

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 10, 1998
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Walter R. Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor Larry Uteck
Councillors: Bill Dooks
Gordon R. Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Jack Greenough
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Stephen D. Adams
Barry Barnet
Robert P. Harvey
Peter J. Kelly
Reginald Rankin
Jack Mitchell

ABSENT: Ron Hanson (illness)

STAFF: K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. INVOCATION

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with an invocation.

2. PROCLAMATIONS - NONE

At a later point in the meeting, Mayor Fitzgerald acknowledged Ms. Janet McLellan and exchange students from the international student exchange program.

At a later point in the meeting, Mayor Fitzgerald presented a plaque to Councillors Sarto, Greenough and Snow in recognition of their years of service to UNSM.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 27, 1998

Councillor Walker referenced page 14 of the minutes and requested the minutes reflect he was not in favour of the motion on snow removal.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Blumenthal that the minutes of October 27, 1998 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Deletions

The Municipal Clerk requested item 11.4.1, Award of Tender 98-277R - Concrete Curb and Overlay Paving, Beaver Bank Road, be deleted from the agenda.

Additions

The Municipal Clerk requested the following items be added to the agenda

13.1 Fuel Tank Installation, 200 Waverley Road - Councillor Greenough

13.2 Departmental Moving Expenses - Councillor Hetherington

13.3 Committee of the Whole Recommendations

- Streets By-Law S-301
- Metro Transit - 1998/99 Budget Reduction Proposals
- Waste Resources - 1998/99 Budget Reduction Proposals
- Fire Station #4 Lady Hammond Road
- Centennial Pool

13.4 Councillor Cooper requested item #8 from the information items, "Recreation Programming Budget Cuts", be brought forward on the agenda.

In response to Councillor Barnet as to the deferral of item 11.4.1, Mr. Anstey advised this was resulting from a legal issue that needs to be addressed.

Mayor Fitzgerald requested item 11.2 be brought forward on the agenda for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Greenough that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.2 COAT OF ARMS COMMITTEE (AD HOC)

11.2.1 Coat of Arms - Dr. Marie Elwood

- A report from Councillor Robert P. Harvey, Chair, Coat of Arms Committee regarding the above for before Council for consideration.

Mayor Fitzgerald acknowledged and thanked the members of the Coat of Arms Committee for their work in developing a Coat of Arms for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Councillor Harvey thanked members of staff who contributed to the work of the committee and introduced Dr. Marie Elwood who presented the Coat of Arms to Council. The Councillor advised there are two steps which will follow formal adoption of the Coat of Arms, the formal signature of the colour rendering by His Worship which will be sent to the Office of the Chief Herald for production of a final colour rendering and letters of patent will be presented formally to the Municipality.

Dr. Elwood presented the Coat of Arms to the Mayor and members of Council.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee, Dr. Elwood advised the badge is an emblem that is derived from the coat of arms which can be used for municipal identification such as in the designation of heritage buildings.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Greenough that Halifax Regional Council approve and accept the colour renderings presented as the official coat of arms, flag and badge of the Halifax Regional Municipality. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

6.1 Councillor Kelly - Building Management Study - Stage Two: Implementation

- An extract from the draft November 3, 1998 Regional Council minutes regarding the above noted was before Council for consideration. The Building Management Study - Stage Two: Implementation had been circulated at the October 27, 1998 meeting.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and McInroy that the following motion passed on November 3, 1998 be reconsidered:

Moved by Councillors Sarto and Hendsbee that Council direct staff to issue a general call for proposals for a Management Contract, rather than negotiate with RFM directly.

Councillor Kelly stated he was requesting Council reconsider going to tender through a proposal call process as HRM needs to empower its staff to implement the 266 changes that have been brought forth for implementation. The Councillor stated HRM should try and retain the \$2.3 million cost and put it back into staff and operations. He stated HRM can better utilize staff by bringing them into the operational goals and objectives.

MOTION OF RECONSIDERATION PUT AND PASSED.

The following motion was now on the floor for consideration:

Moved by Councillors Sarto and Hendsbee that Council direct staff to issue a general call for proposals for a Management Contract, rather than negotiate with RFM directly.

Councillor Kelly stated with the projectional costs of \$2.3 million, staff needs to be empowered to do their jobs and, if this amount is brought back into operations, there will be benefits in the form of savings to the taxpayers.

Councillor McInroy noted the consultants report identifies recommendations and prioritizes them with guidelines for an implementation strategy.

Councillor Greenough stated because of the magnitude of this project and the significant dollars involved, Council should proceed immediately with those recommendations that could be implemented by HRM staff. The Councillor suggested this matter be referred to the Program and Service Review Committee for the purpose of staff drafting a terms of reference to identify what the consultant is being asking to do and how the program is to

evolve.

Councillor Greenough suggested that staff be instructed to proceed immediately with implementing those parts of the recommendation that have already been received. The Councillor recommended Council refer the drafting of the appropriate terms of reference, for further dialogue, assessment and a demonstration on how this is to evolve, to the Program and Service Review Committee.

Councillor Barnet suggest the committee play a monitoring role with respect to how staff moves forward with any of the recommendations in the study, noting the study points out many procedural changes the municipality can implement on its own. The Councillor suggested a process be put in place whereby this municipality, through a committee of Council, monitors what is being done to ensure the study does not get shelved.

Councillor Uteck stated the initial motion on call for proposals does not preclude HRM from implementing certain aspects of the initial recommendation.

Councillor Stone questioned whether it was the intention, before calling for proposals, to deal with the housekeeping items that were brought forward in the original stage one. In response, Mr. Brian Smith, Director, Business Operations, advised some of the policy items are already in place with staff working to ascertain which part of the overall list of recommendations actually have to be included in the new call.

Mr. Meech advised staff will be looking at what resources are required to do this in house as well as determine whether there is staff qualified to take on this assignment.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Cunningham that this matter be referred to the Program and Service Review Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION

7.1 Councillor Kelly - Service Standards - Street and Sidewalk Snow and Ice Control

- An extract from the draft October 27, 1998 Regional Council minutes on the above noted was before Council for consideration. The staff report had been circulated at the October 27, 1998 meeting.

Councillor Kelly referenced the motion of the previous meeting with regards to priority of streets system for the 1998/99 winter operations stating this had been brought back for reconsideration due to Councillors not having all available information as to what streets would be impacted. The Councillor stated he felt it was important that staff provide this

information to Council prior to making its final determination. He stated the information has been provided to Council and Councillors now know the impact in their respective communities and therefore requested Council consider the issue for further debate and discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Walker that the item be brought back to Council for consideration and discussion.

Councillor Walker stated the new report received lists different streets from those on the report received Monday afternoon. The Councillor questioned once a snow storm starts, and it snows for eight hours then stops, will priority one streets be done during the next twelve hours.

Mr. MacKay advised the intent is to concentrate on the priority one streets during the storm and hopefully, through the service standards that have been proposed, those streets would be clear by the time the storm stops enabling the priority two streets to be done.

In response to Councillor Walker's question as to how staff would proceed if they were not cleared, Mr. MacKay advised staff would have to proceed to clear them up. The standards call for a cycle of every three hours so it would not be long after the storm stops before staff can get onto the second priority streets.

Councillor Walker said it is his understanding that if the storm should last for a day and a half and there is a large snow fall there is a twelve hours time allocation in which to clear the priority one streets.

In response, Mr. MacKay agreed but clarified that under a storm situation such as Councillor Walker mentioned extra equipment would be brought in to deal with the situation.

RECESS

A ten minute recess was taken at 7:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

When the meeting reconvened, Mayor Fitzgerald called for a motion to adjourn due to a disruption in the proceedings. The remaining items on the agenda were carried over to November 17, 1998.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Mitchell that the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK