



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
November 10, 2020**

PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn
Councillors: Cathy Deagle Gammon
David Hendsbee
Becky Kent
Trish Purdy
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Kathryn Morse
Patty Cuttell
Iona Stoddard
Pam Lovelace
Paul Russell
Tim Outhit

STAFF:

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Phoebe Rai, A/Municipal Clerk
Krista Vining, 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 meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. and recessed at 12:16 p.m. Committee of the Whole reconvened at 1:20 p.m. and adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Councillors noted a number of special community announcements and acknowledgements.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

Mayor Savage stepped down as Chair and exited the meeting. Deputy Mayor Blackburn assumed the Chair.

3. Introduction to Strategic Priorities and Budget Planning – Presentation

The following was before Committee of the Whole:

- A staff presentation dated November 10, 2020 entitled: 2021-2025 Strategic Planning and Budget Process

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, Wendy Lines, Manager Corporate Planning, and Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer gave an overview of the 2021-2025 proposed strategic priorities, budget planning process and schedule. The four (4) proposed strategic priority areas identified were:

- Prosperous Economy
 - Economic Growth
 - Holistic Planning
 - Talent Attraction and Retention
- Communities
 - Safe Communities
 - Engaged Communities
 - Inclusive Communities
- Integrated Mobility
 - Connected and Healthy Long-Range Mobility Planning
 - Safe and Accessible Integrated Mobility Network
 - Affordable and Sustainable Integrated Mobility Network
- Environment
 - Net-Zero Emissions
 - Climate Resilience
 - Protected and Sustainable Environment

It was noted that the strategic initiatives will be developed into business plans and presented to Regional Council by Business Units during Business Plan and Budget deliberations commencing in February 2021. The Draft 2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan becomes final when the Budget is approved.

Members of Council held a discussion regarding the proposed strategic priorities and priority outcomes and provided the following comments:

Prosperous Economy

- Acknowledge the economic and business implications and recovery plan from COVID-19 (e.g. impact on commercial and residential tax rates, effects on women, local small business)
- Engage with local small businesses that have closed as a result of COVID-19
- Engage with youth and continue to focus on immigration

Communities

- Increase Capital District Funds to assist communities that have lost fundraising abilities as a result of COVID-19
- Ensure access to potable water (e.g. quality and quantity) and adequate septic systems.
- Integrate, engage and evaluate Halifax Regional Police and RCMP presence (e.g. better responsiveness and community involvement)
- Implement evacuation plans and secondary access in and out of neighborhoods
- Change the terminology from Inclusive Communities to *Involved Communities*
- Recognize the unique characteristics and create integrated planning and sharing the growth inclusively throughout rural, suburban and urban communities and demographics
- Create stronger language around affordable and accessible housing and a holistic approach to food security
- Allocate additional funding and resources toward traffic calming and safety and create walkable neighborhoods
- Look at strengthening and empowering volunteer community groups and organizations, continue to address systemic racism (e.g. Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Reconciliation)

Integrated Mobility

- Increase active transportation and infrastructure improvements and align across all districts; areas of concern include: transit, paving shoulders of roads in rural areas, crosswalks, sidewalks, speeding, traffic calming, traffic lights and parking
- Create secure and safe walkable roads for all ages and abilities
- Expand transit hours and increased service to rural areas, look at ways to improve ridership and reliability
- Look at potential opportunities for connector roads

Environment

- Focus on strategic park acquisitions and adequate resources for parks and trails, and the protection of greenspace which plays an important role on people's mental and physical health
- Maintain healthy HRM lakes through review and testing of secondary lakes

Mayor Savage rejoined the meeting to participate in the discussion, following which they resumed as Chair and the Deputy Mayor took their seat.

Dubé advised that a revised proposed strategic priorities and priority outcomes would be prepared for Council review December 1, 2020.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Phoebe Rai
A/Municipal Clerk