



**HALIFAX AND WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
October 14, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Steve Adams, Chair  
Councillor Reg Rankin, Vice Chair  
Councillor Russell Walker  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Councillor Waye Mason  
Councillor Linda Mosher

STAFF: Mr. Andrew Reid, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Barb Wilson, Budget Coordinator, Financial Policy & Planning

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Community Council are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/Commcoun/west/151014hwcc-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. and Community Council adjourned at 7:31 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 15, 2015**

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the minutes of September 15, 2015 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions:

- 13.1 Councillor Adams - Lease Agreement with Province for White Rock Park, River Road (Fourth Lake), Terence Bay
- 13.2 Councillor Mason - Halifax Peninsula LUB amendment regarding RC1 zone
- 13.3 Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant dated October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, re: Requests to Present

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Watts

**THAT Item 13.3 the request to present made by the McIntosh Run Watershed Association as per the memorandum dated October 12, 2015 be accepted for the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Walker

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

Two thirds majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

- 4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**
- 5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**
- 6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**
- 7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**
- 8. HEARINGS – NONE**
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**
- 9.1 Correspondence**

The Legislative Assistant noted correspondence from the McIntosh Run Watershed Association dated September 25, 2015 had been received and circulated to Community Council.

## **9.2 Petitions**

### **9.2.1 Parking Ban on Cedarbrae Lane**

Councillor Walker submitted a petition containing 10 signatures from residents of Cedarbrae Lane regarding a winter parking ban. The Legislative Assistant noted that the petition would be forwarded to the appropriate staff.

## **9.3 Presentation**

### **9.3.1 2016-17 Budget Consultation**

The following information was before Community Council:

- A staff presentation dated October 14, 2015

Ms. Barb Wilson, Budget Coordinator, Financial Policy & Planning, presented the 2016-2017 Budget Consultation. This presentation is available online and on file. She commented that following budget consultation sessions, the goal was to bring the full budget to Regional Council on March 8, 2015. Ms. Wilson outlined that the total budget expenses for 2015-2016 was \$869 million, of which \$159 million was Provincial mandated transfer funds. Ms. Wilson indicated the methods available for public consultation, stating that the Online Budget Tool was being advertised and would be available later in the month.

The Chair called on any members of the public who wished to address Community Council to come forward.

Mr. Peter Henry, of Halifax, requested that the Municipality spend more money on cycling, cycling education and cycling infrastructure. He stated that cycling was more than an activity but a way of thinking about spending Municipal funds for public betterment, and held similarity to facilities such as libraries and skating rinks. He noted that branding the Municipality as a cycling city and increasing cycling infrastructure would create improvements in terms of health, the environment, and business. He also voiced support for improving transit and traffic calming measures to complement improvements to cycling.

The Chair called three times for any additional speakers. No speakers came forward. Council closed public participation on the budget consultation.

Councillor Rankin thanked Mr. Henry for his presentation. He requested performance measures regarding active transportation and requested this be part of conversation in the active transportation budget discussions. Ms. Wilson indicated she would pass on the request to appropriate staff. Councillor Rankin also requested comparables on solid waste aggregate expenditure and operations from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017 capital and changes to the existing reserve fund. Ms. Wilson responded she would pass along the request to appropriate staff.

Councillor Walker questioned slide four of the presentation, and whether the \$869 million total expense figure for 2015-2016 included the \$136 million capital cost. Ms. Wilson confirmed that it did not. Councillor Walker requested that total expenditures reflect both operation and capital costs.

Councillor Mosher questioned slide five municipal revenues for 2015-2016, the amount for deed transfer tax and if it was projected to rise or fall. Councillor Mosher requested that payments to schoolboards be listed by specific subcategory. She also requested a jurisdictional comparison on average tax rates. Ms. Wilson indicated that such a comparison would be provided at the Rate and Review budget meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Councillor Mosher also requested that changes in commercial taxes per square foot be listed by district. Ms. Wilson highlighted that much of the information requested would be forthcoming in future budget deliberations.

Councillor Mason commented on the purpose of the presentation as it was related to improving public consultation in the budget process. He stated agreement with Mr. Henry's comments, although cycling education may be difficult for the Municipality to facilitate. He stated that the residential property tax and utility charge survey, maintained by the City of Calgary, was the source for comparing property taxes and services between cities. Ms. Wilson commented that the updated slides for the survey for 2014 were received and would be prepared for the budget deliberations.

Councillor Watts echoed agreement on improving budget engagement with the public. She noted the importance of the budget calculator tool and thanked those members of the public who were in attendance.

The Chair commented on slide nine of the presentation regarding Staffing in Halifax and confirmed a date correction to be made in the third column. He also confirmed that the proposed 2.5% change in the Halifax Regional Police row originated from Finance's estimate and was not proposed by the Halifax Regional Police.

### **9.3.2 Canadian Federation of Independent Business, re: Taxation**

Mr. Nick Langley, Nova Scotia Director of Provincial Affairs, Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), introduced the CFIB. This presentation is available online and on file. He stated that the Federation represented 5,200 small business, which included 1,800 located in the Halifax Regional Municipality. He highlighted a motion made at Regional Council regarding changes to commercial tax structure on April 28, 2015. He highlighted tax burden as the most serious concern to small business in HRM, followed by red tape issues. He commented on the importance of the perspective of taxes not only through comparison of other jurisdictions but in the commercial and residential tax gap. Mr. Langley stated that CFIB was an advocate for a cap on the tax gap imposed at the provincial and municipal level of 2 to 1. Mr. Langley also outlined recommendations for reducing red tape and stated opportunities to reform nuisance bylaws, including Bylaw E-200.

Councillor Rankin left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Councillor Walker requested a definition of a small business. He stated disagreement with the tax gap cap proposal, stating that the burden should not be shifted to residents.

Councillor Mason questioned what the tax gap was in Saskatoon. Mr. Langley responded that it was 1.95 to 1 and decreasing. Councillor Mason highlighted the large deficits in that province and stated that phasing in a new gap would be a more reasonable approach. Councillor Mason asked how many respondents there were in the survey slides. Mr. Langley indicated that results were indicated on each slide.

Councillor Watts questioned CFIB's position on the Provincial transfers collected by the municipality that flowed through to the Province. Mr. Langley responded that CFIB did not have a current position on that issue but that it may warrant investigation.

## **10. REPORTS**

### **10.1 STAFF – NONE**

### **10.2 POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **10.2.1 Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Long Term Plan and By-Law Review**

The following was before Community Council:

- A report from the Chair and members of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee dated September 9, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts

**THAT Halifax and West Community Council request a staff update on the review of the Point Pleasant Park comprehensive long term plan and bylaws.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. MOTIONS**

**12. IN CAMERA – NONE**

**13. ADDED ITEMS**

**13.1 Lease Agreement with Province for White Rock Park, River Road (Fourth Lake), Terence Bay**

This matter was added during the setting of the agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Halifax & West Community Council requests that Halifax Regional Council requests a staff report on negotiating a lease agreement with the provincial Department of Natural Resources permitting HRM to lease the former White Rock Park lands on River Road (Fourth Lake), Terence Bay for \$1 per annum to re-establish the White Rock Community Park & Playground in Terence Bay and that this report return in 30 days.**

Councillor Walker questioned why the lease was not renewed. Councillor Adams responded that the Municipality did not re-enter the agreement after it expired and notice to vacate was given in January, 2014. He stated that the existing playground and structures had been destroyed by vandals but because a Windfarm was now being built nearby, a new partnership opportunity had arisen. He highlighted discussions that had taken place with the farm regarding security measures on site, including Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). Councillor Walker questioned if the province was in agreement regarding the lease. Councillor Adams indicated that a request has not yet been made to the Province.

Councillor Mason suggested that the report request include a time frame on the report. Council agreed to the friendly amendment "that this report return in 30 days."

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.2 Halifax Peninsula LUB amendment regarding RC1 zone**

This matter was added during the setting of the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts

**THAT Halifax & West Community Council request a staff report outlining potential amendments to Peninsula Land Use By-law RC1 zone that will define grocery and pharmacy use, and limit hours of operation in the RC1 zone.**

Councillor Mason stated that the Halifax Peninsula Land Use Bylaw did not give a definition for grocery and pharmacy uses. He stated concern for overly permissive approvals where grocery stores were operating late at night selling food. Councillor Mason indicated that the matter could be clarified by a definition of this use. Councillor Walker questioned if it would prohibit pharmacies from being open 24/7, as there were a number in his district. He asked that this concern be included in the staff report.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.3 Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant dated October 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, re: Requests to Present**

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 2.

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Ashley Morton, of Halifax, stated he was present on behalf of the It's More Than Buses group. He commented regarding induced demand and the coordination of planning documents. Mr. Morton stated induced demand was the idea that building greater capacity on roadways resulted in more people driving and would not create faster travel times. Mr. Morton highlighted comparable jurisdictions of faster travel times, including Quebec City, St. Catherine's, Victoria, and Winnipeg. He emphasized that the Municipality's Road Network Priority Plan and the Halifax Transit Moving Forward Together Plan needed to come forward in tandem because building new roads needed to be coordinated with where the transit routes were being realigned. Mr. Morton commented on the congestion of Bayers Road and Halifax Transit's removal of buses from Bayer's Road in the draft plan. He recommended that Council not seriously consider building new roads until Halifax Transit infrastructure plans were known.

Councillor Walker commented that aside from Edmonton, the size of other jurisdictions listed were not comparable to HRM.

Councillor Mason responded that it is important to have some idea where transit lanes would be; however, emphasized that the advantage of transit's flexibility to accommodate change. He agreed that the planning documents needed to be considered together and highlighted that the Moving Forward Together plan was soon to be completed.

The Chair called for any additional speakers and as none came forward, he called the public participation session to a close.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 18, 2015**

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Andrew Reid  
Legislative Assistant