



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 16 and 18, 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
 Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant
 Jill McGillicuddy, 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 9:31 a.m. on February 16, 2022, and recessed at 12:00 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:00 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 2:57 p.m. and reconvened in at 3:07 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 3:55 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 9:34 a.m. on February 18, 2022, and recessed at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 3:00 p.m. and reconvened at 3:10 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 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 28, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the minutes of January 28, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Graham Bayer, a resident of Dartmouth spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the 2022/23 Halifax Transit Budget. The speaker commended Transit staff for the difficult decision to reduce service on select routes with low ridership during off-peak hours. The speaker made several specific route change recommendations. The speaker expressed general concerns regarding vehicle idling as a contributor to fuel and environmental costs. The speaker proposed the installation of stalling devices within vehicles as a measure to reduce idling costs.

Karen McKendry, a representative of the Ecology Action Centre spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the 2022/23 Parks and Recreation Budget. The speaker stated they are looking for further evidence within the budget of increased funding for parkland acquisition to ensure the municipality achieves climate and growth goals prioritized by Council, particularly acquiring wilderness lands for conservation and wildlife corridors. The speaker also stated they are looking for details within the budget which point to further collaboration between business units to ensure Council priorities including the Regional Plan and the Green Network Plan are achieved.

Shalom Mandaville, a representative of Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the 2022/23 Planning and Development Budget. Mandaville spoke about the lake carrying capacities based on phosphorus and the cumulative issue in select lakes/ponds resulting in nuisance algal blooms. The group has completed modelling for approximately

100,000 lakes and ponds, mostly within HRM. There are various mitigation factors to lessen the runoff of phosphorus into lakes, and ponds such as street cleaning, rain gardens, and storm water treatment.

Sadie Quinn, student representative for Climate Halifax spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the 2022/23 Planning and Development Budget. Quinn spoke to the importance of fully funding HalifACT 20250 as the results of non-action on climate change are beginning to become apparent with storms causing power outages and significant infrastructure damage. Quinn stated that HalifACT 2050 outlines that for every 1 dollar spent now will result in a saving of 6 dollars in the future.

Kortney Dunsby, representative of Ecology Action Centre spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the 2022/23 Planning and Development. Dunsby acknowledged the number of planning documents that have moved forward over the past few years attempting to manage the growth of the Municipality. The concern is as there is continued growth Council's vision as outlined in the Priority Plans will be lost. The current proposed budget does not provide for the implementation of the Priority Plans to create complete communities.

6. Halifax Transit

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated February 9, 2022
- Staff presentation dated February 16, 2022
- Budget Adjustment List Summary dated February 11, 2022
- Correspondence from Graham Bayer

Dave Reage, Executive Director of Halifax Transit, gave a presentation on the Halifax Transit Budget & Business Plan 2022/23 and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Halifax Transit proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated February 9, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee include an amount between \$100,000 and \$750,000 in additional funding costs associated with Covid-19 Recovery within the proposed 2022/23 Halifax Transit proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Blackburn

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Halifax Transit proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated February 9, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Parks and Recreation

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated February 9, 2022
- Staff presentation dated February 16, 2022
- Correspondence from Wendy McDonald and Karen McKendry, Amber Marriott, Mary Ann Law, Neil Oldreive, Monika Wright, Neeve Luthers, Christine Bower, Jan Timberake, Rachel Bower, Jennifer Moore

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation, gave a presentation on the Parks and Recreation Budget & Business Plan 2022/23 and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Parks and Recreation proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated February 9, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee include \$250,000 in additional funding costs associated with Discover Halifax within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Austin, Smith

Nalini Naidoo, Manager of Strategic Planning & Design, Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, Angela Green, Director, Recreation Programming, Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning, and Ray Walsh, Manager, Parks responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the Budget Committee include \$40,000 in additional funding costs associated with a Dog off leash area at Governors Brook within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, second by Councillor Morse

THAT the Budget Committee include \$110,500 in additional funding costs associated with the Multi-Service Youth Centre (MSYC) Phase 2 in Spryfield within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee include \$35,000 in additional funding costs associated with a Community Risk Insurance grant within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Budget Committee include \$568,000 in additional funding costs associated with a Casual Wage Model Implementation within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the Budget Committee include \$150,000 in additional funding costs associated with COVID-19 Recovery Activities and Event Grants within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

Mayor Savage proposed that the Budget Committee include \$200,000 in additional funding costs associated with COVID 19 Recovery Activities and Event Grants within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration. As provided for in Section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

THAT the Budget Committee include \$200,000 in additional funding costs associated with COVID-19 Recovery Activities and Event Grants within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

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, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Budget Committee include \$160,000 in additional funding costs associated with a Multi-District Facility (MDF) Subsidy request within the proposed 2022/23 Parks and Recreation proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The question was called on the main motion.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Parks and Recreation proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated February 9, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Planning and Development

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated February 9, 2022
- Staff presentation dated February 18, 2022
- Correspondence from Shalom Mandaville

Kelly Denty, Executive Director of Planning & Development gave a presentation on Planning & Development Budget and Business Plan 2022/23 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 Planning and Development proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated February 9, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, Peter Duncan, Director of Infrastructure Planning responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee included \$200,000 in additional funding costs associated with Mill Cove Planning and Infrastructure Design within the proposed 2022/23 Planning and Development proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Not present: Councillor Cleary

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee include \$1 Million in additional funding costs associated with Plan and By-law Simplification within the proposed 2022/23 Planning and Development proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee include \$924,700 in ongoing funding associated permit application and approval (additional staffing) within the proposed 2022/23 Planning and Development proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option.

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, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee include \$1.5 million in additional funding costs associated with Future Serviced Communities (Master Planning) baseline infrastructure study and environmental assessments (Sandy Lake, Dartmouth East, Highway 102, AKOMA, Burnside Sub Area 14, Ragged Lake) within the proposed 2022/23 Planning and Development proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option.

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 Planning and Development proposed 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated February 9, 2022 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2022/23 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk