



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
January 18, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini
Councillors: David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Sam Austin
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Richard Zurawski
Matt Whitman
Lisa Blackburn
Steve Craig
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor Steve Streach

STAFF: Jane Fraser, CFO, Director of Finance, Asset Management & ICT
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Phoebe Rai, 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 9:33 a.m. and recessed at 12:15 p.m.
Budget Committee reconvened at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 2:26 p.m.*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Karsten, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 4, 2019, with attached staff presentation entitled: "Legal, Municipal Clerk, & External Affairs: 2019/20 and 20/2021 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan"

The presentation and public participation on this item was provided at the Budget Committee meeting held on January 16, 2019.

The Committee held a discussion to clarify the budget approval process. Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Committee is being asked to approve a budget for each Business Unit, subject to the items identified for inclusion in the budget adjustment list, also referred to as the "parking lot."

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT Budget Committee amend the 2019-2020 budget process so that all over and under budget considerations moved by Budget Committee are added to the parking lot and that the Committee review the parking lot in its entirety at the end of the departmental presentations.

A discussion ensued regarding whether the budgets should be prepared according to the 2.9 percent increase as staff have proposed or by 1.9 percent option as outlined in the accompanying staff reports and presentations.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the motion be amended to direct that the budgets be prepared according to the 1.9 percent option.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the amended motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT Budget Committee amend the 2019-2020 budget process so that budgets are prepared according to the 1.9 percent option, all over and under budget considerations moved by Budget Committee are added to the parking lot, and that the Committee review the parking lot in its entirety at the end of the departmental presentations.

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

It was noted that at the Budget Committee meeting held on January 16, 2019 that, "new FTE Admin Assistant (GREAs) (\$76,700), "work with community partners to develop social development measures"

(\$40,000), and “new FTE – Legal Assistant (Legal Services)” (\$54,300) all of which are operating options over budget, were added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Articled Clerk Program (\$113,900) operating reduction be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the main motion deferred from the January 16, 2019 meeting and amended as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs 2019/20 Multi-year Budget Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation based on the 1.9 option, and to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

4. Human Resources / Office of Diversity and Inclusion

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 21, 2018, with attached staff presentation entitled: “Human Resources/Office of Diversity and Inclusion: 2019/20 and 20/2021 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan”

Cathi Mullally, Director provided a presentation on the Human Resources / Office of Diversity and Inclusion: 2019/20 and 20/2021 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan.

The Chair called three times for members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, and there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Human Resources/Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s 2019/20 Multi-year Budget Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation based on the 1.9 option, and to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the “New FTE – Conflict Resolution/Respectful Workplace Specialist” (\$100,000) and “New FTE – Human Resources Business Partner” (\$100,000) operating options over budget be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

The Committee requested briefing notes be provided for both items if the motion is approved.

The motion was separated for voting purposes as per Section 90 of Administrative Order One. The question was called as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the “New FTE – Conflict Resolution/Respectful Workplace Specialist” (\$100,000) operating option over budget be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the “New FTE – Human Resources Business Partner” (\$100,000) operating option over budget be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Human Resources/Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s 2019/20 Multi-year Budget Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation based on the 1.9 option, and to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. Finance, Asset Management and ICT

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 4, 2019, with attached staff presentation entitled: “Finance, Asset Management and ICT 2019/20 and 20/2021 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan”

Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer and Director provided a presentation on the Finance, Asset Management and ICT: 2019/20 and 20/2021 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan.

The Chair called three times for members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, and there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Finance, Asset Management and ICT 2019/20 Multi-year Budget Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation based on the 1.9 option, and to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mancini

THAT the “ICT – Partnership with VOLTA” (\$250,000) operating reduction be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

The Committee requested a briefing note be provided for the “ICT – Partnership with VOLTA” item if the motion is approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the “Increase facility rental revenue” (\$50,000) and “Increase recovery from external parties” (\$75,000) operating options under budget be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Finance, Asset Management and ICT 2019/20 Multi-year Budget Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation based on the 1.9 option, and to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. Office of the Auditor General

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 7, 2019, with attached staff presentation entitled: "Office of the Auditor General 2019/20 and 20/2021 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan"

Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General provided a presentation on the Office of the Auditor General: 2019/20 and 20/2021 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan.

The Chair called three times for members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, and there were none.

The Auditor General noted that the motion directing the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to include a 1.9% option in the budget presentations was not applied to the Office of the Auditor General, as the CAO does not direct the work of the Auditor General. Colman-Sadd also noted a correction to slide 6 of the presentation, indicating that the figure of \$1,085,700 did not incorporate wage model adjustments which will increase the 2020-21 budget by approximately \$32,000.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Office of the Auditor General 2019/20 Multi-year Budget Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation, and to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Budget Committee requested additional information be provided to all Members of Council respecting a chart listing operating expenses plus provincial expenditures that go on the tax bill, by year for the last 10 years, to which Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer agreed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk