



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
February 6, 2024**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillors: 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
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor Sam Austin

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services
/Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Regional Council at a future meeting.

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.

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The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m., and recessed at 3:30 p.m. Council reconvened at 3:45 p.m. Council moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 4:42 p.m. and reconvened at 5:07 p.m. Council adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 1:03 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 – January 23, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the minutes of January 23, 2024 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Deferred to a future meeting of Regional Council:

- Item 15.3.1 Lake Banook Master Plan

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Purdy requested that Item 15.5.1 - 2024/25 Multi-Year Capital Plan be considered prior to item 15.1.3.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Item 15.5.1 was removed from the consent agenda at the request of Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

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

- **15.1.2 – Facility Operating Agreement – Sackville Heights Community Centre;**
- **15.4.1 – Case HRTG-2023-01146: Substantial Alteration to the Municipally Registered Heritage Property at 2539 Agricola Street, Halifax;**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

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 HEARINGS - NONE

13. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

13.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 15.1.4 and 15.6.1.

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

13.2 Petitions

13.2.1 Councillor Russell

Councillor Russell submitted a petition from Andrew Roof regarding the Pallet Village in Lower Sackville with approximately 560 signatures regarding the unilateral decision to install a Pallet Village with the purpose of housing homeless residents at 125 Metropolitan Avenue, Lower Sackville, NS.

14. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

15. REPORTS

15.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

15.1.1 PLPROJ-2023-01671: Comprehensive Neighbourhood Planning Process for Bedford Commons, Bedford

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated December 14, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Initiate a process to consider amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, the Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy, and the Bedford Land Use By-law to enable a comprehensive mixed-use development of the Bedford Commons Opportunity Site located between Highway 102, Rocky Lake Drive, the Bedford Bypass, and Duke Street, Bedford and surrounding lands as outlined in the discussion section of the staff report dated December 14, 2024; and

2. Follow the public participation program as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated December 14, 2023.

Jacqueline Hamilton, Executive Director, Planning & Development and James Coons, Planner II responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

15.1.2 Facility Operating Agreement – Sackville Heights Community Centre

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated November 30, 2023

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

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the Facility Operating Agreement (FOA) with the Sackville Heights Community & Cultural Centre for the Sackville Heights Community Centre at 45 Connolly Road, substantially in the same form as set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 30, 2023, and direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to execute the FOA;**
- 2. Direct the CAO to negotiate a Lease Agreement with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Halifax for the existing occupied space at 45 Connolly Road, and return a staff report through Grants Committee for the approval of the key terms and conditions;**
- 3. Direct the CAO to negotiate a Lease Agreement with the Early Childhood Interventionists Association of Nova Scotia for the existing occupied space at 45 Connolly Road, and return a staff report through Grants Committee for the approval of the key terms and conditions;**
- 4. Direct the CAO to negotiate a Lease Agreement with the Sackville Rivers Association for the existing occupied space at 45 Connolly Road, and return a staff report through Grants Committee for the approval of the key terms and conditions; and**
- 5. Direct the CAO to negotiate a Lease Agreement with the Sackville Seniors Advisory Council for the existing occupied space at 45 Connolly Road, and return a staff report through Grants Committee for the approval of the key terms and conditions.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

15.1.3 Part B of the JustFOOD Halifax Action Plan

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated December 21, 2023
- Staff presentation dated February 6, 2024

Leticia Smillie, Planner III, Community Safety and Bill Moore, Executive Director, Community Safety gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Accept and approve Part B of the JustFOOD: Action Plan for the Halifax Region, as contained in the staff report dated December 21, 2023;**

2. Approve in principle the proposed annual budget request and resources for the implementation of the JustFOOD Action Plan for the Halifax Region, as contained in Table 2 of the staff report dated December 21, 2023; and

3. Direct funding in the amount of \$522,000 for the implementation of Part B of the JustFOOD Action Plan, as identified in the financial implications section of the staff report dated December 21, 2023, to be added as an option over budget on the budget adjustment list (BAL) for Budget Committee to consider in the 2024/25 Budget.

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

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

15.1.4 Rural Transit Funding Program Update

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated January 10, 2024
- Correspondence from Meghan Maher

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 2, the Audit and Finance Standing Committee Terms of Reference, and under Schedule 7, the Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order;

2. Direct staff to amend Administrative Order 2014-012-ADM, the Rural Transit Grants Administrative Order, to allow for a one-time increase in the 2024/25 fiscal year to the lump sum funding available to applicants from \$5,000 and \$10,000 to \$6,381 and \$12,736 respectively (Option B) and an increase to per vehicle kilometre rate funding from 50 cents to 64 cents (Option 4).

3. Direct staff to amend Administrative Order 2014-012-ADM, to account for inflation by increasing funding annually based on the five-year average for inflation.

Patricia Hughes, Director, Planning & Customer Engagement and Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

15.1.5 Council Chamber Hybrid Technology Option

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated January 29, 2024

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk spoke to the report and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to identify funding options for hybrid participation technology enhancements for the Council Chamber.

David Thorpe, Executive Director, IT & CIO, John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services /Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer and Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

15.2 AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE

15.2.1 Annual Investment Policy Review

The following was before Council:

- Audit and Finance Standing Committee report dated January 17, 2024 with attached staff report dated January 15, 2024

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to the Investment Policy as set out in Attachment B of the staff report dated January 15, 2024.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

15.3 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

15.3.1 Lake Banook Master Plan

The following was before Council:

- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee report dated January 18, 2024 with attached staff report dated July 17, 2023

This matter was deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

15.4 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15.4.1 Case HRTG-2023-01146: Substantial Alteration to the Municipally Registered Heritage Property at 2539 Agricola Street, Halifax

The following was before Council:

- Heritage Advisory Committee report dated January 17, 2024 with attached staff report dated January 8, 2024

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

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed substantial alteration to the municipally registered heritage property at 2539 Agricola Street, Halifax, as set out in the staff report dated January 8, 2024.

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MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

15.5 BUDGET COMMITTEE

15.5.1 2024/25 Multi-Year Capital Plan

The following was before Council:

- Budget Committee report dated January 24, 2024 with attached staff report dated December 19, 2023

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve the Capital Budget for 2024/25 as set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated December 19, 2023;

3. Approve the schedule of 2024/25 Capital Plan Reserves Withdrawals as set out in Attachment 3 of the staff report dated December 19, 2023;

4. Approve the schedule of 2024/25 Capital Multi-year Projects as set out in Attachment 4 of the staff Report dated December 19, 2023; and

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

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

Against: Councillor Purdy

Not present: Councillor Austin

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

2. Approve in-principle the schedule of 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 Multi-Year Capital Plan as set out in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated December 19, 2023;

5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to update a Long-term Capital Funding Strategy as part of the 2025/26 budget process to reflect the changing Municipal and economic long-term goals.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 2 against)

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

Against: Councillors Purdy and Hendsbee

Not present: Councillor Austin

15.6 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

15.6.1 Councillor Lovelace – Private Road Policy Report

The following was before Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Lovelace
- Correspondence from Sarah Roberts and Dave Marshall

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare a staff report and return to Council with recommendations on how the municipality can more adequately address HRM's private road policies to ensure they meet Council's stated strategic priorities.

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

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

16. MOTIONS

16.1 Councillor Lovelace

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 (CAO) to consider the information contained in the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP) report and the RCMP Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) report when preparing the staff report with respect to Wildland Urban interface Preparedness Strategies.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

17. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

17.1 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 17, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated January 17, 2024; and**

- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated January 17, 2024 be maintained private and confidential.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

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 January 18, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated January 18, 2024; and**
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated January 18, 2024 be maintained private and confidential.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Austin

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT Regional Council convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 17.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

17.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS - Private and Confidential Report

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

The following was before Council:

- Private and confidential staff report dated January 18, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated January 18, 2024; and**
- 2. Release the private and confidential report dated January 18, 2024 to the public once the conditions as outlined in the report have been met.**

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MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

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

Against: Councillor Purdy

Not present: Mayor Savage and Councillor Austin

Private and Confidential Information Items

1. Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: Property Matter

18. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

19.1 Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of Halifax Regional Council, I intend to move amendments to Administrative Order 10, *Respecting Partial Tax Exemption for Residential Taxation*, the purpose of which is to add additional eligibility criteria that the taxable assessed value of the property is less than \$300,000.

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk