



**EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 24, 2014**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage, Chair
Councillor Linda Mosher, Vice Chair
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Steve Craig
Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor Reg Rankin

REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Waye Mason

STAFF: Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. John Traves, Director, Legal Services
Ms. Cathi Mullally, Director, Human Resources
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Executive Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCadmin/ESC141124agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. and convened into in camera at 11:28 a.m. The Standing Committee reconvened and adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 22, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the minutes of September 22, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the Order of Business be approved as presented. 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. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted that correspondence was received for items: 9.1.2 and 11.2.1. This correspondence was circulated to the Standing Committee.

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations – None

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 2015 Council Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated September 2, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the Executive Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2015 Regional Council meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated September 2, 2014.

A brief discussion was held with a note being made that Committee of the Whole sessions could be scheduled at any time at Council's request.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mayor Savage stepped down as Chair at this time and Councillor Mosher assumed the Chair.

9.1.2 Municipal Voting Rights for Permanent Residents

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 13, 2014
- Correspondence from Mayor David Corkum, UNSM President dated September 8, 2014

Mayor Savage spoke to the origin of the matter, indicating that there are many residents in HRM, who in some cases have lived in HRM for many years, that are permanent residents of Canada but are not citizens. He noted that these residents are involved in the communities, work in the communities or are entrepreneurs, and have children in HRM schools. He suggested that progressive cities around the world would view these as the kinds of individuals who should be involved and voting in municipal elections.

Mayor Savage referred to the two options provided in the November 13, 2014 staff report:

1. Amend Section 14 (Qualifications of Elector) of the Municipal Elections Act of Nova Scotia to ensure common rights and elections consistency throughout the province for municipal and school board elections; and
2. Amend the Halifax Regional Charter to extend the vote to permanent residents for municipal and school board elections within the Municipality.

He noted that the staff recommendation leaves both of these options open to discuss with the Province.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Craig that the Executive Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Endorse including permanent as qualified electors to vote in municipal and school board elections; and**
2. **Direct staff to consult with the Province of Nova Scotia's department of Municipal Affairs to move the recommendation forward.**

Mayor Savage resumed as Chair at this time and Councillor Mosher took her seat.

The Standing Committee reviewed the November 13, 2014 staff report with staff providing clarification on the definition of a permanent resident pursuant to the Federal *Immigration and Refugee Protection Action* and, as outlined in the background section of the report.

During the discussion, support was expressed in regard to voting rights being extended to all permanent residents in Nova Scotia through amendments to the Municipal Elections Act, with recognition that the motion allowed for pursuing all options with the Province while noting that the Charter option would enable Halifax to move forward should there be any delay or concern from either the Province or other municipalities.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.3 Council Appointment – Liaison to the HRM Acadian/Francophone Community

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 7, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the Executive Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council approve the appointment of Councillor Darren Fisher to act as an official liaison between Council and the HRM Acadian/Francophone community so as to better support how their interests are represented within the municipal government framework.

A discussion was held with questions being raised on whether there were other expressions of interest from members of Council and having an open call process. Ms. Cathi Mullally, Director, Human Resource advised that in consultation with the Acadian/Francophone Community Consultative

Committee, discussion was held on the number of Acadian/Francophone representatives in District 6 and was the recommendation of the Committee to appoint Councillor Fisher. Ms. Mullally noted that the Standing Committee could choose to ask for other expressions of interests. In response to a further question raised, Ms. Mullally indicated that she understood that some of the members of the Committee, including Police Chief Jean-Michel Blais had consulted with Councillor Fisher regarding his interest as a liaison.

In response to the length of the appointment term, Ms. Mullally explained that the length had not been determined but for Council to consider having an ongoing liaison representative to support inclusion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mayor Savage stepped down as Chair at this time and Councillor Mosher assumed the Chair.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.2.1 Mayor Savage – Campaign Finance Reform

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Request for Executive Standing Committee consideration form

While noting that campaign contributions fall within the provincial Municipal Elections Act (MEA), Mayor Savage explained that there were next to no rules within the Act that govern municipal campaign contributions. He suggested leadership in these areas was expected by the public and it was important to examine the legislative options and implication of campaign finance reform for municipal government in Halifax.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request a staff report that examines the legislative options and implications of campaign finance reform for municipal government in Halifax.

As identified in the request form, Mayor Savage noted that the report should include a review of practices in other jurisdictions, and address administrative, intergovernmental, legislative, and procedural implications. The scope of the report should include, but not be limited to: donation and spending limits, further disclosure of campaign spending, when money can be raised, and options, if any, for possible sanctions when rules are not followed.

Mayor Savage resumed as Chair at this time and Councillor Mosher took her seat.

A discussion was held with concerns being raised on campaign finance reform being discussed and recommendations brought forward through the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM). Several members also noted their support for being proactive and transparent and having rules in place around reporting campaign fundraising and spending.

In response to a question raised on what changes could be made to the MEA, Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk confirmed that this would be identified in the staff report. She further explained that currently the Act does not have any discretionary powers for municipalities in this area. She noted that other models which have been determined by other Provinces that allow for by-laws of discretionary matters, but that any reform would require legislation change in some form, either through the Act or the Charter

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. MOTIONS – NONE

11. IN CAMERA

Council may rise and go into a private In Camera session, in accordance with Section 19 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, for the purpose of dealing with the following:

11.1 Minutes – September 22, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Craig that the in camera minutes of September 22, 2014 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Item 14.1 was addressed in public session at this time.

14.1 2015 Executive Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee determined to deal with this matter on the agenda prior to convening to In Camera.

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Proposed 2015 Executive Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Craig that the Executive Standing Committee approved their proposed 2015 meeting schedule as presented.

The Legislative Assistant confirmed that a meeting will be scheduled on December 15, 2014 to address a number of matters before the Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Standing Committee convened into In Camera at 11:28 a.m.

11.2 Personnel Matters

A matter pertaining to a personnel matter about an identifiable individual/individuals or body with whom the municipality has a direct interest.

11.2.1 Appointments to the Halifax International Airport Board and the Halifax Port Authority Board – *Private and Confidential Report*

This matter was addressed in camera.

11.2.2 Nominations of Councillors to Various Boards and Committees – *Private and Confidential Report*

This matter was addressed in camera.

12. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 15, 2014

14.1 2015 Executive Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting, see top of page 5.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Cathy Mellett
Municipal Clerk