

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES January 9, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage

Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon

Councillors: David Hendsbee

Becky Kent
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Kathryn Morse
Patty Cuttell
lona Stoddard
Pam Lovelace
Lisa Blackburn
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillors: Trish Purdy

Paul Russell - Leave of Absence

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services

/Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer

lain MacLean, Municipal Clerk Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant Elizabeth Macdonald, 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 1:00 p.m., and recessed at 3:02 p.m. Council reconvened at 3:20 p.m. Council recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened at 6:00 p.m. Council adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 1:00 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.

Special Presentation - Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) 2024 Assessment Roll

The following was before Council:

- Handout dated January 9, 2024
- Presentation dated January 9, 2024
- Correspondence from Randy Townsend

Rebecca Vorstermans, Vice President of Stakeholder Relations and Communications and Jeff Caddell, Assistant Director of Operations, Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regional Council December 12 and Special Regional Council December 21, 2023

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the minutes of Regional Council December 12 and Special Regional Council December 21, 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 PROPERTY MATTER Private and Confidential Report
- Item 18.1 Councillor Blackburn Leave of Absence Request Councillor Russell

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

• Item 15.3.1 was removed from the consent agenda at the request of Councillor Hendsbee

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 - December 12, 2023

9.1 Councillor Lovelace

The following was before Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Lovelace
- Extract from the December 12, 2023 Regional Council draft minutes
- Correspondence from Wendy McDonald, Neil Mooy

A vote was required to consider the Motion of Rescission.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (12 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillors Smith, Cleary, Morse

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Halifax Regional Council rescind Council's decision of December 12, 2023, declaring 21 Fox Hollow Drive, PID 40684557, surplus to municipal requirements.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer and Mike Wile, Manager, Acquisitions, Disposals and Independent Lands responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION TO RESCIND PUT AND DEFEATED. (4 in favour, 11 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Lovelace,

Against: Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Outhit

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

10. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

11. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS - NONE

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

12.1 Proposed Administrative Order SC-103, Respecting Closure of Almon Lane, Halifax

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated October 6, 2023
- Extracts from the November 14, 2023 and November 28, 2023 Regional Council minutes
- Staff presentation dated January 9, 2024

Colin Walsh, Project Manager Corporate Real Estate gave a presentation.

The hearing opened at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor Savage invited the applicant to come forward and address Council.

Danny Chedrawe, Applicant, Westwood Developments Ltd. spoke to the Richmond Yards apartment complex currently under development. Chedrawe noted Westwood worked in collaboration with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff to ensure the development accommodated the Almon Street Bike Lane and the Robie Street/Young Street Transit Priority Corridor and acquiring Almon Lane would allow for resident parking at Richmond Yards to not interfere with pedestrian accessibility to the Bike Lane and Priority Corridor.

Mayor Savage reviewed the rules of procedure for public hearings. Mayor Savage noted there were no registered speakers and called three times for any other members of the public wishing to speak; there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the hearing be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The hearing closed at 6:09 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt Administrative Order SC-103 as set out in Attachment 3 of staff report dated October 6, 2023, to permanently close Almon Lane, Halifax, as a street, and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to direct the Clerk to certify a copy of the policy passed by Council incorporating a survey or a metes and bounds description of Almon Lane, and to file the certified copy of the policy in the office of the Halifax County Registry of Deeds and with the Minister of Public Works.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

12.2 PLPROJ 2023-01544: Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law amendments to restrict water lot infilling on the Northwest Arm

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated December 6, 2023
- Extract from the December 12, 2023 draft Regional Council minutes
- Correspondence from Shelley Adamo, Greg Aikins, Meghan Marentette, Bruce and Carla Elliot, Norma Taussig, Ethel Kostman, Paul Rafuse, Karen Lyle, Kevin Rosborough, Lorna and Ashley Brown, David McKeown, Agnes McLean, Dennis Page, Brenda Kops and Dan Whittaker, John MacIsaac, Cynthia Parsons, Kathleen Hall, Jillian Flanagan, Judith Hare, Scott Hodgson, Rebecca A. Jamieson, Lynda S. Rosborough, Duson Soudek, Patricia De Meo, Ella McQuinn, Dawn Burstall, Janet E. Chute, Catherine Smalley, Kenneth Lee, Andrew Cumming, David Wimberly, Karen Beazley and Ken Crowell, Joanne Ritchie, Joan and David Dobbie, Berjoska Rajnis

Rhys Burnell, Planner II gave a presentation. Burnell and Luc Ouellet, Principal Planner responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services /Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

The hearing opened at 6:25 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.

Greg Aikins, Halifax spoke against infilling and to concerns regarding marine safety. Aikins explained personal watercraft use in the Northwest Arm already exceeds reasonable limits and infilling could lead to narrowing of the current waterways which would increase risk of accidents.

Alan Shaw, Armdale spoke in favour of the proposed amendments and thanked HRM staff for their work to restrict infilling. Shaw noted the Northwest Arm is a popular recreational area used by many HRM residents. They explained that one property owner choosing to infill could create a domino effect where more residents are incentivized to infill to keep their water access. Shaw also noted issues of erosion and sediment in the Arm, rising sea levels, the threat of climate change and public water being appropriated to private land posed threats to the Arm remaining as a public good.

Michelle Raymond, Halifax spoke in support of the proposed amendments and noted preserving the recreational health of the Arm will ensure the long-term vitality of the city. Raymond also explained the Arm is not only an important recreational environment but is used for fishing and is an important tidal zone. Consequently, further narrowing of the waterways due to infilling could lead to issues in the future.

Nancy Anningson, Ecology Action Centre spoke against infilling and noted the importance of shoreline protection and preserving the Arm's vibrant coastal ecosystem. Anningson explained they first became aware of an application to infill in 2020 and along with other organizers, wrote over two thousand letters to Transport Canada regarding the dangers of allowing infilling. They also thanked the Mayor and Council for their support in restricting infilling.

Anthony Rosborough, Purcell's Cove spoke to the success of the "learn to sail" program on the Northwest Arm and noted it offered newcomers and underprivileged youth a chance to be involved in recreational activities. Rosborough explained the Arm's waterways are used by those from a variety of backgrounds and communities and protecting the Arm is in the best interest of the public. They also requested further clarification on the proposed amendments and thanked the Municipality to their work.

Michael Scott, Halifax spoke to the Northwest Arm being a prominent Halifax landmark. Scott emphasized the importance of ensuring its preservation for public use. Scott recalled the Arm being memorable following his first visit to Halifax.

John Hennigar, **Halifax** spoke to the Northwest Arm being a well-used and important public space and noted it should be preserved as a future asset for the city.

Judy Robertson, Halifax thanked HRM staff for their work on the proposed amendments. Robertson noted pre-Confederation water lots were not created with the intent for infilling but as a place for a wharf and tying up a boat. Robertson explained infilling would threaten the Halifax Rowing Club and Northwest Arm Regatta and other sailing and recreational programs.

Danny Chedrawe, **Halifax** expressed support for the proposed amendments and agreed the Northwest Arm needs to be protected and preserved. Chedrawe also expressed intent to infill at the end of the Arm to complete a walkway from Regatta Point to Horseshoe Island but noted this would not have an impact on the waterways.

Philip Saunders, Halifax spoke in support of the proposed amendments. Saunders noted under Canada's constitutional structure, the Northwest Arm and other bodies of water are under the jurisdiction

of the Province of Nova Scotia and therefore, of the municipality. Saunders asserted HRM has conferred jurisdiction over the area and urged Region Council to create a by-law to ban infilling.

David Lewis, Hollis Street spoke in favour of the proposed amendments. Lewis noted they launch a small boat in the Arm every summer and emphasized it is a well-used public space.

Joanne Roberts, Regatta Point spoke in favour of the motion and congratulated HRM planning staff for their work. Roberts encouraged Regional Council to consider passing a by-law to ban infilling in the Northwest Arm so as not to rely on other levels of government to act. Roberts echoed the sentiments expressed by previous speaker, Philip Saunders.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT the hearing be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy, the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, and the Halifax Mainland Land Use By-law, as set out in Attachments A, B, C, and D of the staff report dated December 6, 2023 to restrict water lot infilling on the Northwest Arm.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

13. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

13.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 9.1, 12.1 and 15.1.1.

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

13.2 Petitions - None

14. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – December 12, 2023 14.1 Councillor Lovelace – Legislative Update – 2023 Fall Sitting

The following was before Council:

• Staff report dated November 14, 2023

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

15. REPORTS

15.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

15.1.1 Second Reading Proposed By-Law S-452, an Amendment to By-Law S-400 Respecting Charges for Street Improvements - Supplementary Report

The following was before Council:

Staff report dated August 14, 2023, revised January 3, 2024 and January 8, 2024

- Supplementary staff report dated October 6, 2023
- Extract from the September 26, 2023 Regional Council minutes
- Correspondence from Denise and Gary Crooks, Liddy and Kyle Wallace, Elyssa Buckman

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the revised Amending By-law S-452, Amending By-law S-400, the Street Improvements By-law, as set out in revised Attachment 1 of the supplementary report dated October 6, 2023.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Item 15.1.1 be deferred to the January 23, 2024 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

15.1.2 Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 17, Respecting Remuneration for Members of Council - Review of Council Compensation

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated December 21, 2023
- Extract from the December 12, 2023 Regional Council draft minutes

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 17, the Council Member Remuneration Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment 2 of staff report dated December 21, 2023.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

15.1.3 Canadian Capital Cities Organization Membership Renewal and 2025 Fall Conference

The following was before Council:

• Staff report dated January 3, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Renew membership with the Canadian Capital Cities Organization; and,
- 2. Provide a proposal to host the organization's annual member conference for the 2025 annual conference event in September 2025.

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

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

15.2 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE 15.2.1 Second Reading Proposed By-Law N-208, an amendment to By-law N-200 Respecting Noise - Construction Noise Updates

The following was before Council:

- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee report dated November 16, 2023 with attached staff report dated September 27, 2023
- Extract from the December 12, 2023 Regional Council draft minutes

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt By-law N-208, amending By-law N-200, the Noise By-law, as set out in Attachment B of the staff report dated September 27, 2023.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

15.2.2 Rural Recreation Strategy

The following was before Council:

- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee report dated December 14, 2023 with attached staff report dated October 11, 2023
- Staff presentation dated January 9, 2024

Diana Levandier, Area Manager, Mainland North and Western gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the Rural Recreation Strategy (Attachment 1 of the staff report dated October 11, 2023);
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out the actions contained in the Rural Recreation Strategy as part of the multi-year budgeting and business planning process;
- 3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Regional Council via Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee with a progress report after one year of the adoption of the Rural Recreation Strategy.

Nalini Naidoo, Director, Strategic Planning and Design, Angela Green, Director, Recreation Programming and Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

15.3 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE & HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15.3.1 Sharing our Stories: HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan

The following was before Council:

- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee report dated December 14, 2023
- Heritage Advisory Committee report dated November 15, 2023
- Staff report dated October 23, 2023

Aaron Murnaghan, Principal Planner gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- Endorse the direction contained in Sharing our Stories: HRM's Culture and Heritage
 Priorities Plan as provided in Attachment A of the staff report dated October 23, 2023 as a
 framework for amending the existing Regional Plan and Secondary Planning Strategies
 and developing new planning documents and other municipal policies and programs as
 may be necessary to implement the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan direction;
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include funding options for actions contained in Sharing our Stories: HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan for consideration in the 24/25 budget; and
- 3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide progress reports every two years on the implementation of the Plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

15.4 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE 15.4.1 HalifACT Annual Progress Report: 2022-2023

The following was before Council:

- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee report dated December 7, 2023 with attached staff report dated November 30, 2023
- Staff presentation dated January 9, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Halifax Regional Council receive the HalifACT Annual Progress Report: 2022-2023 for information, discussion and a presentation.

Mayor Savage stepped down from the Chair and Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair.

Shannon Miedema, Director, Environment and Climate Change, Kevin Boutilier, Manager, Clean Energy and Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

Mayor Savage resumed the Chair.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

15.5 EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE

15.5.1 Second Reading Proposed By-law C-1102, an amendment to By-law C-1100 Respecting Campaign Financing

The following was before Council:

- Extract from the December 12, 2023 Regional Council draft minutes
- Staff report dated November 27, 2023
- Handout dated September 19, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt By-law C-1102 amending By-law C-1100, the Campaign Financing By-law, as set out in Attachment 1 (Revised) of the Executive Standing Committee report dated November 27, 2023.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

15.6 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

15.6.1 Councillor Lovelace - Administrative Order 50 Amendments

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 on amending Administrative Order 50, Respecting the Disposal of Surplus Real Property (AO-50), to ensure surplus land designated for Affordable Housing can support housing construction including required provincial regulatory requirements for On Site Septic Disposal Systems (OSSDS), groundwater, wetlands, and watercourse alteration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (12 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Smith, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillors Austin, Mason, Cleary

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

16. MOTIONS - NONE

17. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

17.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes - December 12 and 21, 2023

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of December 12 and 21, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

17.2 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

The following was before Council:

• Private and confidential staff report dated December 27, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated December 27, 2023; and;
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated December 27, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

17.3 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

The following was before Council:

Private and confidential staff report dated January 3, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated January 3, 2024; and;
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated January 3, 2024 be maintained private and confidential.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

17.4 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

The following was before Council:

Private and confidential staff report dated January 9, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated January 9, 2024; and;

2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated January 9, 2024 be maintained private and confidential.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

Private and Confidential Information Items

1. Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: PERSONNEL MATTER

18. ADDED ITEMS

18.1 Councillor Blackburn - Leave of Absence Request - Councillor Russell

The following was before Council:

Reguest for Consideration form from Councillor Blackburn

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Outhit

Pursuant to the Halifax Regional Municipal Charter sections 14 (4) and 22 (1) I request, that Halifax Regional Council grant Councillor Paul Russell a leave of absence from all meetings, including Regional Council, North West Community Council and Budget Committee, until February 14, 2024 to allow for medical treatments and recovery.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Russell

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

19.1 Councillor Lovelace

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move a motion to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to consider the information contained in the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables FOIPOP report and the RCMP ATIP report when preparing the staff report with respect to Wildland Urban interface Preparedness Strategies.

19.2 Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

TAKE NOTICE that, a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to propose First Reading of Bylaw S-453, amending By-law S-400, *Respecting Charges for Street Improvements*, the purpose of which is to include select Halifax Regional Municipality owned gravel roads.

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

lain MacLean Municipal Clerk