

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES October 5, 2004

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor Steve Streach
Councillors: Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Brian Warshick
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Barry Allen, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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1. INVOCATION

Deputy Mayor Streach called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Mosher.

Moment of Silence

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of the late Mr. John Hibbs. Councillor Adams also requested that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter of condolences to his family.

Acknowledgements

Councillor Cunningham also noted the recent passing of a former deputy mayor and alderman of Dartmouth, Mr. Chester Sanford. On behalf of Council, Councillor Cunningham expressed sympathy to Mr. Sanford's family and friends.

Councillor Sloane acknowledged the inaugural walk of the North End Walkers and illustrated the walking trail map with the aid of a map. The Councillor congratulated those involved in this initiative, in particular, Jessie Hunter.

Councillor Smith noted the 5th Annual Candlelight March Against Violence will be held on Wednesday, October 13, in North Dartmouth and encouraged all interested to attend.

Councillor Warshick expressed congratulations to the Dartmouth Moosehead Dry in their 11th win of the Nova Scotia Senior Baseball Championships.

Councillor Sarto expressed congratulations to Eric Graves Jr. High School in their recent efforts in raising a significant amount of money for the Terry Fox Foundation. The Councillor requested that the Mayor send a letter to the school thanking them for their efforts.

Councillor Sloane acknowledged the kick-off held today for the Turkey Club, a fundraising event conducted by the Parker Street Furniture bank to assist feeding families in need at Christmastime.

Special Presentation - Communities in Bloom Award

Councillor Sloane presented Deputy Mayor Streach with a Five Bloom Award which HRM recently won in the Canadian Capitals Category of the Communities in Bloom Awards. Expressions of thanks were extended to staff and the volunteers involved in this initiative.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

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

The following items were added to the agenda:

11.1 Councillor Blumenthal - Public Service Alliance of Canada - End to Strike

(This item was subsequently deleted from the agenda at the request of the Councillor.)

11.2 Councillor Cooper
(i) Removal of School Bus Stops - Montague Road
(ii) Outdoor Facilities Study

11.3 Councillor Harvey - Request to add Information item # 4 "Traffic Safety Public Education Campaign to the Council agenda

11.4 Contractual Matter - RFP 96-184 - Compost Facilities Initial Renewal for 2004-2009

11.5 Councillor Cooper - October 12th In Camera Session

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE

6 MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

8.2 Petitions

8.2.1 Councillor Mosher - Floating Dock, Chocolate Lake

Councillor Mosher submitted a petition signed by 37 residents expressing concern regarding

the elimination of access to Chocolate Lake via Crescent St. and requesting the installation of a floating dock to improve the safety of swimming in the area and to allow skating in the winter. The residents also requested that the no parking signs remain in the area which will limit the swimmers to local residents who approach the lake on foot. The Councillor requested that the petition be forwarded to Mr. Charles Lloyd, Senior Environmental Engineer, as it is an environmental concern.

8.2.2 Councillor Rankin - Request for Bus Shelter and Crosswalk, Beechville Estates

Councillor Rankin submitted three pieces of correspondence from residents requesting consideration be given to installing a bus shelter and crosswalk for people crossing St. Margaret's Bay Road at the Irving Gas Station. The letter also expressed concern regarding the lack of sidewalks from Beechville Estates towards Bayers Lake Business Park and the Armdale Rotary. The Councillor requested that these letters be forwarded to staff for a report to Council.

8.2.3 Councillor Fougere - Request for Second Gymnasium and Auditorium for the New Community High School on the Peninsula

Councillor Fougere submitted a petition containing approximately 670 signatures of residents requesting HRM to financially support a second gymnasium and auditorium for the new community high school on the peninsula. The Councillor noted this petition is an addition to the one submitted last week and requested that it be forwarded to staff.

8.2.4 Deputy Mayor Streach - Request for Return of Lifeguard Service at Martinique Beach

Deputy Mayor Streach submitted correspondence from the Department of Natural Resources requesting that lifeguard service be reinstated at Martinique Beach. The Deputy Mayor requested that the correspondence be referred to staff for review and comment.

8.3 Presentation

8.3.1 Proposed Enhancements New Peninsula High School

- (i) James Mosher**
- (ii) Ashley Hannon**

A presentation was made by Ms. Ashley Hannon and Mr. James Mosher in support of proposed enhancements for the new peninsula high school. Copies of their presentation were circulated to members of Council.

9. REPORTS

9.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

9.1.1 Theodore Tugboat Fund

C A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, that Council approve a payment in the amount of \$1,589.60, representing the balance remaining in the "Save Theodore Tugboat" Fund, to the United Way for the use in programs for children. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.2 Development Grant Agreement - Halifax International Airport Authority

C A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that Halifax Regional Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the Development Grant Agreement between the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Halifax International Airport Authority as attached to the staff report dated September 24, 2004. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.3 HRM District Energy Project (staff presentation)

C A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Environmental Performance Manager, and Stephen King, Manager - Senior Advisor, Strategic & Sustainable Resource Management, presented the staff report to Council and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Uteck, that Council grant approval for HRM to submit the Expression of Interest jointly with the Provincial Department of Energy to the OE Secretariat, the evaluation committee that evaluates submissions to the NR Canada Opportunities Envelope. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.4 First Reading By-Law L-119, An Amendment to L-100 Respecting Local

Improvement Charges, Rockwood Hills Drive (Private Road) Bridge - Timberlea

- C A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that Regional Council give First Reading of By-Law L-119, An Amendment to L-100 Respecting Local Improvement Charges, Rockwood Hills Drive (Private Road) Bridge - Timberlea. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.2 AUDIT COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Audited Financial Statements - Miscellaneous Trust Funds - March 31, 2004

- C A report from the Audit Committee, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the audited financial statements of the Halifax Regional Municipality - Miscellaneous Trust Funds for the year ended March 31, 2004 be approved, and that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be authorized to sign the financial statements on behalf of Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE

9.3.1 HRM Community Grants Program 2004-2005: Deferred Recommendations and Appeals

- C A report from Grants Committee, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that Regional Council approve a total of six awards, as detailed in the Discussion Section of the Committee's report dated September 20, 2004, for a combined total of \$42,000.

On behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Councillor Cunningham expressed concern regarding the rejection of its grant application. The Councillor noted the group has made great progress with the clean up of Maynard's Lake and stated this project is worthy of Council's support.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Snow - Water Service Boundary, Fall River

"To request that the water service boundary area be extended to encompass the community of Fall River."

Councillor Snow put forth the following amended motion:

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that Council request a staff report on the extension of the water service boundary area to encompass the community of Fall River.

Councillor Snow clarified for the residents that this motion is separate from a motion of several years back to extend the water boundary area for Fall River Village and a portion of the end of the Fall River Road that adjoins Windsor Junction.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.1 Councillor Blumenthal - Public Service Alliance of Canada - End to Strike

During Approval of the Order of Business, this item was deleted from the agenda at the request of the Councillor.

11.2 Councillor Cooper

(i) Removal of School Bus Stop - Montague Road

Councillor Cooper expressed safety concerns regarding the lack of communication between Stock Transportation, the Halifax Regional School Board, HRM and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board during the recent removal of a school bus stop on Montague Road.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Sarto, that Council request a staff report outlining methods to improve communication between the School Board, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and HRM should similar situations arise in the future. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(ii) Outdoor Facilities Study

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that Council urge staff to give serious consideration to an outdoor facilities study, which would include all categories of outdoor facilities.

Councillor McInroy stated he could support the motion if staff could provide assurance that HRM will still have the ability to move forward with improving existing facilities at the same time.

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that an initiative of such magnitude as an outdoor facilities study would have to have the necessary funds appropriated and considered for the upcoming budget.

Councillor Hetherington noted there was a previous report completed approximately five or six years ago which evaluated and graded every field and playground in HRM and suggested this should be reassessed by staff as a starting point for this initiative. Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Real Property and Asset Management, stated staff will endeavor to manage an outdoor facilities study through the business cycle next year. All previous studies will be taken into consideration through internal document research. Mr. Labrecque also advised Council that staff will be meeting with various soccer communities this year with a view to review how things went this past summer.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Snow noted there are some Districts in HRM including District 2, that are undernourished in the area of outdoor facilities

Councillor Hendsbee suggested HRM needs to look at opportunities for land banking to plan for future needs and demands and funds need to be allocated in future budgets for land acquisitions. The Councillor suggested this aspect should be included in the study.

Councillor Cooper clarified the intent of his motion is to just initiate the process of conducting the study which may take a couple of years.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.3 Councillor Harvey - Request to add information item # 4 "Traffic Safety Public Education Campaign to the Council agenda

C An Information Report prepared for Ken Reashor, Traffic Authority, regarding the above, was before Council for its information.

Mr. Ken Reashor, Traffic Authority, presented the information report to Council.

Councillor Sloane stated public service announcements should be used more frequently and suggested they could be aired on Eastlink Cable prior to the weekly Council meeting.

Councillor McInroy stated he did not think it was practical to expect drivers to anticipate that every intersection is a crosswalk. In addition to education, the Councillor suggested some practical changes, such as three and four way stops, for traffic control and pedestrian safety need to be pursued.

Councillor Smith expressed some reservations with respect to how much education will help some motorists with their habits. The Councillor suggested regulatory and enforcement measures are needed as well, particularly with respect to speeding and truck routes.

Councillor Cooper suggested commitment is needed from the residents to protect their own communities. Councillor Uteck agreed noting that the biggest offenders are the people who live on the streets.

Councillor Hetherington stated this initiative is a good start but the best education is enforcement. The Councillor suggested the Board of Police Commissioners should take into consideration the reinstatement of a traffic division. Councillor Warshick also spoke in support of a traffic division.

Mr. McLellan stated he would pass Council's comments regarding a traffic division on to the Police Chief for consideration at the Board of Police Commissioners. Councillor Smith noted the Board of Police Commissioners met this week and this issue was discussed. At that meeting, Chief Beazley advised that he is aware of the concerns and is in the process of gathering information to put together a recommendation on the best way to police the region.

11.4 Contractual Matter - RFP 96-184 - Compost Facilities Initial Renewal for 2004 - 2009

C This matter was discussed during an In Camera Session held prior to the Regular Session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Smith, that:

- 1. Halifax Regional Municipality proceed with the drafting and signing of supplementary agreements with Miller Composting and with New Era Technologies Ltd. , containing the terms and conditions as outlined in the September 28, 2004 Private and Confidential Supplementary Report (to be appended to the main Source Separated Compost Facility Agreement(s).**

2. Expenditures resulting from operating costs exceeding the funding allocations in the 04-05 approved operating budget, be recovered as detailed in the Budget Implications section of the September 28, 2004 report.
3. The September 28, 2004 Private and Confidential supplementary report not be released to the public until after the signing of both supplementary agreements. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11.5 Councillor Cooper - October 12th In Camera Session

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that no In Camera session be held on October 12th except for any emergency items that fall under the categories for in camera meeting that may arise between now and then.

Following a brief discussion, the vote was taken.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk