



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 26, 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 Pryor, Manager, Procurement
Patricia Smith, Elections Coordinator and Assistant Returning Officer
Mike Connors, Transportation Engineer
Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit
Patricia Hughes, Manager Planning and Customer Engagement
Sherrill Murphy, A/Municipal Clerk
Judith Ng'ethe, 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 or audio (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

*The special meeting was called to order at 1:00p.m., and recessed at 2:58 p.m.
Council reconvened at 3:15 p.m. and adjourned at 6:08 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

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council allow for the circulation of late reports under section 24 of Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of Council.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Austin requested that Information Item No. 3 – Memorandum from the Director of Transportation and Public Works dated March 11, 2020 re: Cart Based Garbage and Recycling Collection be brought forward for discussion at the June 9, 2020 Regional Council meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the agenda be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CONSENT AGENDA*

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve agenda item 9.2.1.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Hendsbee

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

The Clerk noted that correspondence was received for item 9.1.7. This correspondence was circulated to Council.

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

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Tourism Sector Recovery and Discover Halifax 2019 Year-End Updates

The following was before Council:

- A presentation dated May 26, 2020
- A staff report dated May 8, 2020

Ross Jefferson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Discover Halifax, gave a presentation on the tourism industry recovery planning for the Halifax Regional Municipality, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council suspends the rules of procedure under Schedule 3, the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the *Procedures of the Council Administrative Order* to accept the annual Discover Halifax update.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – May 12, 2020

8.1 Councillor Whitman - Award of Contracts – Quarterly Report October to December 2019

The following was before Council:

- A revised staff information report dated April 1, 2020

Jane Pryor, Manager, Procurement, responded to questions relating to differences between bid prices and actual spend and large variances between bid prices for the same bid.

9. REPORTS

9.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

9.1.1 Review of Code of Conduct for Elected Municipal Officials

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 2, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 6, the Executive Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order; and
2. Endorse the approach for a revised code of conduct regime as outlined in the staff report dated January 2, 2020 and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to bring this approach forward as Halifax Regional Municipality's position during future consultations conducted by the Province.

This position includes:

- a. The inclusion of new and revised code provisions that are in keeping with the best practices outlined in sections 4B and 5 of the Discussion section of the staff report dated January 2, 2020;**
- b. The ability to create an annotated code format that incorporates context and commentary; and**
- c. The inclusion of enforcement protocols that are consistent with the best practices outlined in sections 4C and 5 of the Discussion section of the staff report dated January 2, 2020.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.2 Case CA0129 - Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 29, Respecting HRM Civic Addressing Policies – Street Naming and Renaming from January 1, 2020 – March 31, 2020

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 20, 2020

Notice of Motion given on May 12, 2020.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to Administrative Order 29, Respecting Civic Addressing Policies in order to approve:

- 1. the naming of six new private lanes as identified in Attachment A and Maps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the staff report dated April 20, 2020;**
- 2. the retiring of the private lane name, Dogwood Dr, Cow Bay, as identified in Attachment A and Map 7 of the staff report dated April 20, 2020; and**
- 3. the renaming of a portion of Symonds Road, Bedford to Science Park Drive, Bedford, as identified in Attachment A and Map 9 of the staff report dated April 20, 2020.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.3 Councillor Appointments to the Women’s Advisory Committee

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 5, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. suspends the rules of procedure under Section 6, the Executive Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order; and**
- 2. appoint Councillor Nicoll and Deputy Mayor Blackburn, both of whom are members of the Executive Standing Committee, to the Women’s Advisory Committee**

Mayor Savage called three times for further nominations; there were none.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

9.1.4 Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 15, Respecting Licenses, Permits and Processing Fees, to Forgive Sidewalk Café Fees

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 7, 2020

Notice of Motion given on May 12, 2020.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 15, the License, Permits and Processing Fees Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated May 7, 2020.

Responding to a question from Council, John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, confirmed that if approved by Council, the amendments would be effective immediately.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.5 Polling Location Increases – 2020 Municipal and CSAP Elections – Supplementary Report

The following was before Council:

- A supplementary staff recommendation report dated May 8, 2020
- An extract from Halifax Regional Council draft Minutes – April 14, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT Halifax Regional Council increase the number of polling locations for the advance poll to two in the following districts:

District 1 – Waverley, Fall River, Musquodoboit Valley

District 2 – Preston, Chezzetcook, Eastern Shore

District 3 – Dartmouth South, Eastern Passage

District 11 – Spryfield, Sambro Loop, Prospect Road

District 12 – Timberlea, Beechville, Clayton Park West

Councillor Hendsbee proposed an amendment to the motion to increase the number of polling locations for the advance poll in Districts 1, 2 and 12 by one each for a total of three per district, as per the 2008 Municipal election.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Halifax Regional Council increase the number of polling locations for the advance poll to three in the following districts:

District 1 – Waverley, Fall River, Musquodoboit Valley

District 2 – Preston, Chezzetcook, Eastern Shore

District 12 – Timberlea, Beechville, Clayton Park West

Responding to questions from Council, Patricia Smith, Elections Coordinator and Assistant Returning Officer, confirmed that the cost of providing the additional three polling locations for the advance poll would total an unbudgeted amount of \$30,000. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, advised that if approved, the additional amount would need to be brought to the parking lot during budget deliberations.

Council debated the motion with the Councillor for District 12 concluding that it was not necessary to provide a third polling location in District 12 for the advance poll. A further friendly amendment to remove District 12 was agreed to by Council.

The motion to amend now reads:

THAT Halifax Regional Council increase the number of polling locations for the advance poll to three in the following districts:

District 1 – Waverley, Fall River, Musquodoboit Valley

District 2 – Preston, Chezzetcook, Eastern Shore

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (10 in favour, 7 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Karsten, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Against: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary

The motion before Council is as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT Halifax Regional Council increase the number of polling locations for the advance poll:

1. to two in the following districts:

District 3 – Dartmouth South, Eastern Passage

District 11 – Spryfield, Sambro Loop, Prospect Road

District 12 – Timberlea, Beechville, Clayton Park West

2. to three in the following districts:

District 1 – Waverley, Fall River, Musquodoboit Valley

District 2 – Preston, Chezzetcook, Eastern Shore

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.6 Bedford Highway Functional Plan

The following was before Council:

- A staff presentation dated May 26, 2020
- A staff recommendation report dated January 15, 2020

Mike Connors, Transportation Engineer, gave a presentation on the Bedford Highway Functional Plan and the vision for the Bedford Highway corridor.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 3, the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference, and under Schedule 7, the Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order;

2. Endorse in principle the “Balanced Modes” option, as discussed in the staff report dated January 15, 2020, to inform future transportation infrastructure and land use planning within the Bedford Highway Corridor;

That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

3. Advance the design of the Bedford Highway and initiate efforts to establish a formal right of way necessary to implement the “Balanced Modes” option; and,

4. Initiate efforts to investigate the potential to widen the Bedford Highway right-of-way between the Windsor Street Exchange and Seton Road to provide transit priority in both directions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

9.1.7 Strategic Transit Projects – Rapid Transit Strategy and Electric Buses

The following was before Council:

- A staff presentation dated May 26, 2020
- A staff recommendation report dated May 6, 2020
- Correspondence from Scott Edgar

Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit, gave a presentation on the Rapid Transit Strategy and electric bus proposal.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 3, the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference, and under Schedule 7, the Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order.**
- 2. Approve the Rapid Transit Strategy described in the staff report dated May 6, 2020 and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:**
 - a. develop an implementation plan including resourcing, functional planning, land acquisition strategy, and long-term capital planning, subject to securing external funding; and**
 - b. consider the application of mechanisms that preserve opportunities to accommodate transit infrastructure within the public right-of-way (e.g. transportation reserves, increased front yard setbacks), in the ongoing review of the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy and other planning documents as applicable;**
- 3. Approve the Electric Bus Proposal described in the staff report dated May 6, 2020 and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to commence with the acquisition of low carbon emission public transit buses, subject to securing external funding;**
- 4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to submit both the Rapid Transit Strategy and Electric Bus Proposal for funding through the Federal Government's Public Transit Infrastructure Fund and the Green Infrastructure Fund, as well as any additional stimulus funding streams that may become available.**
- 5. Authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support for both the Rapid Transit Strategy and Electric Bus Proposal to the Province of Nova Scotia to stimulate discussion regarding the benefits and potential funding for these projects.**

Responding to questions from Council, Reage confirmed that funding needed to be secured from the provincial and federal governments in order for the projects to proceed. Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, confirmed that the provincial and federal governments had indicated interest in the projects though uncertainty remained regarding the element of funding and funding streams. Council questioned the decision to install a ferry at Shannon Park as opposed to Wright's Cove, with Patricia Hughes, Manager Planning and Customer Engagement, explaining that this was determined through a number of factors including the potential for terminal development at Shannon Park.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

9.1.8 Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 2020-009-ADM - Virtual Public Hearings

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 11, 2020

Notice of Motion given on May 12, 2020.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order Number 2020-009-ADM, the *Allocation of Grants and Withdrawals from Reserves During COVID-19 Administrative Order*, as set out in Attachment 3 of the staff report dated May 11, 2020.

Council debated the motion with John Traves, Municipal Solicitor and Sherrill Murphy, Acting Municipal Clerk responding to questions. Council suggested that consideration be given to submission by members of the public of correspondence in the form of videos. Council also suggested that consideration be given

as to how submissions at public hearings will be made once physical meetings resume, with COVID-19 still a concern.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 2 against)

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

Against: Councillors Austin, Outhit

Not present: Councillor Karsten

9.2 HALIFAX AND WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

9.2.1 Case 22682 - Amendments to the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy, Halifax Peninsula Land Use By-law, and associated second amending development agreement for 5534-5558 Bilby Street and 2819-2827 Isleville Street, Halifax*

The following was before Council:

- A report from Halifax and West Community Council dated May 14, 2020 with attached staff recommendation report dated March 24, 2020

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

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council give First Reading to consider the proposed amendments to the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy and Halifax Peninsula Land Use By-law, as set out in Attachments A and B of the staff report dated March 24, 2020, to enable an extension to the date of commencement of construction for a Development Agreement at the southeast corner of Bilby and Isleville Streets in Halifax and schedule a joint public hearing.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Hendsbee

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Russell

The following was before Council:

- A Request for Consideration Form from Councillor Russell

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

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 for 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.

Council proposed an amendment to include the words “**but not be limited to**” at the end of the first paragraph of the motion. This was considered a friendly amendment by Council.

The motion before Council now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

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 but not be limited to:
 - a. develop a path to transition for 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.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Karsten

10.2 Councillor Russell

The following was before Council:

- A Request for Consideration Form from Councillor Russell

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

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

- a) Thanks them for relaxing the restrictions related to the COVID-19 virus, 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.**

Councillor Smith requested the motion be separated for voting purposes as per Section 90 of Administrative Order One.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

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

- a) Thanks them for relaxing the restrictions related to the COVID-19 virus, including the ability to hold drive-in church services**

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

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

Against: Councillors Austin, Smith, Cleary, Zurawski

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Mason

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

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

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.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Mason

10.3 Ratification from Budget Committee May 13, 2020

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to revise the 2020/21 Operating Budget to remove weekly green cart service and provide notice to affected contractors no later than May 15, 2020.

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

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Zurawski, Whitman, Russell

Against: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Adams, Outhit

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Mason

11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 Councillor Zurawski

TAKE NOTICE that, at the next regular Regional Council meeting, to be held on Tuesday, the 9th day of June, 2020, I will be requesting a staff report for a plan for the creation of a park at the Blue Mountain Birch Cove wilderness reserve. I request that this report include considerations for, projected land acquisition needs for the creation of the park, expected costs associated with land acquisition, projected costs of maintenance of the park before, during and after the acquisition of the necessary lands, staff requirements to maintain the park, boundaries of the park, timeline for the creation of the park, potential sources of funding for the creation and maintenance of the park, and mitigation of threats to park at this juncture. The staff report is required because of the changing nature our municipal budgets, and because of threats to the existing forests from fire, pests, and overuse.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
A/Municipal Clerk