



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 2, 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
 Mayor Mike Savage
 Deputy Mayor Pam Lovelace
 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
 Lisa Blackburn
 Tim Outhit

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
 Financial Officer
 John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
 Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
 Krista Vining, Acting Deputy Clerk

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 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 12:04 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:01 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in Section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, Council requested that item 7 Chief Administrative Office be considered prior to item 6 Corporate and Customer Services.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Kent

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Céo Gaudet, Dartmouth spoke to HalifACT and proposed an alternate funding mechanism through a gasoline tax.

Victoria Levack, District 9 spoke to limited housing and homelessness initiatives in the budget and suggested the Municipality operate round the clock warming centers.

6. Corporate and Customer Services

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated January 26, 2022
- Staff presentation dated February 2, 2022

John MacPherson, Executive Director of Corporate and Customer Services gave a presentation on Corporate and Customer Services 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Corporate and Customer Services proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated January 26, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment, Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Policy and Planning, and Caroline Blair-Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee request the Chief Administrative Officer provide a briefing note on the rationale of separating out the HalifACT budget line within tax notices including risks or benefits to this approach.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Corporate and Customer Services proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated January 26, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (16 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Purdy

7. Chief Administrative Office

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated January 26, 2022
- Staff presentations dated February 2, 2022

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, Paul Johnston, Managing Director of Government Relations and External Affairs, and Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director of Offices of Diversity and Inclusion gave a presentation on the Chief Administrative Office's 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cuttall

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Chief Administrative Officer's proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated January 26, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

Melody Campbell, Manager of Councillor Support Office and Holly Richardson, Project Lead for Regulatory Modernization responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee request the Chief Administrative Officer provide a briefing note with an overview and scope of the Rural Economic Development positions within the strategies of the Halifax Partnership and Discover Halifax.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Chief Administrative Officer's proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated January 26, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer gave a presentation on the 2022/23 Council Budget Process.

8. Office of the Auditor General

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- Revised staff recommendation report dated January 26, 2022
- Staff presentation dated February 2, 2022

Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General gave a presentation on the Office of the Auditor General's 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Office of the Auditor General's proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated January 26, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk