



**EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 2, 2015**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage, Chair
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Steve Craig
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Bill Karsten

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Marty Ward, Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Phoebe Rai, 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/index.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m., and adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 10, 2015

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts

THAT the minutes of August 10, 2015 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Councillor Craig requested Information Item 2 - 14/15 Q4 and Year End Citizen Service Requests Performance Report be added to the agenda of a subsequent Committee meeting for questions of clarification.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Watts

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

The Clerk's Office received correspondence in reference to item 9.1.2 and this was distributed to all Committee members.

8.2 Petitions – NONE

8.3 Presentation – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 2016 Council Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Executive Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated August 6, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll

THAT the Executive Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council accept the proposed 2016 Regional Council meeting schedule set out in the staff report dated August 6, 2015.

Councillor Watts suggested that meetings of Regional Council be scheduled to commence at 10 a.m. with final meeting time to be confirmed when the agenda is approved. She also informed the Committee that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Sustainability Communities Conference would conflict with the proposed Regional Council meeting on February 9, 2016.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker that the motion be amended to indicate

THAT the meeting on February 9, 2016 be changed to February 16, 2016 to avoid a possible scheduling conflict with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainability Communities Conference

AMENDMENT PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Watts noted that there were only two meetings scheduled between June 21 and September 6 and suggested that another be added in case it is required.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker that the motion be amended to indicate

THAT a meeting be added to the schedule on July 19, 2016.

AMENDMENT PUT AND PASSED.

Committee members expressed support for not holding meetings of Regional Council between the 2016 municipal election and the swearing in ceremony. Councillor Craig queried whether or not it would be possible to move the swearing in ceremony to October 25, 2016 to allow for a full Regional Council meeting on November 1, 2016.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk responded that the swearing in ceremony must be held within four weeks of the election, so it may be held on October 25, 2016 if that is Council's direction.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Watts that the motion be amended to indicate

THAT the swearing in ceremony be moved to October 25, 2016.

Councillor Karsten expressed concern that moving the date of the swearing in ceremony would provide one week less for any defeated Councillors to close their files and wrap up any outstanding district business.

AMENDMENT PUT AND DEFEATED.

Councillor Walker suggested that an additional December meeting would help to alleviate what can be full agendas in January.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Watts that the motion be amended to indicate

THAT a meeting be added to the schedule on December 13, 2016.

AMENDMENT PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mason requested that Committee of the Whole and Budget meetings be referenced on the schedule.

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Extension of Rights to Candidacy in Municipal and School Board Elections to Permanent Residents

The following was before the Executive Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated October 26, 2015
- Correspondence from Valerie Payn dated August 11, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council

- 1. Confirm Council's resolution to include permanent residents as qualified electors to vote in municipal and school board elections, which, if enacted and under the current requirements for nomination (Section 43 (1) of the Municipal Elections Act), would enable a permanent resident who registers and who is on the final list of electors to be a nominee for a candidate for office; and**
- 2. Request that the Province of Nova Scotia retain the requirement of citizenship as a qualification as a candidate for office.**
- 3. Request the Province of Nova Scotia's Department of Municipal Affairs move the recommendation forward.**

And, it is further recommended that the Mayor be authorized to write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs outlining the position of Council in regard to this matter.

Councillor Watts provided a friendly amendment to the third part of the motion to clarify that the request is for the Province to move voting rights for permanent residents forward

with enabling legislation to change the Charter.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Walker queried whether the motion reflects the original intent of the motion passed by Regional Council on December 2, 2014.

Mayor Savage advised that the motion was in response to the correspondence received from the Province subsequent to Regional Council's motion.

Ms. Mellett responded that the proposed motion is a restatement and clarification of the position of Regional Council. She advised that under current legislation, any registered voter can nominate a candidate, which would extend to permanent residents if they become registered voters. She indicated that the recommendation of staff is not to grant permanent residents the right to become candidates, which would be consistent with other comparable jurisdictions.

Mr. Marty Ward, Solicitor suggested that the wording of the first part of the motion be amended to provide clarification that the motion to include permanent residents as qualified electors for municipal and school board elections would also enable permanent residents

to nominate a candidate for office.

Both amendments were accepted as friendly. The main motion as amended now reads:

THAT the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council

- 1. Confirm Council's resolution to include permanent residents as qualified electors to vote in municipal and school board elections, which, if enacted and under the current requirements for nomination (Section 43 (1) of the Municipal Elections Act), would enable a permanent resident who registers and who is on the final list of electors to nominate a candidate for office; and**

2. Request that the Province of Nova Scotia retain the requirement of citizenship as a qualification as a candidate for office.
3. Request the Province of Nova Scotia's Department of Municipal Affairs move the recommendation forward with enabling legislation to change the Charter.

And, it is further recommended that the Mayor be authorized to write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs outlining the position of Council in regard to this matter.

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

10. MOTIONS – NONE

11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, November 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant