

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES August 29, 2000

PRESENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor John Cunningham
Councillors: Stephen Streach
Gordon R. Snow
Keith Colwell
Ron Cooper
Jack Greenough
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Clint Schofield
Jerry Blumenthal
Graham L. Downey
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Graham Read
Stephen Adams
David Merrigan
Robert Harvey
Peter Kelly
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Councillors: Harry McInroy

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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“To amend Administrative Order Number Five, the Unsightly Premises Committee Order, to reflect the enforcement being pursuant to Part XV of the Municipal Government Act and to increase the Councillor representation to nine (9) members” 08

11.2 Councillor Kelly

“Ask staff to explore the possibility of amending all municipal planning strategies to reflect Policy P-20, Parkland Development, of the Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy.

Policy P-20 reads “It shall be the intention of Town Council, upon receipt of deed transfer payments, to deposit in the special reserve fund capital section, one quarter of the tax, and to maintain the fund for the purpose of acquiring and/or developing parkland and accessories”

And, further, when reviewing this possibility determine whether one quarter tax should be based on both the residential deed transfer tax payment and the commercial deed transfer tax payment”. 08

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1. **INVOCATION**

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

2. **PROCLAMATIONS**

2.1 **Shinerama Day - September 5, 2000**

Mayor Fitzgerald declared Tuesday, September 5, 2000, as Shinerama Day in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 15 & 22, 2000**

Councillor Fougere referenced paragraph four, page eight of the August 15th minutes and requested the minutes be amended to reflect that the street referenced is Ralph Devlin Avenue.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Fougere that the minutes of August 15 & 22, 2000 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Additions

- 12.1 Councillor Blumenthal - 911 Emergency Calls
- 12.2 Personnel Matter - Appointments

Deletions

- 1. Item 10.2.3 - Plan Amendment Options - One Park Avenue, Downtown Dartmouth

Information Item

- 1. Memorandum from Director of Engineering and Transportation Services, dated August 28, 2000 re: Sewage Spill - Sandy Lake, Bedford

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

5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

9.1 Petitions

9.1.1 Councillor Walker

Councillor Walker presented a petition, containing 91 signatures, on behalf of the residents of Melrose Avenue. The residents are requesting the installation of a sidewalk and the Councillor requested a staff report advising when this will be undertaken and associated costs so that the project can be included in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

9.1.2 Councillor Sarto

Councillor Sarto submitted a petition from residents of Skeena Street, Dartmouth, regarding a dangerous intersection at Skeena Street and Louisbourg Lane. The Councillor requested the Traffic Authority investigate the situation with a view to enhancing the safety of drivers entering/exiting Skeena from Louisbourg.

9.1.3 Councillor Kelly

Councillor Kelly submitted a petition on behalf of the Ecology Action Centre requesting that the extra CN rails be saved and Council ensure they remain in place to be used for the proposed light rail transit service between Beaver Bank and downtown Halifax.

9.1.4 Councillor Merrigan

Councillor Merrigan submitted a petition on behalf of parents who are concerned with the safety of the children who will have to walk to the new P3 Sackville Heights Elementary School.

9.2 Presentation

9.2.1 Mr. Don Chard, President, Dartmouth District Soccer Association - Safety Concerns, Soccer Fields

- Correspondence and a request to make a presentation was before Council.
- Information from Soccer Nova Scotia was circulated to members of Council.

Mr. Don Chard, President, Dartmouth District Soccer Association, advised the rapid growth of the sport of soccer has outstripped the available resources. He noted there is reduced funding and, as a result, fields are suffering from deferred maintenance. Mr. Chard requested that Council direct staff to review the resources available to maintain the soccer fields as well as support efforts to provide all-weather fields.

Councillor Fougere requested a staff report on how this issue can be addressed on an ongoing and long term basis.

Mayor Fitzgerald requested the report include how the number of soccer fields in the Municipality can be increased.

Councillor Hetherington requested the report indicate whether there would be opportunity for partnerships, with the Soccer Association, for maintenance and upkeep of the fields.

Councillor Uteck requested staff look at the possibility of privatizing some of the fields.

10. REPORTS

10.1 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.1.1 Councillor Blumenthal - North End Schools

Councillor Blumenthal advised the schools in the north end of Halifax are very old and many have been closed. The Councillor requested the Mayor write to the Minister of Education on behalf of the residents of District 11 and Peninsula Halifax asking when the old schools will be replaced with new schools. The Councillor noted younger families are moving to the area and new buildings will be needed.

10.1.2 Councillor Merrigan - Road Conditions, District 19

Councillor Merrigan advised the roadway in question falls under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Department of Transportation and requested the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting a response as to why these poor road conditions have not been addressed. The Councillor noted the following unsafe conditions:

- 1) The shoulder of the road on Saluki Drive is approximately eight to ten inches below the pavement;
- 2) The bushes on Sandy Lake Road are out on the road and pose an endangerment to pedestrians; and,

3) The shoulder of the road near the soccer field on Davis Drive has caved in.

