



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
February 16, 2016**

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

REGRETS: Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Linda Mosher

STAFF: Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Karen Brown, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Ms. Cathy Collett, 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_2016-02-16-live.mp4.html

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Council are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/160216cow-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. and adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. 2016/17 BUDGET CONSULTATION PARKING LOT

The following was before the Council:

- A Staff Recommendation Report dated February 10, 2016

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT Halifax Regional Council defer any decision on the Parking Lot items to the 2016/17 business cycle for consideration of inclusion in the 2017/18 Budget.

Mayor Savage advised the Committee of the Whole that the requested report on volunteer honorariums was scheduled to come back to Council in June.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Halifax Regional Council remove the matter of volunteer honorariums from the deferral pending a staff report being brought to Council in June 2016 and with the understanding that should Council approve an increase to honorarium the funding will be found in the 2016/17.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hendsbee joined the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Councillors discussed inequities in green cart and recycling collection services throughout the Municipality.

In response to concern expressed by several Councillors that the Budget process does not allow for changes to be made along the way, Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Chief Financial Officer, explained that debate and conversation occurred during the review of each individual business unit budget and it is always the prerogative of Council to make changes to the Budget during the process.

Councillors discussed the possibility of extending the weekly green bin service to the end of September, this discussion included:

- Consideration of the cost of this service
- The possibility of locating the required funds in the existing budget
- The function of reserve accounts
- The implications the proposed service increase would have on the average tax bill
- The implications of raising taxes for this specific item.

The Committee of the Whole agreed to vote separately on the two remaining elements of the recommended motion.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, second by Deputy Mayor Whitman

- 1. That Halifax Regional Council defer the decision on the Green Cart extension to September Parking Lot item to the 2016/17 business cycle for consideration of inclusion in the 2017/18 Budget.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

2. That Halifax Regional Council defer the decision on the Blue Bag extension Parking Lot item to the 2016/17 business cycle for consideration of inclusion in the 2017/18 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Councillor Watts indicated that she would like a staff report regarding the process involved for adding items to the Budget.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk