



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 19, 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
Jerry Blackwood, Director, Corporate & Customer Services
John MacPherson, Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction
Breton Murphy, Managing Director, Corporate Communications
Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General
Kelly Denty, Director, Planning & Development
Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Sherryl Murphy, A/Municipal Clerk
Robyn Dean, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Budget Committee at a future regular meeting.

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 special meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m., and recessed at 3:10 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 3:25 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and a moment of silence was held for Jennifer Casey, the victim of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds jet crash that occurred on May 17, 2020.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Proposed 2020/21 Budget Recast for COVID-19 Impacts

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 1, 2020
- A staff presentation dated May 12, 2020 entitled “2020/21 Recast Budget Discussion”

The following motion from the May 12, 2020 meeting of the Budget Committee reads:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to revise the 2020/21 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets, as voted on by Regional Council’s Committee of the Whole on Budget at their February 12, 2020 meeting, using the revisions proposed in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 as summarized in Table 3, supported by attachment C and D.

Jerry Blackwood, Director, Corporate & Customer Services, spoke regarding proposed budget reduction strategies for Corporate & Customer Services outlined in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 and answered questions.

The Budget Committee requested a memorandum be sent out with an update on the COVID-19 corporate accommodations strategy for HRM employees returning to work. It was also requested that the new hours for 311 service be circulated once confirmed.

Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General spoke regarding proposed budget reduction strategies for the Office of the Auditor General outlined in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 and answered questions.

The Budget Committee requested an update on the status of the Auditor General website.

Kelly Denty, Director, Planning & Development, spoke regarding proposed budget reduction strategies for Planning & Development outlined in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 and answered questions.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Budget Committee maintain funding for the hiring of three HalifACT employees in the amount of \$137,000 and forward this amount to the Parking Lot.

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

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Zurawski, Outhit

Against: Councillors Streach, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Russell

Not present: Councillor Karsten

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Budget Committee eliminate streetscaping costs of \$400,000 in project CT190001 for one year and forward this amount to the Parking Lot.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Budget Committee maintain funding for the hiring of the Heritage Research Planner position in the amount of \$80,000 and forward this amount to the Parking Lot.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (10 in favour, 6 against)

In favour: Councillors Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Cleary, Walker, Zurawski, Whitman, Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Smith, Adams, Russell

Not present: Councillor Karsten

Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer & Director, Finance, Asset Management, & ICT, spoke regarding proposed budget reduction strategies for Finance, Asset Management, & ICT outlined in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 and answered questions.

John Traves, Director, Legal & Legislative Services, spoke regarding proposed budget reduction strategies for Legal & Legislative Services outlined in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 and answered questions.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke regarding proposed budget reduction strategies for the Chief Administrative Office outlined in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 and answered questions.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Sherrill Murphy
A/Municipal Clerk