



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
February 15, 2022**

PRESENT:

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
	Paul Russell
	Tim Outhit

STAFF:

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Iain MacLean, 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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., recessed at 10:26 a.m. and reconvened at 10:34 a.m. Committee of the Whole recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened in at 2:00 p.m., recessed at 3:04 p.m. and reconvened at 3:20 p.m. Committee of the Whole adjourned at 3:25 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 – January 22 and 25, 2022**

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT the minutes of January 21 and 25, 2022 be approved as circulated/amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

### **5. Small Business Definition and Commercial Taxation Options**

The following was before Committee of the Whole:

- Staff recommendation report dated November 16, 2021
- Extracts from Regional Council Minutes dated December 14, 2021 and January 11, 2022
- Correspondence from Michelle Champriss, Sackville Business Association, Business Improvement Districts of Downtown Dartmouth, Downtown Halifax, North End Halifax, Porter's Lake, Quinpool Road, Sackville, Spring Garden Area, Spryfield, Village on Main, Lorrie Frankland, Loblaw Properties Limited, Michael Real, Choice Properties, Ann-Louise McKinnon, Centrecorp Management Services Limited, Christine Corbin, Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA) Nova Scotia, The BOMA NS Commercial Tax Task Force, Andrea Beckingham, Choice Properties, Mathieu Maillet, Altus Group, Kevin Nettle, Paramount Management, Michael Kennedy, Patterson Law, Costa Elles, Mark Snyder, Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs, Rebecca Atkinson, Sober Island Brewing Company, Tammy Flynn, Coconut Creek Gift Shop Inc., Beverly Hynes, Seamus Davids Pub, Jim Cormier, Retail Council of Canada, Matt MacIsaac
- Staff presentation dated February 15, 2022

#### **i) Staff Presentation**

Bruce Fisher, Director of Financial Policy & Planning gave a presentation on small business and commercial taxation options and responded to questions of clarification from Committee of the Whole.

#### **ii) Public Participation**

**Jim Cormier, Atlantic Director, Retail Council of Canada** spoke to the equitable fairness Option 2 provided.

**Mathieu Maillet, Senior Director, Altus Experts Services** spoke in support of a fourth commercial taxation option brought forward by Council January 14, 2022 that involves a small business application process and suggested the exclusion of new construction and major capital improvements from the program.

**Tim Rissesco, Downtown Dartmouth Business Improvement District** spoke in support for Option 3 and relief for small business throughout the Municipality, which aligns with the Regional Plan and Economic Strategy.

**Paul MacKinnon, Downtown Halifax Business Improvement District** spoke in support of Option 3, echoing points made by Rissesco.

**Michell Champniss, Sackville Business Improvement District** spoke in support of Option 3 and the Municipality working with the Province to make changes to legislation for small business.

**Ann-Louise McKinnon, General Manager, Centrecorp Management** spoke against taxing big box businesses which would impact small businesses located in the same zone and treating all businesses fairly.

### iii) Recommendation

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:**

- 1. Draft an administrative order to implement the Tiered Tax Relief for Small Properties (Option 2), as described in the Discussion section of the staff report dated November 16, 2021, effective with the commencement of the 2023/24 fiscal year, and return to Council with the resulting draft for its consideration; and**
- 2. Review the program following the 2023 final tax bill and report back to Council.**

Jacques Dubé Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Committee of the Whole.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.** (3 in favour, 14 against)

In favour: Councillors Hendsbee, Purdy, Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:**

- 1. Draft an administrative order to implement the Tiered Tax Relief combined with Tax Zones (Option 3), as described in the Discussion section of the staff report dated November 16, 2021, effective with the commencement of the 2023/24 fiscal year, and return to Council with the resulting draft for its consideration; and**

**2. Review the program following the 2023 final tax bill and report back to Council.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (14 in favour, 3 against)

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

Against: Councillors Hendsbee, Mancini, Russell

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT Committee of the Whole recommend to Halifax Regional Council that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to prepare a supplementary staff report discussing the impact of adjusting tax rates so that those businesses with assessments under 1 million be taxes at the lower tax rate than those businesses with assessments under 2 million.**

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.** (5 in favour, 12 against)

In favour: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Blackburn, Russell, Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Councillors Kent, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Cleary

Not present: Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Mason

**To convene to Halifax Regional Council.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Iain MacLean  
Municipal Clerk