(Councillor Merrigan left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.)

10.2 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.2.1 Request for Painted Crosswalk - Lower Water Street at Prince Street

- An information report, prepared for Mr. K. S. Dhillon, Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, dated August 2, 2000, on the above noted, was before Council.

Councillor Read noted the distance between marked crosswalks is two hundred metres which in some instances would require elderly and handicapped residents to walk the equivalent of two football fields in order to cross at a marked intersection. The Councillor requested the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities be requested to investigate and comment on this situation.

(Deputy Mayor Cunningham left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.)

10.2.2 Traffic Issues Revisited - District 17

- An information report, prepared for Mr. K. S. Dhillon, Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, dated August 4, 2000, on the above noted, was before Council.

Councillor Read referenced the fact that there is no left turn from Purcell's Cove Road onto Herring Cove Road. The Councillor inquired as to whether there could be a way , on a temporary trial basis for a period of six months, that cars could make a left hand turn.

Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Traffic and Transportation Services, advised it is not possible to filter truck traffic from making the same movements as cars; therefore, all roadway and intersection designs have to accommodate truck movement safely as there is no way to prohibit those from occurring. The findings with this particular intersection is that truck traffic cannot make these movements without interfering with on coming vehicular traffic by using conflicting lanes. He advised staff would not recommend changes at this intersection.

10.2.3 Plan Amendment Options - One Park Avenue, Downtown Dartmouth

- A report, prepared for Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, dated August 21, 2000, on the above noted, was before Council.

This item was deleted under the approval of the Order of Business.

It was noted that with this item being removed from the agenda the current policy of allowing for 35 units per acre on site will be retained.

10.2.4 Halifax Peninsula Rail Cut Trail

- A report, prepared for Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, dated August 22, 2000, on the above noted, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillors Uteck and Fougere that Council approve the use of funds for the land appraisal cost in the amount of \$10,000. The funds are to come from the Parkland Reserve Account #Q107.

Councillor Fougere noted these are parcels of land that have been identified in the Parkland Strategy as potential sites for a multi-use trail along the greenway above the railway track along Chebucto Road and Point Pleasant Park.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. MOTIONS

11.1 Councillor Hetherington

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Sarto that Council amend Administrative Order Number Five, the Unsightly Premises Committee Order, to reflect the enforcement being pursuant to Part XV of the Municipal Government Act and to increase the Councillor representation to nine (9) members. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2 Councillor Kelly

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Fougere that Council ask staff to explore the possibility of amending all municipal planning strategies to reflect Policy P-20, Parkland Development, of the Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy. Policy P-20 reads "It shall be the intention of Town Council, upon receipt of deed transfer payments, to deposit in the special reserve fund capital section, one quarter of the tax, and to maintain the fund for the purpose of acquiring and/or developing parkland and accessories." And, further, when reviewing this possibility determine whether the one quarter tax should be based on both the residential deed transfer tax payment and the

commercial deed transfer tax payment.

Councillor Kelly advised this motion is requesting staff to develop a policy which could be incorporated in all Municipal Planning Strategies to enable each district to take a portion of the deed transfer tax generated and allocate these monies into a fund to help sustain the areas in their own districts. He noted this would be undertaken in cooperation with staff and the public.

(Councillor Harvey left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.)

Councillor Hetherington suggested a Committee of the Whole be scheduled to address the issue of taxes.

Councillor Stone suggested the report look at not just the deed transfer tax but also alternatives as there is a concern that when people pay deed transfer tax they expect certain facilities in their community. The Councillor stated there is a need to find some way of improving the playgrounds and questioned whether this is the best way, or are there alternatives. He suggested staff explore all avenues of developing the parkland so that when homes are built the playgrounds and facilities are already in place.

Councillor Kelly noted this is a request to review what is currently being done and perhaps explore ways to spend better and more efficiently. This is an effort to get communities involved as to what their needs are. The Councillor stated all he is asking for is a comprehensive review - how it is presently being done and how it perhaps can be done more effectively.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Councillor Blumenthal - 911 Emergency Calls

Councillor Blumenthal advised there has to be a change in the response time by emergency services resulting from a 911 emergency call. The Councillor noted a number of instances where the response time was such that it endangered lives. The Councillor stated there has to be a change in the way 911 reacts to an emergency situation and suggested the computer systems used by 911 and the emergency services be examined with a view to making them more compatible.

12.2 Personnel Matter - Appointments

- This item was discussed during the In Camera Session held prior to the Regular

Session, and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Blumenthal that Councillors Cooper, Snow and Walker be appointed to the Tax Structure Review Working Group. Further, Councillor Cooper to be designated as Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Blumenthal that Ms. P. Rano Khokhar be appointed to the Grant Committee as a citizen at large. Ms. Khokhar will fill the remainder of a two year term expiring in November, 2000. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Fougere that Councillors Kelly and Hetherington be appointed to the Executive Committee of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. The terms fro these appointments is two years. Councillors Greenough and Walker to be named as alternates. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Sarto that the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk**