



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
February 2, 2016**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Matt Whitman
Councillors: Barry Dalrymple
David Hendsbee
Bill Karsten
Lorelei Nicoll
Gloria McCluskey
Waye Mason
Jennifer Watts
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Reg Rankin
Brad Johns
Steve Craig
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor Linda Mosher

STAFF: Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Karen Brown, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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

A video recording of this meeting is available: http://archive.isiglobal.ca/vod/halifax/archive_2016-02-02_live.mp4.html

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Council are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/160202cow-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. and adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 6, 2016

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the minutes of Committee of the Whole, January 6, 2016 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – January 27, 2016

3.1 Shape Your City, Shape Your Budget 2016 – Public Consultation

The following was before Council:

- A staff Information Report dated December 21, 2015.

At 9:42 a.m. Councillor Nicoll entered the meeting.

At 9:46 a.m. Councillor Hendsbee entered the meeting.

Regional Council engaged in a discussion in regard to the submitted information report on the 'Shape Your City, Shape Your Budget 2016 – Public Consultation' and provided the following feedback:

- In reference to Appendix 1: Budget Allocator – Budget Distribution, it was suggested that, in future, more detailed information be provided so that respondents would have a better idea of what an increase or decrease in the Business Unit budget would provide.
- Suggestion that Communications and Finance staff bring ideas to Council on ways to increase public engagement and public participation at meetings such as Community Councils, public meetings, etc.
- It would be helpful if staff could initiate the citizen budget consultation earlier so that Council would have the feedback when starting the budget process. Also, if staff could give Councillors ample lead-in time as to when the consultation will occur so they can promote it in their newsletters and within their districts.
- It was suggested that staff provide responses to the questions that were brought forward in the public consultation and publish them where they can be viewed by the public.

4. Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 20, 2016.
- A handout with a revised slide 3 and two additional slides

Chief Doug Trussler presented the proposed 2016/17 Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Budget and Business Plan.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey seconded by Councillor Nicoll

That the Committee of the Whole direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2016/2017 Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Budget and Business Plan as proposed in the accompanying

presentation, incorporating additional direction provided by motion of Committee of the Whole for inclusion in the proposed HRM 16/17 Budget and Business Plan documents.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

That the motion be amended to include Option 2 as outlined in the presentation of the 2016/17 Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Draft Budget and Business Plan as follows: Increase honorarium budget by \$1.1 million to better ensure a volunteer response through an on call/standby system for rural stations and/or through a guaranteed minimum flat rate based on station location (rural, suburban, urban) and direct staff to return to council with the details of the new program before implementation.”

A discussion on the amendment ensued with members of Council suggesting that it was premature because Council had previously asked for a staff report on this matter and any decision should wait until this report comes back to Council. Further concern was expressed about the impact the amendment would have on the budget, and there was general consensus that it would be appropriate to place the amendment in the budget ‘parking lot’ at this time.

At 11:07 a.m. Council recessed.

At 11:20 a.m. Council reconvened.

In response to a question of clarification, Mayor Savage advised that placing the item in the ‘parking lot’ means that it has been flagged by Council and is something Council will return to for further discussion.

Councillor Dalrymple advised that he was agreeable to placing his amendment in the ‘parking lot’. This was deemed a friendly amendment; and the amendment now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

That Option 2 (RE volunteers) be placed in the Parking Lot (i.e. Increase honorarium budget by \$1.1 million to better ensure a volunteer response through an on call/standby system for rural stations and/or through a guaranteed minimum flat rate based on station location (rural, suburban, urban) and direct staff to return to council with the details of the new program before Implementation.)

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND PASSED.

The amended motion now reads:

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey seconded by Councillor Nicoll

That the Committee of the Whole direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2016/2017 Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Budget and Business Plan as proposed in the accompanying presentation (provided to Council February 2, 2016), incorporating additional direction provided by motion of Committee of the Whole for inclusion in the proposed HRM 16/17 Budget and Business Plan documents; and

That Option 2 (RE Volunteers) be placed in the Parking Lot (i.e. increase honorarium budget by \$1.1 million to better ensure a volunteer response through an on call/standby system for rural stations and/or through a guaranteed minimum flat rate based on station location (rural, suburban, urban) and direct staff to return to council with the details of the new program before implementation.)

THE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT AND PASSED.

5. Review of Debt Strategy

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Deputy Mayor Whitman

That Review of Debt Strategy be deferred to the February 3, 2016 Committee of the Whole, and to be dealt with prior to Fiscal Accounts.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk