

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 4, 2001

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillors: Gary Hines
Keith Colwell (2:30)
Ron Cooper
Brian Warshick
Condo Sarto
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Diana Whalen
Linda Mosher (3:20)
Stephen Adams (3:15)
Brad Johns (2:45)
Robert Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Councillors: Steve Streach
Harry McInroy
Bruce Hetherington

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

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The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 3 & July 10, 2001**

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the minutes of July 3 and July 10, 2001 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Deputy Mayor Blumenthal requested item 10.3.2 - Air Canada Cancellation of Flight to Newark, New Jersey, be brought forward from the Regular Agenda, and discussed during the Airport Authority presentation.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY RE: ICELANDIC AIR**

- The Halifax International Airport Authority 2000 Annual Report was circulated to Council.

Mr. Bernie Miller, Chair, Board of Directors, addressed Council advising:

- In 1996 an Authority was created and, in February, 2000, the Authority took over responsibility for the airport.
- The By-Laws state that no elected officials, no government employee at any level, and no airline employees can serve on the Board. Also, no political appointments can be made.
- There will be no requirement for subsidy by the Municipality and they will be making a return back into the community.
- They were given a three year "rent holiday" which means they will not have to pay rent for three years, approximately \$4 million.
- They achieved a \$7 million in excess of revenue over expenses last year which was invested in the building.
- They processed 6% higher traffic for the first seven months this year than was processed in the same seven months last year.

Mr. Reg Milley, President & CAO, addressed Council advising:

- There are more people coming through the airport but less landings.
- The decision of Icelandic Air to discontinue service at the end of October was impacted by the high cost of fuel, the value of the Euro in relationship to their

- currency, the length of the flying route resulting in having to pay for lodging for crews staying over between flights and they did not hedge enough product.
- They have completed a strategic marketing plan which provides them with specific goals and strategies to operate competitively in the new global marketplace for airports.
 - They are working closely with new airlines to initiate service in Halifax as well as working with the existing airlines to try and maintain and retain as much service as they now have.
 - They are seeking US pre-clearance which will strengthen the Halifax Hub position in Atlantic Canada.
 - There is expected to be growth in air cargo.
 - They will be developing air access lots in the near future.
 - They have embarked on a \$100 million airport improvement program.
 - They will have a new twenty four hour food and beverage operation to match the twenty four hour airport operation.
 - They are building an observation deck.
 - The expansion will create an additional fifty to sixty jobs.
 - They have increased public parking by 400 spaces.

Deputy Mayor Blumenthal suggested Mayor Kelly send a letter to Air Canada asking why they are deleting the route to Newark, New Jersey.

In response to Mayor Kelly, Mr. Milley advised the departure tax, which is approximately \$8 million annually, can only be spent on Capital Projects. He advised these monies cannot be spent on anything that is not passenger related.

Following a question and answer session by Members of Council, Mayor Kelly thanked the Airport Authority for their presentation.

(Deputy Mayor Blumenthal took the chair)

4. APPLICATION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SHORT-CUTTING POLICY

- An Information Report, from Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, dated August 29, 2001, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Traffic and Transportation Services, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, outlined the four general approaches that can be taken to address the issue and their application to the Armview project.

The four approaches are:

- Adopt a philosophy that any driver is entitled to use any public street.
- Implement street closures and turning restrictions to eliminate all short-cutting traffic within a limited study area.
- Implement fully restrictive measures in an expanded study area.
- Implement impedance measures to reduce the desirability of short-cutting without strictly prohibiting it.

Councillor Uteck stated she is not in favour of short cutting, noting it is essential to find out what the problems are and why the cars are coming through one district.

In response to Councillor Walker, Mr. McCusker advised it is still the intention to apply the short cutting policy. All the options presented are measures that can be taken under the policy.

In response to Councillor Sloane, Mr. McCusker advised it is the intention of the policy that all issues with regards to manipulating traffic off certain streets in a neighbourhood would be addressed through the policy by way of a petition by that neighbourhood.

(Mayor Kelly resumed the chair)

Councillor Cooper suggested that the policy address all areas of the Municipality and not be designed to address individual situations.

Mr. McCusker advised the Policy would be coming forward to Regional Council shortly.

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. McCusker for his presentation.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Meade, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:55 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk