



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
APRIL 12, 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
 Annie Sherry, 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 10:00 a.m. and recessed at 12:15 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:28 p.m. and adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 – March 23, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cuttall

THAT the minutes of March 23, 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 Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Stoddard

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kevin Cullen, District 1 spoke against the proposed tax increase of 4.6%, highlighted that increases to the cost of living have impacted their properties, and suggested that referendums should be considered for tax increases moving forward.

6. PROPOSED 2022/23 BUDGET

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated March 30, 2022, with revised Attachment E
- Handout titled, "Capital Budget Book – Proposed 2022/23 Budget"
- Handout titled, "Budget and Business Plan Book – Proposed 2022/23 Budget"
- Staff presentation dated April 12, 2022
- Correspondence from Wayne N. Rogers, Faye Richard, Dale Smith, Cynthia Dunlavy, Carla MacLellan Taylor, Joe Dunlavy, Nicole Slipp, Vivien Blamire, Mary Ann McGrath, Kathrin Winkler, Sebastian Schlosser, Tara Day, Colleen Clark, Pat Bradley

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer gave a presentation on the Proposed 2022/23 Budget and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Adopt the Resolution for Approval of Operating and Capital Budgets and Tax Rates for Fiscal 2022/23 as set out in Schedule 1 of the staff report dated March 30, 2022.**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate any Deed Transfer Tax revenues in excess of \$71 million to the Capital Reserve Q526.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the projected annual revenue generation for the Climate Action Tax, the projected surplus for the fiscal year, and the potential impacts of an anticipated increased interest rate from the Bank of Canada. Blackwood further highlighted municipal programs that provide support for low-income renters, clarified that multiunit dwellings are assessed at the residential tax rate, and agreed to consider an insert on the annual tax bill itemizing the uses of the Climate Action Tax.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the long-term plan for incorporating the Climate Action Tax into future annual budgets, and clarified that Regional Council will be able to review the environmental considerations for the Highway 102 Corridor Study when completed.

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the Government of Nova Scotia's jurisdiction in funding the Highway 102 Corridor Study.

Denise Schofield, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Citizen Services, Dave Reage, Executive Director, Halifax Transit, and André McNeil, Senior Financial Consultant, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Kelly Denty, Director, Planning and Development, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the quantity and type of staff positions associated with Item 27 on the Budget Adjustment List.

MOTION TO PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 2 against)

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

Against: Councillors Hendsbee, Purdy

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk