



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 6, 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
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant
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 recessed at 2:10 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 2:30 p.m. and adjourned at 4:30 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 MINUTES – NONE

3. Parks and Recreation

i) Presentation

ii) Public Participation

iii) Debate

The following was before Budget Committee of the Whole:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 25, 2019 with attached Parks and Recreation 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan presentation
- Correspondence submitted by Karen Robinson and Dr. David Patriquin; B.K. Sarty, Diana Whalen and Mark Young; David G.L Backman and Tim Backman; and Walter Reagan

Denise Schofield, Director of Parks and Recreation presented the draft 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Parks and Recreation Business Unit Budget and Business Plan.

Councillor Karsten called for members of the public to address the Budget Committee.

Greg Cross, Chair of the Land Management Subcommittee of the Eastern Shore Lifestyles Centre Society spoke in support of a new recreation centre for the Sheet Harbour area. Cross provided details of the Eastern Shore Lifestyles Centre Society's plans to construct and design a new recreation centre with support from the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments in concert with fundraising initiatives. Cross acknowledged HRM's past support in funding a functional study for the proposed project and requested HRM's ongoing support to assist with capital funding. Cross advised of potential partnership opportunities with HRM Public Libraries, the Millbrook First Nations Band Council, the YMCA and the Provincial government.

David Backman of Halifax, spoke in support of recreation infrastructure upgrades on the North West Arm, Sir Sanford Fleming Park, and Horseshoe Island park. Backman suggested that HRM consider upgrades to five public wharfs located in the North West Arm to accommodate the increasing number of people who are boating, swimming, and engaging in water sports in and around the North West Arm. Backman provided further commentary on large and small infrastructure improvements to facilitate public access to the water and parks located in the North West Arm.

Terry Roul, President of the Oatthill Lake Water Monitoring Society, spoke in support of the \$150,000 for Water Quality Monitoring program over budget option listed on slide 35 of the Planning and Development Budget presentation. Roul provided background information on the Oathill Lake Water Monitoring Society and noted the need for increased ecological monitoring to improve the overall health of Oathill Lake.

Diana Whalen, Co-Chair of the Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Society spoke in support of HRM's capital budget commitment for parkland acquisition. Whalen advised of supplemental funding opportunities available through the provincial and federal governments to support and enhance protected wilderness parks in HRM for public enjoyment.

Wendy MacDonald of Clayton Park, advised of the need for more community meeting spaces in the Mainland North area of Halifax. MacDonald provided commentary on the need for more community engagement on new and existing parks and recreation programming as well as the need for budget

increases for Active Transportation initiatives. MacDonald concluded by suggesting that HRM hire a parks ecologist and that more resources be dedicated on wayfinding for trail users.

Councillor Karsten called three times for any other members of the public wanting to address the Budget Committee; there were none.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Parks & Recreation 2019/20 Multiyear 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.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the North American Indigenous Games commitment of \$500,000 19/20 and \$500,000 20/21 operating option over budget be added to the parking lot for consideration.

In response to a question from the Budget Committee, Schofield advised that the North American Indigenous Games have been awarded to Halifax and will proceed as planned.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Public Safety Initiatives in the amounts of \$45,000 for 2019/2020 and \$60,000 for 2020/2021 operating option over budget be added to the parking lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to a question from the Budget Committee, Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer clarified the accounting practices respecting the receipt of payments from HRM's Multi District Facilities (MDF).

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the net change to the Multi District Facility subsidy in the amounts of \$164,000 and \$884,000 for 2019/2020 and \$164,000 and \$884,000 for 2020/2021 operating option over budget be added to the parking lot for consideration.

In response to a follow up question, Schofield advised that the Business plans submitted by the MDFs are included in the Parks and Recreation Business Plan and were not included in the budget presentation.

The Budget Committee requested that a briefing note be provided outlining the MDF budget process and requests, including numbers from previous years.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Discovery Centre funding increase request of \$105,000 for 2019/2020 and \$105,000 for 2020/2021 operating option over budget be added to the parking lot for consideration.

The Budget Committee requested that a briefing note be prepared on the request for a funding increase from the Discovery Centre as well as a historical overview of the funding provided to the Discovery Centre.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the deferral of the implementation of Phase I - Parks and Recreation Fee Review of \$200,000 for 2019/20 and \$290,000 for 2020/2021 be taken out of the options to get to 1.9% and added to the parking lot as an operating option over budget for consideration.

The Budget Committee requested a briefing note on the financial impacts of the Parks and Recreation fee review project, as noted on page 33 of the budget presentation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Recreational Trails Pilot Program (HRTA) capital request for \$250,000 in 2020 operating option over budget be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

The Budget Committee requested a briefing note that provides further details on the Recreational Trails Pilot Program Capital project.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, Councillor Blackburn

THAT funding for three additional Park Supervisors of \$300,000 for 2020/2021 operating option over budget be added to the parking lot for consideration.

This motion was withdrawn by Councillor Craig.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT funding for Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Position conversion of \$60,000 in 2019/20220 and \$60,000 in 2020/2021 operating over budget option be added to the parking lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the ARTS Halifax funding of \$150,000 in 2019/2020 and \$250,000 in 20/2021 operating over budget option be added to the parking lot as an operating option over budget for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the reduction of Park Material (\$10,000), Trail Maintenance (\$20,000) and Grass and Shrubs (\$30,000) for 2019/2020 and Park Material (\$10,000), Trail Maintenance (\$20,000), and Grass and Shrubs (\$30,000) for 2020/2021 be taken out of the options to get to 1.9% and placed into the parking lot as an operating option over budget for consideration.

The Budget Committee requested a briefing note detailing the financial and operational impact of reducing park materials and building maintenance.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Parks & Recreation 2019/20 Multiyear 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.

3i. Information Item Brought Forward from January 29, 2019 Regional Council Meeting – 4 Year Increase to Parks and Recreation Budget

The following was before Budget Committee of the Whole:

- A staff information report dated January 23, 2019

This matter was addressed in the Parks and Recreation 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan presentation. There was no further action taken.

4. Planning and Development

i) Presentation

ii) Public Participation

iii) Debate

The following was before Budget Committee of the Whole:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 25, 2019 with attached Planning and Development 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan presentation
- Correspondence received by the Municipal Clerk's Office from Walter Reagan and Allan J. Owen

Kelly Denty, Director of Planning and Development presented the draft 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Planning and Development Business Unit Budget and Business Plan.

Denty clarified a typographical error in the presentation on slide 34 (Options Over Budget – Staffing) advising that the two Planner I positions should be Planner II positions with a cost of \$180,000 for 2019/20 and \$180,000 for 2020/2021.

Councillor Karsten called three times for any other members of the public wanting to address the Budget Committee; there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Planning & Development 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.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mancini

THAT funding for Water Quality Monitoring Program of \$150,000 for 2019/2020 and \$150,000 for 2020/2021 operating over budget option be added to the parking lot for consideration.

In response to a question from the Budget Committee, Denty advised that the proposed funding for water quality testing would be used to establish a study and implementation program for water quality testing.

The Budget Committee requested a briefing note detailing parking enforcement contracts including costing and revenue generation on the prior two contractors, the transition from outside contractors to in-house parking enforcement and the related costing for in-house parking enforcement operations.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Building & Compliance 7 Term Compliance Officer I positions and 1 Term Supervisory (Parking Enforcement) position for a total of \$596,000 in 2019/2020 be added to the parking lot as an operating option over budget for future consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the following staffing positions be included in the parking lot for future consideration:

- **Current Planning: 2 Permanent Planner II positions (\$180,000) 2019/2020 and (\$180,000) 2020/2021 operating option over budget;**
- **Regional Planning: 2 Permanent Planner III positions (\$192,000) 2019/2020 and (\$192,000) 2020/2021 operating option over budget;**
- **Director's Office: 1 Term Report Controller position (\$80,000) 2019/2020 and (\$80,000) 2020/2021 operating option over budget;**
- **Infrastructure Planning: 1 Permanent Transportation Demand Management Coordinator position (\$100,000) 2019/2020 and (\$100,000) 2020/2021 operating option over budget; and**
- **Buildings & Compliance: 2 Term Compliance Officer II positions (Other Enforcement) (\$159,000) 2019/2020 operating option over budget.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Accessible Taxi Trip Supplement (up to \$500,000) 2019/2020 and (up to \$500,000) 2020/2021 operating option over budget be added to the parking lot for future consideration.

It was noted that this option would be pending legislative amendments from the Province of Nova Scotia.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Rural Transit Funding (\$220,000) 2019/2020 and (\$300,000) 2020/2021 operating option over budget be added to the parking lot for future consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Business Services – 1 Permanent Information Management Position (\$80,000) 2020/2021 operating option over budget be added to the parking lot for future consideration.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Anticipated Revenue Increases from parking tickets and planning applications (\$1,750,000) 2019/2020 and (\$400,000) 2020/2021 be added to the parking lot for future consideration.

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 Planning & Development 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.

5. Halifax Public Libraries

The Budget Committee agreed by consensus to move the Halifax Public Libraries 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan presentation to the next meeting scheduled for February 8, 2019.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk