

# **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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## **HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES February 11, 2003**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Councillors: Gary Hines  
Keith Colwell (2:05 p.m.)  
Ron Cooper  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Jim Smith  
John Cunningham  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn Sloane (1:45 p.m.)  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen (2:25 p.m.)  
Linda Mosher (2:15 p.m.)  
Brad Johns  
Len Goucher  
Gary Meade

**ABSENT:**

Councillors: Deputy Mayor McInroy (Regrets)  
Stephen Streach (Regrets)  
Sue Uteck (Regrets)  
Stephen D. Adams (Regrets)  
Robert P. Harvey (Regrets)  
Reg Rankin

**STAFF MEMBERS:**

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - NOVEMBER 12 & 19, 2002**

**MOVED** by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the minutes of November 12 & 19, 2002 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 Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that the Order of Business be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **PRINCIPLES OF THE RESIDENTIAL ON-STREET PARKING POLICY**

C An Information Report prepared for Rick Paynter, Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, dated February 3, 2003, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its information.

Mr. Rick Paynter, Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, and Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Traffic Services, made a presentation to the Committee reviewing the proposed fee structure for the on-street parking policy.

Following is an outline of the presentation:

C Origin of Policy

- C continued requests from residents to remove all-day parking
- C developed policy to strike balance
- C presented Council with full spectrum of options

C Process

- C pilot study/public consultation
- C approval of policy
- C adoption of by-law P1000
- C amend Administrative Order 15

C Inequity between fees paid by residents and fees paid by non-local parkers

- C Alternative #1 - staff suggest moderate decreases and will return to Council with a revised Administrative Order
- C Alternative #2 - a reduction below market rate is contrary to approved policy. If directed to do so, staff will return with revised policy.

C Suggested rate revisions

<b><u>Zone</u></b>	<b><u>Previous</u></b>	<b><u>Revised</u></b>
A	\$100	\$65
B	\$ 75	\$65
C	\$ 55	\$45
D	\$ 40	\$35

C Suggested policy revision

- C approve policy, but without making available the option of parking by permit only
- C not recommended by staff, as remaining policy is likely to result in continued loss of all-day parking
- C limitations to non-resident parkers not uncommon in other areas

Councillor Sloane suggested that Zone A/B should be extended over to North Street to accommodate high residential areas that have limited or no parking.

Councillor Smith inquired what affect this policy would have on the 57 exemption permits in Dartmouth. The Councillor questioned the implementation of parking restrictions in areas where there is not a high demand for parking. In response, Mr. McCusker stated the intent of the policy is to control parking only on high demand streets. He noted he is aware of some streets in Dartmouth where parking controls are more intended for traffic flow and these will have to be re-examined. Mr. McCusker noted the issues being raised are outside of this policy and could be addressed with the Councillor directly.

Councillor Blumenthal stated he preferred the previous rates, noting the decreased rates will increase the number of vehicles coming to the downtown area. The Councillor also stated that he would like to see permit parking implemented in the area around Citadel Hill. Councillor Blumenthal also expressed concern regarding the effect discounted parking will have on the municipality's transportation policy.

(Councillor Colwell took his place at the meeting at 2:05 p.m.)

Councillor Hetherington stated he had no concerns with the fee structure, but suggested there should be a limit of two parking permits per household.

Councillor Walker stated the zone map needs to be redefined. He agreed with Councillor Sloane that Area A/B could be extended to North Street, but he questioned why mainland parking and Area D in Dartmouth would be designated. Councillor Walker stated only the problem areas should be addressed by the policy and not all of HRM.

(Councillor Mosher took her place at the meeting at 2:15 p.m.)

Councillor Fougere stated she had no problem with the new rates, and, in fact, had no objection to a slightly higher annual fee. The Councillor also agreed with the suggested extension of Zone A/B to Robie and North Streets. With respect to Citadel Hill, Councillor Fougere noted there is time limited parking there now.

In response to a question of Councillor Cunningham regarding parking meters, Mr. McCusker noted that parking meters could be removed from streets that contain houses at the invitation of the residents.

Councillor Mosher stated she was pleased that the rates have been decreased but stated she still could not support it as she still believed everyone should pay the same fee. The Councillor noted HRM owns the streets, not the residents.

(Councillor Whalen took her place at the meeting at 2:25 p.m.)

Councillor Sloane requested that Robie Street to North Street be encompassed into Zone A/B.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern with the various rates and requests for exemptions and stated the residents have to be prepared to pay for advantages. With respect to the potential removal of parking meters, the Councillor stated the loss of revenue from these meters has to be taken into consideration when making such decisions.

Councillor Smith requested clarification as to how the current 57 exemptions in Dartmouth would be affected by this policy. Mr. McCusker responded that exemptions, which are issued relative to high parking demand, will cost \$30 annually. He noted the issue of fees for parking exemptions will come back in the revisit of Administrative Order 15 and suggested staff could work with the Councillor regarding the exemptions in his area before the matter comes back to Council. Mr. McCusker clarified if the exemption has been granted due to parking demand, the fee of \$30 would be implemented. However, if the exemption was granted for traffic measures, exemptions would no longer be issued because of safety reasons.

With respect to parking meters, Councillor Cunningham noted there are some apartment buildings in Dartmouth that have no parking, other than meter parking, for several blocks

Based on the discussion, Councillor Fougere put forth the following motion:

**MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that it be recommended to Regional Council that the amended on-street parking rates come back as indicated in the staff report dated February 3, 2003 and that it reflect the amended boundaries as suggested by Councillor Sloane (extension of Area A/B to include Robie Street to North Street).**

Mr. McCusker advised the Committee that staff would examine the concerns expressed by members of Council and will comment on them in the staff report when the matter come back before Council.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

Based on the failure of the motion, Mr. Paynter suggested staff could come back with a follow up report and the rate structure initially presented.

Mr. George McLellan urged the Committee to provide some direction to staff in this matter as to how they should proceed. In response to a question posed by Mayor Kelly, eleven members indicated they would be in favour of higher rates for non-residential parking. Mr. Anstey noted staff recommended a fee of \$30, but some Councillors argued there should be no fee. He stated the issue would be are the majority of Councillors in favour of fee or no fee. Mr. Anstey noted it appeared that some members voted against the previous motion because they wanted no fee, while others wanted a higher parking permit fee. He suggested it might be easier to separate the two issues: a fee for a parking exemption, and a fee for a residential parking permit. Councillor Hetherington noted there are two parts to this as well: permits that are issued for parking control and those that are issued for other purposes. The Councillor suggested the matter be deferred for further review. Mr. Anstey noted the staff report only dealt with areas where parking was restricted due to volumes of parking in the area. He suggested the Committee make a decision on this matter and then deal with the others.

Mr. McCusker stated it is fairly clear that all parking exemptions are related to volume. He stated the policy will allow limited parking on some streets and the residents of those streets will be given preference. To receive such a permit, the resident will be required to pay \$30. Councillor Cunningham stated there should be some right for residents to park in front of their own homes without being charged

Councillor Mosher reiterated her position that since HRM owns the road, the rate should be same for everyone.

Mr. McLellan stated the intent today was to talk about fees, and if there is direction to be given to staff about a rate, the Committee should fully debate it first.

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that it be recommended to Regional Council that the parking exemption fee for residents who live on the street be set at \$30.00. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the fee for residential parking permits for residents who live on the street be set at \$30.00. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the fee for residential parking permits for residents who live on the street be set at \$35.00. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that it be recommended to Regional Council that the fee for residential parking permits for residents who live on the street be set at \$50.00.**

(Councillor Harvey took his place at the meeting at 3:10 p.m.)

Councillor Fougere urged the Committee to recognize the unique circumstance in the core area, noting people who live on residential streets in core area are willing to pay for the privilege of a parking spot on the street as there are no other opportunities for parking. The Councillor respectfully requested the Committee to support this as there is a dire need for the issue to be addressed in particular parts of the Municipality.

Mr. McCusker clarified the intent was to have only two fees: one for parking for residents from outside the area, and one for a parking exemption permit. He stated a new fee could be added to the policy to apply in areas where there is parking by permit only, however that is an option staff would hesitate to recommend.

As there was no provision in the By-Law for residential parking permits, the **motion on the floor was ruled out of order.**

It was agreed that staff would review the comments and concerns expressed by Councillors during the debate and come back to the Committee with a further report.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

As it was now 3:25 p.m, the following motion was put on the floor:

**MOVED** by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the following remaining agenda items be deferred to a future Committee of the Whole meeting:

- C** By-Law S-300 - Sidewalk Snow Clearing
- C** Emergency Medical Service in the Fire Service

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Deputy Municipal Clerk