



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
February 21 and 22, 2023**

**REVISED**

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

REGRETS: Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Traves, Executive Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor  
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk  
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant  
Lama Farhat, Legislative Assistant  
Catie Campbell, 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 1:01 p.m., and recessed at 2:56 p.m. Council reconvened at 3:16 p.m. Council moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 4:31 p.m. Council recessed at 5:14 p.m. and reconvened at 6:01 p.m. Council recessed at 8:33 p.m. and reconvened at 8:48 p.m. Council recessed at 11:17 p.m. Council reconvened on February 22, 2023 in an In Camera (In Private) session at 9:36 a.m. Council reconvened at 10:29 a.m. Council adjourned at 10:33 a.m.*

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.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. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Councillors noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 7, 2023**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

**THAT the minutes of February 7, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- Item 17.4 – IN CAMERA – Public Safety Matter

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Deagle-Gammon

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Later in the meeting, the following was deferred to a future meeting of Regional Council:

- Item 17.4 – IN CAMERA – Public Safety Matter

### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

As provided for in section 41 (3) of Administrative Order One:

- Item 15.1.6 was removed from the consent agenda at the request of Deputy Mayor Austin

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT Halifax Regional Council approve recommendations in the following agenda items:**

- **13.1.1 – Fly-past Request – Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony;**
- **15.1.4 – HRM Auditor General Term of Appointment – HRM Charter Amendment; and**
- **15.4.1 - Proposed 2023/24 Public Works Budget and Business Plan – Community Monitoring Committee Operating Budget**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

- 6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE
- 7. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE
- 8. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE
- 9. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE
- 10. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE
- 11. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

## 12. PUBLIC HEARING

### 12.1 Case 22423: Regulation of Short-term Rentals

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated December 7, 2022
- Extracts from the January 24, 2023 and December 13, 2022 Regional Council minutes
- Correspondence from Krystle Mackay, William Schofield, Mira Mankila, Adam Schofield, Abe Sorge, Joshua Allen, Luke Godin, Lindsay Lee, Sherry Brown, Steve MacFadgen, Sara C. MacPhee, David Grandy, Kareina D'Souza, Donald Eastop, Jasmine Myers, Joshua MacIsaac, Chris Spurr, Melissa Buote, Tom Riley, Stacey Robertson, Sean McKi, Brett Barron, William Marsman, Bill Stewart, Dragan Veselinovic, Edson Landa, Jennifer Saunders, Carol Dayment and Wendy Fraser, Sadman Hoque, Janice and William Appleby, Chris Stevens, Katie Dolan, Jeffrey Dolan, Vera Kocay, Peter Kowalski, Katharine MacKinnon, Margie Macdonald, David Kiefte, Sabrina Walker, Angela Green, Jesse Hitchcock, Alex Isenor, Peter Mckillop, Maddie Clark-O'Brien, Mary Clark, Sarah B. MacDonald, Evelyn Hornbeck, Ross Jefferson, Anahid Chujunian, Mary Ellen Makhoul, Amy Prescott, Miriam Breslow, Morgan LeCreux, Nancy Hunter, Tony Walsh, Andrew Neville, Sharon Batt, Melanie Gratto, Brendan Smith, Matt McNair, Kat Shubaly, Dawn Upson, Kelsey House, Lisa Roberts, Jamessee Moulton, Richard Pougnet, Victoria Ridler, Louise Andrews, Peggy Cameron, Jake Mosher, Per Langstrom
- Staff presentation dated February 21, 2023

Jill MacLellan, Principal Planner and Brandon Umpherville, Planner II gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Council regarding parking requirements, shared housing versus Short-Term Rentals (STRs), the approval and consultation process, zoning and the provinces implementation of a STR registry on April 1, 2023.

The hearing opened at 6:31 p.m.

Mayor Savage noted that the municipality was the applicant for this matter.

Mayor Savage reviewed the rules of procedure for public hearings and called for anyone wishing to speak on the matter.

**William Stewart, Halifax** spoke on behalf of Neighbours Speak Up and in favour of the proposed amendments, noting it would promote stronger communities and increase the number of long-term rentals available in HRM. Stewart raised concerns regarding the ownership of STRs and encouraged provincial regulation. Stewart supported the primary residential principle be applied to mixed and commercial areas and restrict the uses of STRs in secondary and backyard suites.

**Sharon Batt, Halifax** spoke on behalf of Neighbours Speak Up and in favour of the proposed amendments. Batts suggested that the amendments would support the Centre Plan. As well, Batt encouraged expanding the primary resident requirement for STRs to apply to mixed and commercial zones. Batt provided a jurisdictional scan outlining other approaches to addressing growth and STRs.

**Brenden Smith, Dartmouth** spoke in support of the proposed amendments and provided an overview of the negative implications of the STR industry. Smith noted that the amendments would help foster stronger communities, increase the number of long-term rentals available and support the Centre Plan.

Smith noted the need to expand the primary resident requirement to mixed and commercial zones to alleviate the impact on residential areas.

**Beverly Miller, South End Halifax** spoke in support of the proposed amendments and noted the hybrid use of STRs, highlighting that in the summer properties are used for short term use and in the winter are used to house students. Miller raised concerns regarding taxation, the lack of housing in the municipality and the protection of heritage properties.

**Robert Holden, St. Margaret's Bay** spoke to the positive impacts of STRs, tourism and seasonal demand. Holden raised questions regarding the impacts of the regulations in the St. Margaret's Bay area, taxes and the ongoing impact of growth on housing. Holden responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Larry Haiven, Morris Street** spoke on behalf of the Friends of Schmidville organization and in support of the proposed amendments, noting they would promote and maintain strong communities. Haiven supported the extension of the primary residential principle to apply to mixed and commercial zones. As well, Haiven raised concerns regarding the provincial Task Force on housing.

**Ross Jefferson, President and CEO of Discover Halifax** highlighted the Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Plan along with the social and economic needs of the community. Jefferson noted that the proposed amendments could result in a reduction in available STRs and hotels, which could affect the total annual visitor spending. Jefferson responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council on the total estimated visitor spending and STR availability.

**Joline Dorey, Dartmouth** spoke against the proposed amendments, highlighting that the housing issues are being placed on STRs and noted that not all STRs will be converted into long term housing. Dorey noted the benefits of owning a STR and positive impacts on community, tourism and the economy. Dorey expressed concerns with the Risk Consideration section of the staff report dated December 7, 2022 and the lack of consultation with STR owners. Dorey responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Mike Petrosoniak, Bedford** spoke against the proposed amendments and highlighted the benefits of owning a STR and the positive impacts on community, tourism and the economy. Petrosoniak noted that local hotels are privately owned by large companies and that STRs benefit people during the housing crisis.

**Nicolas Dussault, Dartmouth** spoke in support of the proposed amendments and highlighted that the amendments would help foster stronger communities and contribute to a sense of security. As well, noted concerns regarding lack of accountability, long term rental housing availability and quality of life concerns.

**Andrea Osmond, Lower Sackville** spoke against the proposed amendments and highlighted the benefits of owning a STR and the positive impacts on community, tourism and the economy. Osmond noted that STRs help transition people into Nova Scotia and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Christopher Moulton, Middle Musquodoboit** spoke against the proposed amendments and highlighted the development of as a STR business. Moulton supported licensing and standards for STRs and raised concerns regarding zoning in rural areas. Moulton highlighted the positive impacts STRs have on community, tourism and the economy and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Richard Pougnet, Halifax** spoke against the proposed amendments and highlighted the benefits of owning a STR and the affect STRs have on community, tourism and the economy. Pougnet highlighted the benefits of STRs versus hotels. Pougnet outlined a report from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Cooperation (CMHC) which noted HRM's vacancy rate and average rent price. Pougnet raised concerns regarding affordable housing, homelessness in HRM, cost of living and zoning.

**Lisa Roberts, District 8** spoke in support of the proposed amendments, noting it would foster and maintain strong communities. As well, supported the extension of the primary residential principle to mixed and commercial zones. Roberts provided a jurisdictional scan outlining other approaches to growth and STRs.

**Tanya Cowbrough, Dartmouth** spoke against the proposed amendments and highlighted the benefits of owning a STR and challenges with owning a long-term rental. Cowbrough responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Jessica Woodman, South End Halifax** spoke against the proposed amendments and highlighted the benefits of owning a STR, potential impacts of the proposed amendments and the positive impacts on community, tourism and the economy. Woodman noted challenges owning a long-term rental and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Will Greene, North End Halifax** spoke against the proposed amendments, STR availability and the hybrid rental approach. Greene reiterated points on the CMHC report on the state of housing in HRM. As well, highlighted the positive affect STRs have on community, tourism and the economy. Greene responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Avery Birch, South End Halifax** spoke against the proposed amendments, highlighted the benefits of owning STRs and outlined the growth in HRM. Birch noted the impact STRs have on community, tourism and the economy. As well, raised concerns regarding zoning and the consultation process. Birch suggested adding a levy to the consumer to support affordable housing and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Pierre Haché, Quinpool** spoke in favour of the proposed amendments and encouraged the extension of the primary residential principal to apply to mixed and commercial zones. Haché suggested reviewing the timeline for when the proposed amendments would come into effect.

**Janice Webber, Halifax** spoke against the proposed amendments and highlighted the benefits of owning a STR. Webber addressed concerns regarding taxes and outlined challenges with the Tendency Board. Webber sought clarification on the different classifications of STRs and outlined the positive impact STRs have on community, tourism and the economy.

**Tiffany Westwood, Eastern Passage** spoke against the proposed amendments and to the benefits of managing STRs. Westwood highlighted challenges associated with development, managing long-term rentals and the potential impacts of the proposed amendments. Westwood provided alternatives to regulating STRs and noted concerns regarding affordable housing.

**Davan Skelhorn, Eastern Passage** spoke against the proposed amendments, the housing market and outlined the benefits of STRs. Skelhorn noted the positive impact STRs have on community, tourism and the economy. Skelhorn suggested some form of regulation would be appropriate, but the proposed amendments were not considered sufficient.

**Sid Kosatsky, Halifax** spoke on behalf of Host Often Property Company and against the proposed amendments. Kosatsky spoke to the benefits of managing STRs, long-term rentals and hybrid rentals. Kosatsky noted discrepancy in listing data and echoed the benefits of imposing a levy to the consumer to support affordable housing. Kosatsky responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Hassan Haider, Bedford** spoke on behalf of Halifax Experience Property Company and against the proposed amendments. Haider mentioned the benefits of managing STRs and the positive impacts on community, tourism and the economy. As well, suggested reviewing the timeline for when the proposed amendments would come into effect. Haider raised concerns regarding managing long-term rentals, the consultation process, the need for more data and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Lynn Grey, Lower Sackville** spoke against the proposed amendments and the benefits of STRs on community, tourism and the economy. Grey suggested a review of how STRs are managed.

**Cameron Catsburg, Hubley** sought clarification on the explicit outcomes, desired results and affect the proposed amendments would have on the housing and rental market. Catsburg highlighted accountability in STR platforms and echoed the proposal for a levy imposed on the consumer to supplement affordable housing.

**Collins Ellison, District 7** spoke in favour of the proposed amendment and highlighted that regulations would support long-term rentals. Ellison raised concerns regarding rent cap, the affordability of rental units and homelessness in HRM, encouraging further resourcing for homelessness efforts. Ellison responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Mike Evans, HRM** spoke against the proposed amendments and the benefits of owning STRs, as well, the positive impact on communities, tourism and the economy. Evans suggested different forms of taxation.

**Joe Phoenix, Eastern Shore** spoke against the proposed amendments and the benefits of owning a STR and hybrid renting. Phoenix highlighted the positive impact STRs have on community, tourism and the economy as well as the accessibility supports provided by STR parent companies. Phoenix suggested some form of regulation would be appropriate, but the proposed amendments were not. Phoenix responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Gidan Pompilio, Purcell's Cove** spoke against the proposed amendments, highlighted the benefits of owning STRs and challenges with long-term rentals. Pompilio outlined the benefits STRs have on community, tourism and the economy and suggested developing more subdivisions. Pompilio noted concerns with the proposed amendments suggesting there is room for ambiguity and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Philip Doody, Rockingham** spoke against the proposed amendments and highlighted the benefits of owning STRs. Doody suggested a combined approach to addressing housing in consultation with the Province and a review of the Tendency Act. As well, encouraged different taxation options, a faster permitting process and zoning evaluations. Doody responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**Adam Conter, District 7** spoke to the benefits of growth, change and proper regulation. Conter highlighted the benefits of immigration and imposing a levy on the consumer to support affordable housing. Conter encouraged further data and delaying implementation of the proposed amendments. As well, highlighted the benefits STRs have on community, tourism and the economy.

Mayor Savage called three times for any other members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT the hearing be closed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The hearing closed at 9:35 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan), Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies (SMPs), and all**

**Land Use By-laws (LUBs) as set out in Attachments A, B and C of the staff report dated December 7, 2022 to establish consistent region wide policies and regulations for short-term rentals.**

MacLellan and Umpherville responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding accommodation tax, levy options, the registry process and the classification of STRs.

As set out in section 34 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, a motion was required to extend the time of the meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Halifax Regional Council extend the time of the meeting past 10:00 p.m.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MacLellan and Umpherville provided clarification on the scope of the proposed amendments, ongoing review process, compliance measures and approximate the number of non-compliant STRs. As well, clarified the identification of primary, secondary units and backyard suites, tourist accommodations, by-laws and zoning.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT the motion be amended to include 'and direct that the by-law not be advertised until September 1, 2023'.**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning and Development, MacLellan and John Traves, Executive Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council regarding the delay of implementation, the Province's STR registry and by-law compliance.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.** (10 in favour, 6 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Russell

Against: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Cleary, Morse

Not present: Councillor Outhit

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan), Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies (SMPs), and all Land Use By-laws (LUBs) as set out in Attachments A, B and C of the staff report dated December 7, 2022 to establish consistent region wide policies and regulations for short-term rentals and direct that the by-law not be advertised until September 1, 2023.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.** (13 in favour, 3 against)

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

Against: Councillors Kent, Purdy, Cleary

Not present: Councillor Outhit

### **13. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

#### **13.1 Correspondence**

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 12.1, 13.1.1 and 15.1.3.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

##### **13.1.1 Fly-past Request – Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony**

The following was before Council:

- Correspondence from Captain A. MacKenzie

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT Halifax Regional Council grant permission for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to fly RCAF assets in formation over Point Pleasant Park as per the enclosed diagram in the letter dated February 1, 2023 (routed from sea and turning inland to fly directly over the memorial) at an altitude of 500 feet above the highest obstacles at 10:58 a.m. on May 7, 2023, as part of Battle of the Atlantic ceremony.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

#### **13.2 Petitions – None**

### **14. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

### **15. REPORTS**

#### **15.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

##### **15.1.1 Second Reading Proposed By-Law P-1203, Respecting On-street Parking Permits and Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 15, Respecting License, Permit and Processing Fees**

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated January 16, 2023 with revised Attachment C dated February 3, 2023
- Extracts from the January 24, 2023 and January 10, 2023 Regional Council minutes

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Adopt By-law P-1203, amending By-law P-1200, the On-street Parking Permits By-law, as set out in Attachment B to the revised staff report dated January 16, 2023; and**
- 2. Adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 15, the License, Permits and Processing Fees Administrative Order, as set out in revised Attachment C to the revised staff report dated January 16, 2023.**

Victoria Horne, Director, Parking responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (15 in favour, 1 against)

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

Against: Councillor Russell

Not present: Councillor Outhit

**15.1.2 Case 24063: Interim Incentive or Bonus Zoning Program Outside of the Regional Centre**

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated February 10, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

**THAT Halifax Regional Council give First Reading and schedule a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-laws, as set out in Attachments A and B of the staff report dated February 10, 2023.**

Kasia Tota, Manager, Community Policy Program responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

**15.1.3 Permanent Encroachment of a Building Entrance and Balconies at 5550 Bilby Street, Halifax**

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated February 10, 2023
- Correspondence from Renee and Jonathan Ross

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT Halifax Regional Council not approve the application for encroachment of the main entrance and balconies currently constructed within the HRM right-of-way at civic 5550 Bilby Street Halifax, NS. The location of the encroachments is shown on Map 1 and Attachments A, B and C of the staff report dated February 10, 2023.**

Ashley Blissett, Manager, Development Engineering Program responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Kent

**THAT Halifax Regional Council approve the encroachment application for the main entrance and balconies constructed within the HRM right-of-way at civic 5550 Bilby Street Halifax and execute an Encroachment Agreement on the terms satisfactory to the Chief Administrative Officer.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

#### **15.1.4 HRM Auditor General Term of Appointment – HRM Charter Amendment**

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated February 15, 2023

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Province requesting an amendment to the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter to grant Halifax Regional Council the authority to determine the length of a fixed-term appointment for HRM’s Auditor General for a non-renewable term not to exceed 10 years.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

#### **15.1.5 Framework for Addressing Homelessness**

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated February 15, 2023
- Staff presentation dated February 21, 2023

Max Chauvin, Director, Housing and Homelessness gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve A Framework to Address Homelessness in the Halifax Regional Municipality (Attachment A of the staff report dated February 15, 2023) as a document to guide the municipality’s activities in the area of homelessness;**
- 2. Direct funding in the amount of \$334,800 to maintain the current level of services as identified in Table 1 in the financial implications section of the staff report dated February 15, 2023 be added to the 2023/24 Budget Adjustment List; and**
- 3. Direct funding in the amount of up to \$798,000 for proposed initiatives as identified in Table 2 in the financial implications section of the staff report dated February 15, 2023 be added to the 2023/24 Budget Adjustment List, conditional on the cost for the daytime drop-in centre being shared equally with the Province of Nova Scotia such that HRM’s share not exceed an annual cost of \$744,000.**

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks and Recreation and Cathie O’Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

Mayor Savage stepped down from the Chair and Deputy Mayor Austin assumed the Chair.

Mayor Savage resumed the Chair.

Councillor Cuttell proposed that the motion include a request for a staff report to identify potential sites that could accommodate those relying on their campervans and vehicles for shelter, with consideration of required zoning changes, access to power, water and washroom facilities, public safety, and community service supports. 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 now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve A Framework to Address Homelessness in the Halifax Regional Municipality (Attachment A of the staff report dated February 15, 2023) as a document to guide the municipality's activities in the area of homelessness;**
- 2. Direct funding in the amount of \$334,800 to maintain the current level of services as identified in Table 1 in the financial implications section of the staff report dated February 15, 2023 be added to the 2023/24 Budget Adjustment List; and**
- 3. Direct funding in the amount of up to \$798,000 for proposed initiatives as identified in Table 2 in the financial implications section of the staff report dated February 15, 2023 be added to the 2023/24 Budget Adjustment List, conditional on the cost for the daytime drop-in centre being shared equally with the Province of Nova Scotia such that HRM's share not exceed an annual cost of \$744,000.**
- 4. That Regional Council direct the CAO provide a staff report that identifies potential sites that could accommodate those relying on their campervans and vehicles for shelter, with consideration of required zoning changes, access to power, water and washroom facilities, public safety, and community service supports.**

MacDonald and Chauvin indicated that the framework includes direction to collaborate with the Province regarding options to address the needs of people using vehicles for shelter and to report back to Council.

As provided for in section 66 of *Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the friendly amendment was withdrawn with consent of Regional Council.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve A Framework to Address Homelessness in the Halifax Regional Municipality (Attachment A of the staff report dated February 15, 2023) as a document to guide the municipality's activities in the area of homelessness;**
- 2. Direct funding in the amount of \$334,800 to maintain the current level of services as identified in Table 1 in the financial implications section of the staff report dated February 15, 2023 be added to the 2023/24 Budget Adjustment List; and**
- 3. Direct funding in the amount of up to \$798,000 for proposed initiatives as identified in Table 2 in the financial implications section of the staff report dated February 15, 2023 be added to the 2023/24 Budget Adjustment List, conditional on the cost for the daytime drop-in centre being shared equally with the Province of Nova Scotia such that HRM's share not exceed an annual cost of \$744,000.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

**15.1.6 Navigator Program Expansion – Request**

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated February 10, 2023

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Austin, seconded by Councillor Kent

**THAT Halifax Regional Council allocate \$150,000 to cover salary, benefits and non-salary expenditures associated with adding a municipal staff position (Coordinator of Housing and Homelessness) with required funding of \$125,000 to be added to the 2023/24 budget adjustment list.**

Paul Johnston, Managing Director, Government Relations and External Affairs and Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Tim Outhit

**15.2 GRANTS COMMITTEE**

**15.2.1 Less than Market Value Lease: Back to the Sea Society**

The following was before Council:

- Grants Committee report dated February 13, 2023 with attached staff report dated February 3, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Deputy Mayor Austin

**THAT Halifax Regional Council authorize the Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment to negotiate and finalize a less than market value lease agreement with Back to the Sea Society for the premises located at 140 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth as per the key terms and conditions set out in Table 1 in the discussion section of the staff report dated February 3, 2023, and direct the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the finalized less than market value lease agreement.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

**15.3 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**15.3.1 Councillor Lovelace – Identify Fire Emergency Services for Future Community Development and Population Growth**

The following was before Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report and return to Council with options to adequately plan for population growth and future community**

development by identifying capital and operational requirements to establish new Fire Emergency Services assets, including but not limited to:

- a) options for property and/or land acquisition;
- b) capital cost contributions allocated to build new fire stations;
- c) access to water sources in unserved communities;
- d) adequate roads with sufficient egress;
- e) appropriate mitigation strategies to address community risk factors such as further development in the wildland urban interface;
- f) human resources requirements to staff new fire stations.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

Councillor Russell proposed that the motion include collaboration with the Province to identify locations, land reserves, and infrastructures for both schools and community hospitals. 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 now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

1. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report and return to Council with options to adequately plan for population growth and future community development by identifying capital and operational requirements to establish new Fire Emergency Services assets, including but not limited to:**
  - a. options for property and/or land acquisition;
  - b. capital cost contributions allocated to build new fire stations;
  - c. access to water sources in unserved communities;
  - d. adequate roads with sufficient egress;
  - e. appropriate mitigation strategies to address community risk factors such as further development in the wildland urban interface;
  - f. human resources requirements to staff new fire stations;
2. **Collaborate with the province to identify locations, land reserves, and infrastructures for both schools and community hospitals.**

O'Toole indicated there is a request to formalize a Memorandum or Letter of Understanding with the Province regarding long-term land needs and requirements and it would be brought back to Council.

As provided for in section 66 of *Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the friendly amendment was withdrawn with consent of Regional Council.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report and return to Council with options to adequately plan for population growth and future community development by identifying capital and operational requirements to establish new Fire Emergency Services assets, including but not limited to:**

- a) options for property and/or land acquisition;
- b) capital cost contributions allocated to build new fire stations;
- c) access to water sources in unserved communities;
- d) adequate roads with sufficient egress;
- e) appropriate mitigation strategies to address community risk factors such as further development in the wildland urban interface;
- f) human resources requirements to staff new fire stations.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

### **15.3.2 Councillor Mancini – Halifax Public Library Collection Expansion Strategy**

The following was before Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Mancini

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Morse

**THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report to create a strategy to bring the Halifax Public Libraries collection to the national standard working with the Halifax Public Libraries Chief Executive Officer.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

## **15.4 BUDGET COMMITTEE**

### **15.4.1 Proposed 2023/24 Public Works Budget and Business Plan – Community Monitoring Committee Operating Budget**

The following was before Council:

- Budget Committee report dated February 15, 2023 with attached staff report dated February 8, 2023

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT Halifax Regional Council approve the Community Monitoring Committee operating budget of \$79,000 as currently allocated within the Public Works proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan prior to February 28, 2023.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

**16. MOTIONS – NONE**

**17. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

**17.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – February 7, 2023**

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of February 7, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Austin, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT Regional Council convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 17.2 PROPERTY MATTER.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**17.2 PROPERTY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

The following was before Regional Council:

- Private and confidential staff report dated February 13, 2023

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

**That Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Adopt the direction provided in the private and confidential meeting dated February 22 2023; and**
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated February 13, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (12 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Purdy, Mancini, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell

Against: Councillors Mason, Smith

Not present: Councillors Kent, Lovelace, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Halifax Regional Council reconvene In Camera (In Private) on February 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss Item 17.3 PROPERTY MATTER.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**17.3 PROPERTY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

The following was before Regional Council:

- Private and confidential staff report dated February 16, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated February 16, 2023; and**
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated February 16, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Not present: Councillors Kent, Lovelace, Outhit

**17.4 PUBLIC SAFETY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

This matter was deferred; refer to the Order of Business.

**18. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**19. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**19.1 Councillor Hendsbee**

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move the following:

1. First Reading of By-Law A-601, *Respecting Advertisements on Provincial Highway,*
2. Amendments to Administrative Order 15, *Respecting License Permit and Processing Fees,*

the purpose of which is to expand the Sign Program to include a section of Highway 7 and to increase the license application and renewal fees.

**19.2 Councillor Deagle Gammon**

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move the First Reading of By-Law S-451, *Respecting Charges for Street Improvements,* the purpose of which is to impose an LIC to 88 properties for the paving of Silverside Drive, Topsail Court, Rosley Road and Trinity Lane.

**19.3 Deputy Mayor Austin**

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move the First Reading of By-Law F-303, *A By-law Relating to Fees for the Provision of Taxation Information*, the purpose of which is to implement new fees for providing property taxation information.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned on February 22, 2023 at 10:33 a.m.

Iain MacLean  
Municipal Clerk