



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 29, 2020**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn
Councillors: Steve Streach
David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Matt Whitman
Paul Russell
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillors: Bill Karsten
Richard Zurawski

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer
Denise Schofield, Director, Parks and Recreation
Brad Anguish, Director, Transportation and Public Works
Kelly Denty, Director, Planning and Development
Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit
Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Jerry Blackwood, Director Corporate & Customer Services
Sherryll Murphy, A/Municipal Clerk
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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 (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The special meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Proposed 2020/21 Budget Recast for COVID-19 Impacts (Continuation from May 28)

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 1, 2020
- A staff presentation 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.

i) Supplementary Information Report – Revised

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A revised supplementary information report dated May 19, 2020

This report responded to the motion of the May 13, 2020 meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Budget regarding an operating budget alternative. No action was taken with regard to this report. Information contained within the report informed the decisions of the Budget Committee on the 2020/21 Budget Adjustment List (Post COVID).

ii) Supplementary Recommendation Report – Corporate Accommodations – CB190011

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A supplementary staff report dated May 21, 2020
A briefing note – response to request for information in relation to Customer Service Centre and 311 – hours of operation including after hours dated May 22, 2020

This report responded to Council review of the recast budget at meetings of the Committee of the Whole on Budget held May 19 and May 21, 2020. No action was taken with regard to this report. Information contained within the report informed the decisions of the Budget Committee on the 2020/21 Budget Adjustment List (Post COVID).

4. 2020/21 Budget Adjustment List (Post COVID) for Consideration

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 21, 2020
- A briefing note – CB000046 Corporate Accommodations Alderney
- A briefing note – CT190001 Streetscaping
- A briefing note – NACTO and Other Memberships
- A memorandum – Updated Budget Adjustment List dated May 27, 2020

Budget Committee continued discussion from the May 28, 2020 special Budget Committee meeting regarding the new Budget Adjustment List.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide the reinstatement of \$300,000 to Discover Halifax in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide the reinstatement of \$250,000 to Events/Grants in the 2020/21 Budget.

Denise Schofield, Director, Parks and Recreation, stated that it is their understanding of the motion that the proposed reinstated funds would be for regional events. HRM civic events are funded separately. If the proposed reinstated funds were approved, staff would return to Regional Council with a recommendation report detailing how funds can be distributed reflecting different types of events and particularly virtual events.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, stated that if the Budget Committee chose to not reinstate additional funding to Events/Grants budget, staff will continue to work with community groups and will return to Regional Council as opportunities arise to provide additional funding for specific events. Regional Council will have options and other sources of funding to address these opportunities.

Councillor Cleary proposed that the proposed reinstated funding be reduced to \$100,000 and specifically allocated for regional events. The proposed amendment was considered to be friendly by the Mover. The amendment now reads:

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide the reinstatement of \$100,000 for Regional Events (community) to Events/Grants in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 2 against)

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

Against: Councillors Austin, Whitman

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$50,000 for Rural Transit Funding Program in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mancini

That the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$225,000 for Hand Shoveling (Winter Season) in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$600,000 for Senior Snow Program in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

THAT Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of funding for the hiring of three six-month positions for HalifACT in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

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

Against: Councillor Russell

Not present: Councillor Karsten, Zurawski

Kelly Denty, Director, Planning and Development and Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Planning, answered questions regarding funding earmarked for streetscaping projects.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for a further amendment to the budget to provide for the elimination of \$400,000 for streetscaping projects for one year in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED. (1 in favour, 14 against)

In favour: Councillor Whitman

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

Not present: Councillor Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$2,000,000 for Downtown Dartmouth Renewal in the 2020/21 Budget.

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

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

Against: Councillor Walker, Adams, Whitman, Russell

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to adopt the proposed reduction to the 2020/21 Capital Budget of 3,627,000 for Corporate Accommodations.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED. (1 in favour, 14 against)

In favour: Councillor Whitman

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

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to adopt the proposed reduction to the 2020/21 Capital Budget of \$1,600,000 for Fire Station 2 replacement Capital for one year.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$16,300 for NACTO Membership in the 2020/21 Budget.

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

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

Against: Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Whitman

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Zurawski

Jane Fraser stated that staff will return with updated budget information at the June 9th meeting of the Budget Committee.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

**Budget Committee Special Meeting
May 29, 2020**

Sherryl Murphy
A/Municipal Clerk