

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

PRESENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor Jack Greenough
Councillors: Bill Dooks
Gordon R. Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Condo Sarto
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Graham L. Downey
Larry Uteck
Howard Epstein
Russell Walker
Ron Hanson
Stephen Adams
Barry Barnet
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Jack Mitchell

REGRETS: Councillors Bruce Hetherington
Bill Stone
Reg Rankin

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Jane Nauss, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. INVOCATION

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Princess Diana, Princess of Wales.

2. PROCLAMATIONS

2.1 International Literacy Day - September 5, 1997

2.2 Taoist Chi Awareness Day - September 6, 1997

Mayor Fitzgerald proclaimed September 5, 1997 as International Literacy Day, and September 6, 1997 as Taoist Chi Awareness Day.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 19, 1997

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Sarto to adopt the minutes of August 19, 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS - ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Clerk advised that although Councillor Dooks had originally requested two items be added to the agenda: (1) Utilities and Services, and (2) Hazardous Waste, he has since requested same to be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

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

13.1 Councillor Blumenthal - School Crossing Guards

13.2 Report from North West Community Council re: Drainage - Rankin Drive, Lower Sackville.

Mayor Fitzgerald requested the addition of the following:

13.3 Appointment - Dartmouth Bridge Commission.

Councillor Schofield requested the addition of the following:

13.4 John Martin Junior High School Ballfield Lights.

Councillor Kelly requested the addition of the following:

13.5 Volunteer Fire Departments.

Councillor Adams requested the addition of the following:

13.6 Mainland South Planning Strategy.

13.7 Harrietsfield Recreation Centre - Funding for Septic System.

Councillor Walker suggested item 9.4.4 - School Board Boundaries - be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, suggested that item 9.4.3 - Paving of Streets - Kingswood Subdivision Proposal from Armoyan Properties Limited - be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

Councilor Cooper suggested that item 11.1.1 - Paving Proposal - Montague Estates - be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

MOVED by Councillors Snow and McInroy to adopt the Order of Business, as amended. 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. REPORTS

9.1 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

9.1.1 Supplementary Education Funding - Councillor McInroy

- A memorandum prepared for Councillor McInroy entitled Proposed Question re Supplementary Education Funding (Former Halifax County & Bedford Areas) was before Council for discussion.

Councillor McInroy referenced the above-noted memorandum which requested deferral of this matter to the September 16, 1997 Council session at which time it is anticipated that a recommendation on this issue will be presented for Council's consideration.

MOVED by Councillors McInroy and Barnet that this matter be deferred to the September 16, 1997 Council Session at which time it is anticipated that a recommendation on this issue will be presented for Council's consideration.

Councillor Blumenthal suggested that the September 16, 1997 Regional Council Meeting be rescheduled for September 15, 1997 due to the attendance of Council at the UNSM Conference that week.

No vote was taken on the Motion. Another Motion was put on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors McInroy and Blumenthal that this matter be deferred to the September 15, 1997 Council Session at which time it is anticipated that a recommendation on this issue will be presented for Council's consideration. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Fire - Frederick Avenue - Councillor Walker

- A memorandum prepared for Councillor Walker to update Council on recent events relating to a fire on Frederick Avenue was before Council for discussion.

Councillor Walker referenced two incidents:

- (a) Frederick Avenue - Wednesday evening (August 27, 1997).
- (b) School Avenue - Saturday evening (August 30, 1997).

In the Frederick Avenue incident, fire trucks were incorrectly dispatched to Bedford, and with respect to the School Avenue incident, the Fire Department supposedly took fifteen minutes to reach the fire.

Councillor Walker requested a report from Fire Services for the September 15 meeting, addressing the two incidents.

Councillor Adams referenced a medical call being received with a truck being dispatched to the incorrect address. The Councillor also requested a staff report on this matter for September 15. Due to the sensitive nature of this incident, Councillor Adams advised he would provide details to Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer. The Council enquired if it would be possible to listen to the 911 tape which pertained to this call. In closing, the Councillor suggested this new system was not working adequately.

Councillor Cooper suggested the 911 system be re-evaluated.

9.1.3 Winter Parking Ban - Councillor Cunningham

- A memorandum prepared for Councillor Cunningham to request Council's consideration on possible modifications to existing legislation relating to the winter parking ban was before Council for discussion.

Councillor Cunningham referenced the fact he had received calls questioning the necessity of implementing a winter parking ban and requested a staff report for the September 15 meeting, addressing this issue.

MOVED by Councillor Cunningham and Deputy Mayor Greenough that the matter of a winter parking ban be referred to Regional Operations staff for a report for the September 15, 1997 Council Session.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that the concept of giving power to special constables/RCMP to issue parking violation tickets be addressed in the report.

Councillor Cooper requested the report also address the possibility of looking at parking restrictions on bus routes.

Councillor Harvey requested the report address parking in fire lanes in shopping mall parking lots, particularly in the Downsview Mall area, in the vicinity of the Liquor Store.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.2 HALIFAX PENINSULA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

9.2.1 Case 7156 - Canada Land Company Ltd. - Lands of South Bland and McLean Streets; South and Barrington/Inglis Street Study Area

- A Staff report prepared for Councillor Epstein, Chair, Halifax Peninsula Community Council on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Uteck that Halifax Regional Council set a public hearing date to consider the adoption of the amendments to the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy and Peninsula Halifax Land Use By-Law (to meet advertising requirements of 21 days, October 14, 1997 is being suggested as the public hearing date). MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.3 REGIONAL TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Amendments to the Taxi By-Laws for the former City of Halifax, City of Dartmouth, County of Halifax and Town of Bedford Zones

- A memorandum prepared for Councillor Adams, Chair, Taxi and Limousine Committee entitled Amendments to the Taxi By-Laws for the City of Halifax, City of Dartmouth, County of Halifax and Town of Bedford zones, was before Council for discussion.

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, addressed Council noting there was an error in the numbering of the by-laws and that they should read T-102, T-103 and T-104 respectively.

(i) **First Reading By-Law T-102 Respecting Taxi Licensing**
Motion - Councillor Adams - Move First Reading

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Mitchell to give First Reading to By-Law T-102 Respecting Licensing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(ii) **First Reading By-Law T-103 Respecting Taxi Licensing**
Motion - Councillor Adams - Move First Reading

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Mitchell to give First Reading to By-Law T-103 Respecting Taxi Licensing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(iii) **First Reading By-Law T-104 Respecting Taxi Licensing**
Motion - Councillor Adams - Move First Reading

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Mitchell to give First Reading to By-Law T-104 Respecting Taxi Licensing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(iv) **Councillor Adams - Motion**

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Mitchell that the Halifax Regional Taxi & Limousine Committee requests the HRM Council to approach the Provincial Government to amend the Motor Vehicle Act to allow taxis to make turns where Metro Transit is authorized to do so, exclusive of turns that have been previously addressed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Cooper requested that legal staff prepare a report, to be presented at the time of Second Reading, reviewing temporary and permanent taxi licenses, particularly noting when temporary licenses are issued.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Sarto, Councillor Adams advised he would provide a copy of the English Proficiency Test for Council's information.

9.4 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

9.4.1 Police Staffing Levels

- An Information Report prepared for Chief Vincent MacDonald, on the above-noted, had been distributed to Council.

Chief MacDonald addressed Council apologizing for the actions of various members of Police Services staff who were dissatisfied with its reorganization. The Chief noted there was talk of a strike and morale is low. Police Services was experiencing an abnormal number of vacancies, however, same will not be filled pending completion of the Program and Service Review.

Chief MacDonald encouraged each Member of Council to contact him directly, or other members of his staff, should there be any concerns regarding Police Services.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Kelly as to the number of officers currently on staff, Chief MacDonald advised there were just under 400 members. It was anticipated that ten positions would be filled in January, 1998 and an additional twenty in June, 1998.

Councillor Kelly expressed concern that police service in District 21 is not up to the level as that prior to amalgamation. Accordingly, the Councillor enquired if Chief MacDonald would meet with his residents to explain the situation. In response, Chief MacDonald advised he would be pleased to meet with Councillor Kelly and the residents of District 2.

Councillor Schofield advised he was very pleased with the efforts of Police Services to date and would like to work with Chief MacDonald on community policing offices in District 9.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cooper if there had been a public process undertaken in hiring practices to date, Chief MacDonald advised in the affirmative, and that from approximately 100 individuals, 30 - 50 had been screened.

Deputy Mayor Greenough addressed Council noting that of the 33 individuals who were eligible for an early retirement package, 29 took the opportunity. During budget deliberations, Council budgeted for a reduction of 10 positions, therefore, there were actually 19 officers short and not 29.

Chief MacDonald stated that the Program and Service Review process will determine whether 19 officers should be replaced. When 10 positions are filled in January, 1998, there will actually only be 9 positions short.

In closing, Chief MacDonald stressed there is no cause for Council to be concerned as to the manner in which the municipality was being policed.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Chief MacDonald for his presentation and reiterated the Chief's invitation for each Member of Council to contact Police Services directly with any concerns they may have.

9.4.2 City Hall Clock Tower Repairs

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Cunningham to increase the allocated budget figure for the Clock Tower Restoration project to \$450,000 to cover the anticipated shortfall that has been determined will exist now that the consultant has completed the first phase of their mandate relative to investigating the existing conditions.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cooper as to where the additional funds will be secured, Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised it is anticipated the funds will be derived from this year's Capital Budget.

At the introduction of Mr. Phil Townsend, Facilities and Traffic Systems (Works and Natural Services), Mr. Mark Garnet, O'Halloran Campbell Consultants Limited, addressed Council. Through the use of overheads, pictures of the building detailing its deterioration were shown.

Councillor Hanson suggested that the municipality provide the additional funding up front and recover the costs by approaching community groups/organizations.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Kelly as to the life span of these renovations, Mr. Garnet advised approximately 50 years.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Kelly, the \$450,000 includes consultant fees, HST and expenditures.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Schofield as to how long the renovation work will take, Mr. Garnet advised approximately three months.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Schofield if a smaller dome could be placed on the building, Mr. Phil Townsend advised this was not possible as the Heritage Advisory Committee has approved plans that will maintain the original facade, or at least, as close as possible.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Blumenthal, Mr. Townsend advised these funds are for the additional repairs to the clock tower. A significant capital project is required to restore the masonry, over a 5 - 10 year period.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.4.3 Paving of Streets - Kingswood Subdivision Proposal from Armoyan Properties Limited

This matter was deferred to September 15, 1997.

9.4.4 School Board Boundaries

This matter was deferred to September 15, 1997

9.4.5 Tender 97-075 - Three (3) 1998 4-Wheel Drive Utility Vehicles for Halifax Regional Police Service and Halifax Regional Fire Service

- A memorandum prepared for Chief Vincent MacDonald, Commissioner, Police Services, and Mr. Gary Greene, Commissioner, Fire Services, on the above-noted, was before Council, for discussion.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Hanson to authorize the awarding of Tender No. 97-075 to the lowest bidder, Carroll Pontiac Buick GMC at a cost of \$112,667.00 plus hst. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.4.6 Tender 97-073 - Twelve (12) 1998 Model 4-Door Sedans for the Halifax Regional Police Service

- A memorandum prepared for Chief Vincent MacDonald, Commissioner, Police Services, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Mitchell and Schofield to authorize the awarding of tender No. 97-073 to the lowest bidder, Taylor Lincoln Mercury Sales Ltd. at a cost of \$271,008.00 plus hst. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.4.7 Tender 97-357 - Streets Resurfacing, Central District

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner, Regional Operations, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Kelly to award Tender No. 97-357, Streets Resurfacing, Central District, to Dexter Construction Company Ltd. at a Tender Price of \$481,850.00 and a total project cost of \$554,128.00 with funding authorized from Capital Account No. 95470, Resurfacing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.4.8 Tender 97-216 - Metropolitan Field Upgrading & Athletic Track Expansion

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, and Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Barnet to award Tender No. 97-216,

Metropolitan Field Upgrading & Athletic Track Expansion to LaFarge Canada Inc. For the materials and services listed in the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$411,355.00 and a Total Project Cost of \$452,491 with funding authorized from the Capital Account Number noted in the Budget Implication Section of the staff report dated August 25, 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.4.9 Tender 97-247 - Beaver Bank road, New Sidewalk (Sackville)

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Harvey that Tender No. 97-247 - Beaver Bank Road, New Sidewalk be awarded to B & L Contracting Ltd. For materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$343,597 and a Total Project cost of \$395,136.55 with funding authorized from Capital Account No. 97409, Beaver Bank Road, New Sidewalk. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Harvey if there was a possibility that staff could work with those companies who submitted low, but incomplete, bids, Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services, advised that a report is being prepared depicting the reasons why bids may not be accepted and an analysis of same.

Councillor Adams stated he would like to review the list when prepared.

9.4.10 Tender 97-205 - Beazley Field Upgrading & Athletic Track Resurfacing

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, and Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Sarto that Council award Tender No. 97-205, Beazley Field Upgrading & Athletic Track Resurfacing to Ocean Contractors Limited for the materials and services listed in the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$473,108.28 and a Total Project Cost of \$520,419 with funding authorized from Capital Account Numbers as noted in the Budget Implication Section of the staff report dated August 25, 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.4.11 Application by Petro Canada Limited to Amend Municipal Development Plan for Dartmouth

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillor Schofield and Deputy Mayor Greenough to authorize staff to proceed with the request by Petro Canada Limited to amend the Municipal Development Plan for Dartmouth, in accordance with the public participation program adopted on February 25, 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.4.12 Mill Cove Treatment Plant - Additional Funding

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Snow that Council increase the budget of the Mill Cove Treatment Plant Expansion project from \$20,000.00 to \$20,697,00. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

11. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS

11.1 Paving Proposal - Montague Estates

This matter was deferred to September 15, 1997.

11.2 Petitions

Councillor Mitchell submitted a Petition to the Clerk, from residents of the Goodwood area, requesting a reduction in the speed limit. The Councillor requested a copy be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

12. MOTIONS - None

13. ADDED ITEMS

13.1 Councillor Blumenthal - School Crossing Guards

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern in that although Council had awarded the School Crossing Guard tender to the lowest bidder, he suggested the bid may have been too low. Further concern was raised in that the guards are receiving minimum wage and must make their own arrangements for substitutes on those days they cannot work. The Councillor also stated he was under the impression there were ten positions yet to be filled, at this late date (school was to begin the next day).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Blumenthal as to the length of the contract with Eagle Security Limited, Mr. Mike Christie, Police Services, advised it was a one year contract, renewable for two additional years. Further, Mr. Christie advised there were three positions as yet unfilled.

Councillor Barnet also expressed concern with the unfilled positions at this late date and issued a challenge to Eagle Security Limited to fulfill their commitment to the municipality. The Councillor offered to assist the contractor with volunteers should any positions not be filled in his District.

Deputy Mayor Greenough assumed the Chair (8:05 p.m.).

Councillor Epstein supported Councillor Barnet's comments and suggested this service should not have been contracted out.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cooper on the locations that still require School Crossing Guards, Mr. Christie advised the three locations were Dartmouth, Tantallon and Sackville.

Councillor Mitchell offered to assist Eagle Security Limited with volunteers should additional personnel be required.

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, stated that Council/staff do not know at this point in time, that Eagle Security Limited will fail in their obligations to the municipality. Councillor Harvey agreed, noting that the contractor should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Deputy Mayor Greenough suggested a report be prepared for the next meeting of Council.

Councillor Harvey enquired if the guards would qualify for any benefits.

Mayor Fitzgerald assumed the Chair (8:30 p.m.).

Deputy Mayor Greenough stated the reason behind the high rate of pay for Cross Walk Guards in the former City of Dartmouth was that it was a result of a ruling by the Pay Equity Commission.

In response to the Deputy Mayor's enquiry as to whether a minimum wage was quoted, Mr. Christie noted that neither bid quoted a wage. The Deputy Mayor suggested this aspect be included in the staff report.

It was the general consensus of Council that a staff report be prepared for the September 15, 1997 Council Session.

13.2 Report from North West Community Council re Drainage - Rankin Drive, Lower Sackville

- A memorandum prepared for Councillor Mitchell, Acting Chairman, North West Community Council, on the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

The North West Community Council was recommending that the work required to be done for Rankin Drive be carried out through the 1997/98 Operating Budget by the reallocation of funds.

Councillor Barnet addressed Council noting this problem has been ongoing for approximately seventeen years and that it needs to be rectified. Further, the Councillor stated that within the recommendation, "Operating Budget" was a typographical error and that it should read "Capital Budget," further, that the reallocation of funds from the Beaver Bank Road, New Sidewalk (Sackville) project, could be utilized for this project.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Harvey that the work required to be done for Rankin Drive be carried out through the 1997/98 Capital Budget by the reallocation of funds from the Beaver Bank Road, New Sidewalk (Sackville) project - Tender 97-247. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.3 Councillor Schofield - Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission

Mayor Fitzgerald advised that Councillor Cunningham would be replacing Councillor Schofield on the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Snow that Councillor Cunningham replace Councillor Schofield on the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.4 Councillor Schofield - John Martin Junior High School Ballfield Lighting

Councillor Schofield advised there were problems with lighting of the John Martin Junior High School Ballfield and enquired if same could be addressed.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Mitchell to make arrangements to have the lighting problem of the John Martin Junior High Ballfield addressed as soon as possible. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.5 Councillor Kelly - Volunteer Fire Departments

Councillor Kelly requested a report as to why Volunteer Fire Departments had been advised to not hold a recruitment drive. The Councillor noted the numbers were down from 50 to 33.

13.6 Councillor Adams - Mainland South Municipal Planning Strategy

Councillor Adams requested a staff report on the above-noted for the next meeting of Council, September 15, 1997.

**13.7 Councillor Adams - Funding for Septic System - Harrietsfield
Recreation Centre**

Councillor Adams requested a staff report on the above-noted for the next meeting of Council, September 15, 1997.

14. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

14.1 Councillor Hendsbee

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular meeting of the Halifax Regional Council to be held on Monday, September 15, 1997, I intend to introduce a Motion:

WHEREAS the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Hon. Russell MacLellan, has commented that he would respect and accept the will of the people about the availability and access to Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs), and

WHEREAS, the Regional Municipality does not have regulatory authority of VLT availability on recognized First Nation Reservations; nor do we, the Regional Municipality, have any jurisdiction over the contractual arrangements between the Province of Nova Scotia and I.T.T. Sheraton and its Casino operations on the Halifax Waterfront;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Halifax Regional Municipality conduct a plebiscite to coincide with the upcoming 1997 School Board Elections that a vote will be taken that will give the electorate of our Regional Municipality the opportunity to decide whether or not VLTs should be permitted and made accessible outside the boundaries of any First Nation Reservation or the I.T.T. Sheraton Casino in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Cunningham to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK

