



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 28, 2024**

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

REGRETS: Councillors: Trish Purdy
Waye Mason

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
Meg MacDougall, Solicitor II
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant
Dorothy Maponga, 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 6:01 p.m. and adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 – NONE

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

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

12.1 Property Matter – Africville Heritage Trust

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated February 26, 2024
- Extract from the May 7, 2024 Regional Council minutes
- Staff presentation dated May 28, 2024

Rudy Vodicka, Project Manager, Corporate Real Estate gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

The hearing opened at 6:15 p.m.

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

Percy Paris, Applicant spoke to the parcels of land and the future development of the land. Paris added that the Africville Heritage Trust (AHT) requires the land to boost tourism in Africville as the site is rich in historical value. They highlighted that the two parcels of land would provide parking space for tour buses. They spoke on the history of Africville and that the AHT's goal was to ensure the community reaches its full potential. Paris emphasized that the former residents and descendants of Africville continue to experience the effects of the history of the community. They highlighted that investment in Africville would

benefit the tourism industry and encouraged Council to continue to invest in Africville. They thanked staff for their cooperation, effort and understanding during the process. Paris responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

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

Eddie Carvery Sr., Africville spoke to being a resident of Africville and their activism against the displacement of Africville residents. Carvery Sr. emphasized the effects of the displacement and racism of Africville residents and the continued impacts of the displacement. They highlighted that they had not been consulted regarding the sale of land which is their current home. Carvery Sr. added that there was no compensation awarded to former residents or descendants for their loss. They stressed that the residents of Africville should control their own communities and self-develop the community.

Eddie Carvery III, Africville spoke to the noninvolvement of the Africville community in the decision-making processes of AHT. Carvery III highlighted the divide in the Africville community and that the intentions of AHT do not represent all the voices of the community. They questioned the capacity of AHT to preserve and develop the land. Carvery III added that the Africville residents continue to deal with alcohol abuse, crime related activities and drug abuse which result from their noninvolvement in the redevelopment of the community. They advised Council to pause the land acquisition until the Africville revisioning process was complete. Carvery III responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

Beatrice Wilkins, Africville spoke to the goals of the AHT for the land acquisition to expand parking, grow the marina, sustain the museum and establish an interpretive centre. Wilkins highlighted that the visioning process should begin with consultations with the former residents of Africville. They added that the acquisition of the land would grow the community of Africville and encouraged Council to approve the sale to ensure the Africville museum continues to be self-sustainable.

Bernice Byers-Arsenault, Africville spoke to the displacement of former residents and descendants of Africville. Byers-Arsenault noted that if the land was used for public housing, the Africville community would not be able to afford the housing. They emphasized that Africville is a historical site and that the parcel of land would provide sustainability. Byers-Arsenault responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

Mayor Savage invited the applicant to respond to questions raised by the public.

Percy Paris responded to questions raised by the public. They spoke to the declaration of Africville as a national historic site by the Federal government. Paris added that the acquisition of the land would provide AHT with the authority and flexibility as owners of the land. They emphasized that further due diligence was required for future developments. Paris responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the hearing be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute an Agreement of Purchase and Sale and other associated documents, and authorize and direct staff

to take all steps necessary to complete the sale in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the staff report dated February 26, 2024.

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ANSAIO) and Vodicka responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Mason

13. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

13.1 Correspondence - None

13.2 Petitions - None

14. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

15. REPORTS – NONE

16. MOTIONS – NONE

17. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

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 propose amendments to Administrative Order 2014-012-ADM, Respecting Grants for Rural Transit, the purpose of which is to increase funding to the Rural Transit Funding Program.

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant