



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
January 30, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini
Councillors: Steve Streach
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

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 9:38 a.m. and recessed at 12:05 p.m. The Committee reconvened at 1:02 p.m. and recessed at 1:56 p.m. The Committee reconvened at 2:01 p.m. and adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Karsten, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Transportation and Public Works

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 22, 2019, with attached staff presentation entitled “Transportation and Public Works: 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan”
- Correspondence from Walter N. Regan and Norm Collins

Brad Anguish, Director of Transportation and Public Works provided the presentation regarding the 2019/20 and 2020/21 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 Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Transportation and Public Works 2019/20 Multi-year Budget and Business 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.

The Budget Committee requested the following briefing notes:

- Sidewalk Snow Removal (Service Impact: Eliminate residential sidewalk (P3) snow removal service) (\$1,000,000 20/21) Other Potential Budget Reduction
- A document outlining budget lines related to Active Transportation from all business units (including capital and operating)
- A document outlining staffing levels, by business unit, by job category for the past 2 years and projections for the next 2 years

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Seniors Snow Program (\$100,000 19/20 and \$200,000 20/21) operating option over budget be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Winter Works Salt/Sand (\$712,500 19/20 and \$252,500 20/21) option to get to 1.9% be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Tree Planting (\$400,000 19/20 and \$400,000 20/21) operating option over budget be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

Responding to questions of clarification, Anguish noted that the proposed Tree Planting / Pruning operating option over budget from slide 26 of the presentation gave a figure of \$1,300,000 for each of 19/20 and 20/21, but the proposed \$400,000 would enable staff to achieve roughly 85% of the targets set out in the Urban Forest Master Plan.

The Committee requested a briefing note with further detail on this option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Adams

THAT the Graffiti Removal (\$100,000 20/21) Other Potential Budget Reduction be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

The Committee requested a briefing note regarding this option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Transportation and Public Works 2019/20 Multi-year Budget and Business 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

4. Halifax Transit

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 21, 2019, with attached staff presentation entitled "Halifax Transit: 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan"

Dave Reage, Director of Halifax Transit, provided the presentation regarding the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan.

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

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Halifax Transit 2019/20 Multi-year Budget and Business 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.

The Committee requested a briefing note outlining the passenger trips per capita for the transit system as per slide 12 of the presentation, but excluding the ferries.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT Moving Forward Together Plan – Reduced Expected Service Changes – Eliminate Group B (\$679,000 19/20 and \$2,037,000 20/21) from the options to get to 1.9% be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

The Committee requested a briefing note regarding the revenue impact and associated expected increase to ridership.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Halifax Transit 2019/20 Multi-year Budget and Business 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. Corporate and Customer Services

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 22, 2019, with revised page G19 and attached staff presentation entitled: "Corporate and Customer Services: 2019/20 and 20/2021 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan" with revised page 21

Jerry Blackwood, Director of Corporate and Customer Services, provided the presentation regarding the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan.

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

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Budget Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare the Corporate and Customer Services 2019/20 Multi-Year Budget and Business 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.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk