

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES**

August 9, 2005

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Councillors: Steve Streach
David Hendsbee
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Jim Smith
Patrick Murphy
Sue Uteck
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert P. Harvey
Reg Rankin
Krista Snow
Dawn Sloane
Stephen D. Adams
Gary G. Meade

REGRETS:

Councillors: Harry McInroy
Becky Kent
Gloria McCluskey
Mary Wile
Sheila Fougere

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - August 2, 2005

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Deputy Mayor Goucher, that the minutes of August 2, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

MOVED BY Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Uteck that the agenda be approved as presented.

Councillor Streach commented that he would prefer Council adhere to the meeting schedule that was set for Committee of the Whole.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. 2014 COMMONWEALTH GAMES BID

- A report dated August 4, 2005 was before Council.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works presented the report.

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Committee of the Whole recommend Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the Executive Bid Committee Structure outlined in this report and endorse HRM's bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games; and**
- 2. Approve a withdrawal from the Major Events Facility Reserve, Q319, not to exceed \$375,000, to fund 50% of the Halifax Domestic Bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.**

The following concerns, comments and suggestions were raised during the ensuing discussion:

- Executive Bid Committee structure has overlooked the role of the Mayor and the Premier.
- \$1.5 million is expected to be shared Federally, Provincially, and Municipally, but the Federal contribution is not reflected.
- Public support of this initiative by the Provincial and Federal government representatives should be encouraged.
- The bid process should have more public participation.

Responding to comments for community involvement in the bid process, Mr. Labrecque indicated that the Events Halifax website will have opportunities for those who wish to participate.

Mr. Fred MacGillivray, President & CEO, Trade Centre Limited, commented that Mayor Kelly and Premier Hamm would be honorary Co-Chairs of this event and would be present at press conferences. He added that no other city has this showing of support. The Mayor and Premier would also be kept apprised of all developments during the bid process. He further advised that the Executive Bid Committee has spoken to Federal representatives regarding this initiative. The Federal representatives have indicated that they are not able to publically support any city at the moment. He added the Federal representatives will be engaged for local support and there are ongoing discussions at the sport level.

Councillor Uteck suggested an amendment to the motion to include a member of Council as part of the Executive Bid Committee structure. Councillor Streach commented that it would be more appropriate that the Mayor or his designate be involved with the Executive Bid Committee rather than a separate member of Council.

Councillor Mosher commented that she does not agree that it is necessary to have a Councillor on the Executive Bid Committee as it becomes political. She indicated a designate or the Deputy Mayor would be more appropriate.

Councillor Rankin commented that there cannot be a designate for the Mayor as the Mayor is there by virtue of his elected office and you could not assign that to a Councillor. He suggested that perhaps a Councillor could be chosen by HRM's Membership Selection Committee.

Councillor Streach commented that the Deputy CAO is on the Executive Bid Committee and will play an active role so the request to have a Councillor added can be removed.

MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Uteck, that the motion be amended to include the appointment of the Mayor and/or his designate to the Executive Bid Committee. MOTION DEFEATED.

Councillor Smith expressed concern with the enormous risk of offering \$375,000 when no detailed information has been received regarding what is being presented differently in this bid process. He added he is in support of this initiative but has some concerns considering Halifax lost out to Hamilton on a previous event.

Mr. MacGillivray responded to Councillor Smith that to have the infrastructure in this province, every sporting event has to be considered. The bidding process will be completely transparent. He added that if Halifax is successful with the 2011 Winter Games bid it will bring some infrastructure which would help Halifax in the international bid. He advised that the national bidding process is being monitored through Events Halifax. The Executive Bid Committee will review all possibilities and make a presentation to Regional Council.

Councillor Harvey expressed concern with the defeatist attitude around the room and encouraged full support of this initiative. He added that Halifax is the capital of the region and the bid should be approached with a winning attitude.

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Committee of the Whole recommend Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the Executive Bid Committee structure outlined in this report and endorse HRM's bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games; and**
- 2. Approve a withdrawal from the Major Events Facility Reserve, Q319, not to exceed \$375,000, to fund 50% of the Halifax Domestic Bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. ENERGY INITIATIVES

- A copy of staff's PowerPoint presentation is on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services, presented the HRM Energy Initiatives, assisted by Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Manager, Environmental Performance (Energy & Utilities) and Mr. Steven King, Manager, Environmental Performance (Air & Land).

The following concerns, comments and suggestions were raised by Council during the ensuing discussion:

- For energy efficiency purposes, have motion activated lights installed in

- washrooms, like those used in the Halifax Ferry Terminal washrooms.
- It was suggested that HRM look into using solar/wind power during construction and pursuing such opportunities in new buildings. The Committee was advised that HRM staff are currently considering a proposal to complete a third modeling of solar potential in HRM.
 - There must be a balance between the cost of change over vs. the overall savings.
 - How to make use of by-products that will be produced after the harbour solutions project, such as use of by-products as fertilizer for crops that would be used for bio-diesel or bio-fuel.
 - Whether HRM will keep the product within HRM is being considered, however, there are some contractual obligations that have to be examined first. Councillor Streach advised that he would like to be involved in those discussions and suggested that Environmental Management Services should come before Council once a month with an update.
 - An update will be provided to Council on September 13, 2005 regarding whether HRM will meet the Kyoto deadlines. The Committee was advised that there are no penalties associated with not meeting the deadlines and that HRM is working on Energy Performance Contracts for the 350 buildings in HRM. There are three buildings with natural gas conversions signed on, with eleven more buildings coming soon.
 - All Requests For Proposals should address environmental issues and include the requirements for energy efficiency, such as the tender for the joint fire/recreation centre in Fall River. EMS will work with RPAM to determine what specifications should be included.

MOVED BY Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that staff bring forward recommendations to Regional Council to make environmental and energy efficiency criteria mandatory for all Requests For Proposals and Tenders.

Councillor Murphy requested that HRM staff look at buildings within District 11 (Fielding/Commons/Bloomfield) to enter a partnership with each for a green roof project. Councillor Murphy expressed concern that there may not be sufficient resources/funding available for EMS to do their job and requested EMS be provided the resources required. Ms. O'Toole advised that staff are developing frameworks and helping business units to develop funding.

Mayor Kelly left the meeting at 3:48 p.m. Deputy Mayor Goucher assumed the chair at this time.

In response to Councillor Uteck's concerns with sulphur dioxide emissions by the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Tufts Cove Generating Plant, Mr. King advised that there is a reduction ceiling of sulphur dioxide emissions in place. The

hospitals and universities are also reviewing this issue. Mr. King added that any local legislation may not affect DND so HRM is working with the Provincial and Federal governments regarding major pollutants.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested the following comments be considered in the staff report coming before Council on September 13, 2005:

- An inventory of street lights be compiled, as it is not known how many street lights there are in HRM or what their wattages are. He suggested that staff do a GPS civic addressing of all HRM street lights and include information on how much HRM is paying for them.
- Operational costs of municipal facilities and whether operational assistance will be provided for those volunteer operated facilities.

Councillor Adams commented that Mr. King and Ms. O'Toole have done an incredible job, as has Energy and Underground Services. He added that HRM must work closely with Nova Scotia Power, the Provincial and Federal governments and other stakeholders. Recently, Mr. King and Ms. O'Toole coordinated a round table discussion on environmental sustainability with 20-30 stakeholders in attendance. Councillor Adams agreed that a monthly Information Report to Council would be appreciated.

Mr. King responded to Councillor Sloane that citizens may participate in the energy initiatives by visiting the HRM website and by contacting the Ecology Action Centre on tips for environmental sustainability. He added that the HRM website will be changed this fall to a more citizen friendly format.

Councillor Sloane raised a concern with the number of tour buses left idling around the Public Gardens and requested staff post signs asking that engines be turned off.

Mr. King responded to Councillor Harvey, indicating that the Sackville Landfill produces 90-100 tonnes of methane gas per year and staff are reviewing this matter.

The Mayor returned to the meeting at 4:04 p.m. and resumed the Chair.

WITHOUT a vote being taken on the motion on the floor, the following motion was placed:

MOVED BY Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Sloane that staff prepare a report outlining the process to convert existing HRM buildings to be more environmentally sustainable and also a process to ensure all new buildings in HRM will be environmentally sustainable. Further, that the report include the cost and savings involved to achieve environmentally sustainable buildings. MOTION PUT

AND PASSED.

6. SIDEWALK SNOW PLOWING - SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS

- An Information Report dated August 2, 2005 was before Council.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works, presented the information assisted by Ms. Dale MacLellan, Director, Financial Services, and Mr. Gord Hayward, Operations Coordinator, Transportation and Public Works (Snow and Ice Removal).

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that HRM provide sidewalk snow removal for all HRM streets and that this service be funded through the General Urban Rate.

The following concerns, comments and suggestions were raised by Council during the ensuing discussion:

- All HRM residents belong to the same municipality, therefore, ice and snow removal services should be the same for everyone.
- A tax rebate should be given to those residents who have to clear their own sidewalks.
- It would be helpful for residents if HRM cleared all intersections of ice and snow as well.
- The question was raised whether HRM has the manpower and/or equipment to effectively clear ice and snow from all of HRM.

Mr. Labrecque commented that the current service standard indicates 72 hours. There would have to be some type of tiered service standard. Equipment would have to be capitalized and service contracts would have to be reviewed. The following further concerns, comments and suggestions were raised:

- A proper sidewalk snowplow should be used and not a Bobcat so repairs will not have to be done to sods, etc., in the spring.
- Metro Transit's low floor buses (doors and ramps) will not work with snow in the way.
- The expectations of taxpayers should be clarified as HRM may not be able to get to all streets immediately after a storm.
- Major arterials should be done first, then collector streets, and then outwards. Servicing has to be broken down into small enough packages for contractors to bid on (ie: downtown core, collector streets, arterials, school zones, etc.).
- The issues of bonding in regards to property damage, as well as due diligence, and insurance claims also have to be looked at. Tax structures and service areas also

have to be fine tuned.

- Taxpayers will want service within 24 hours. HRM residents will complain if HRM chooses to provide service for all HRM residents with a 72 hour maximum. A 36 to 48 hour time frame would be more desirable.

Ms. MacLennan commented that the motion gives clear direction to staff in terms of service level and Council's desire to have the service general rated. Staff will obtain more clarity on the service level expected and return with further detail on contracts, service, stability, risk, and liability. She added that the tax side is not as straight forward as there is at least one area that dangles outside the urban rate. If council wants this service general rated, staff will come back with either the general rate or how we will deal with this outside the urban core areas. Ms. MacLennan advised that when a service is general rated, there is a commercial element attached which could lower the rate (currently estimated at 2.8%). Mayor Kelly clarified for Councillor Snow that those areas outside the urban rate will have an area rate.

Mr. Anstey commented that sidewalk snow clearing by HRM is not different than any other service. You adopt a standard and then you meet that standard. Mr. Anstey also provided the following comments for consideration:

- Service standards are important (72 hours) but performance contracts must be in place to indicate what is expected to be done in that 72 hour time frame.
- Equal standards should be provided to all residential areas.
- The issue of where to put the snow that is cleared has to be reviewed.

Councillor Hum commented that District 16 is in its third year of an area rate for sidewalk snow removal. Although the service standard is 72 hours, most sidewalks are done within 48 hours. This past winter calls reduced by 75%. Councillor Hum also provided the following comments for consideration:

- HRM residents do not want to pay more taxes.
- Shoveling one's sidewalk is good exercise and is keeping with HRM's mandate of vibrant, healthy, sustainable communities.
- More clarity and information is required on the capital costs and contributions of this initiative, as well as tiered service standards as the same service is desired throughout HRM.
- Councillor Hum would support an increase in service for intersections. She would also support the full service for all HRM residents, however, the report indicates that HRM does not have the equipment to do so. There would be a significant (tax) increase for residents of Bedford/Sackville. Councillor Hum would not like to see a deterioration of service by HRM attempting to do more than it is able.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk