in church services.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy  
A/Municipal Clerk