

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
April 18, 2006

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Russell Walker  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen Adams  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Len Goucher  
Reg Rankin  
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillors: David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Debbie Hum

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. INVOCATION**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Smith.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 28, April 4 & 11, 2006**

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Goucher that the minutes of March 28, April 4 & 11, 2006 be approved.**

Councillor Harvey referenced page 8 of the April 11<sup>th</sup> minutes and noted that the second last reference under item 9.1.6 was not meant to be exclusive but was subject to available resources.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walker, that Council grant Councillor Hum leave for three consecutive meetings. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Deletions

- 9.1.1 Capital Budget Increase - Cost Sharing Belchers March Park Interpretive Signage
- 9.2.1 Councillor McInroy - 2006 Crosswalk Education and Public Awareness Program (Deferred to April 25<sup>th</sup>)

Additions

- 11.1 Council Focus Area: Infrastructure - Stormwater and Wastewater
- 11.2 Wrights Cove Land Use & Transportation Plan

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

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence - None**

**8.2 Petitions - None**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**9.1.1 Capital Budget Increase - Cost Sharing Belchers Marsh Park Interpretive Signage**

Deleted under the approval of the Order of Business.

**9.1.2 Capital Budget Increase - Cost Sharing Richmond Family Court**

- A report dated March 31, 2006, on the above noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Council approve an increase in the Gross Capital Budget to Capital Account No. CB200240 - Management Agreement Community Centres - Upgrades, by \$20,000 with no change to the Net Budget, to reflect the cost sharing from the Province of Nova Scotia, as per the Background/Discussion section of the March 31, 2006 report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9.1.3 Capital Budget Increase - Cost Sharing Westmount School Inclusive Playground - Mobility Challenge Course**

- A report dated April 3, 2006, on the above noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Smith, that Council approve an increase in the Gross Capital Budget to Capital Account No. CPC00677 New Playground Development by \$70,000 with no change to the Net Budget, to reflect the cost sharing from Ronald McDonald House Charities, as per the Background section of the April 3, 2006 report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9.1.4 Increase to User Fees on Sports Fields**

- A report dated January 18, 2006, on the above noted, was before Council.

Councillor Younger advised teams are having difficulty paying for and having access to fields.

**MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Snow, that Council endorse the status quo regarding access fees to HRM soccer fields.**

During discussion on the matter, the following issues and concerns were identified by members of Council:

- There are many children who can't afford to pay the current fees; therefore the fee structure should be left as is,
- Healthy living is encouraged and enabling the use of the fields supports this,
- The fee structure was initiated by the users themselves,
- The Athletic Advisory Committee sees advantages in increasing the quality of the fields,
- There is a need to increase the fees in order to offer a better service level,
- If the fees are not increased the effect would be minimal,
- A class "D" field is a field on which the grass is cut on a weekly basis and HRM does not line those fields.

Deputy Mayor Walker took the chair at this time.

- There is a need for an increase but it was suggested there be no increase in fees for use of "D" class fields,
- Concern was expressed as there is additional maintenance needed because of use.,
- The users of the fields receive the benefit and HRM has to ensure that a good level of service at a reasonable price is provided,
- The community has to play an active part and if HRM does not continue to improve the condition of the fields they will be closed for part of the season,
- It was suggested the costing be staggered and perhaps look at a reduced fee for certain days of the week so that HRM would not have to groom as many fields.

Mayor Kelly resumed the chair.

- It was noted recreation is an HRM mandate and therefore the municipality has to ensure things are affordable and accessible,
- It was suggested HRM continue with the current fee structure and perhaps re-examine the whole field strategy,
- The fields are not in good enough condition to warrant a change,
- The increase would only provide minimal recovery,
- It was suggested perhaps the General Tax Rate should cover access to the fields,
- This is an additional tax,

- These fields are used for rugby, soccer and football and does not include baseball,
- Fees should not be charged for the use of "D" fields.

Council agreed to hear the Chair of the Sports Advisory Committee at this time.

Mr. Mike Spencer addressed Council advising the committee had agreed that the fee increase is doable and would be used to increase the quality of all fields within HRM so they can withstand a higher level of play and additional usage.

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Adams, that Council defer this item for two weeks in order for staff to provide additional information on**

- **the costs of contracting out as compared to HRM doing the maintenance on the fields,**
- **what do some of the other jurisdictions with superior fields receive as fees and are the fees part of their general rate,**
- **what is the New Minas model and what maintenance do they carry out and how do they collect their fees.**

**MOTION DEFEATED.**

#### **MAIN MOTION**

**MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Snow, that Council endorse the status quo regarding access fees to HRM soccer fields.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 8 against)**

Those voting **in favour** were: Mayor Kelly, Deputy Mayor Walker and Councillors Streach, Snow, McCluskey, Younger, Kent, Smith, Murphy, Sloane, Mosher, Adams, and Johns.

Those voting **against** were Councillors Karsten, Wile, Uteck, Fougere, Harvey, Goucher, Rankin and Meade.

Councillors Hendsbee, McInroy and Hum were absent from Council.

Councillor Kent left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

#### **9.1.5 Twining - Norfolk, Virginia and Halifax Regional Municipality**

- A report dated April 10, 2006, on the above noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the Halifax Regional Municipality form a sister city-twinning relationship with Norfolk, Virginia,**

**to create a greater mutual understanding between the citizens of our two communities through educational, cultural, economic and professional exchange.**

In response to Councillor McCluskey, Council was advised the budget for this proposal is included in the Special Events Reserve and the up front costs would be travel and air fare, noting the sister city is responsible for accommodations the visiting delegation.

Councillor Murphy stated he viewed this as an economic opportunity and suggested HRM examine cost sharing opportunities with the Chamber of Commerce for hosting opportunities.

In response to Councillor Streach, Council was advised the budget is \$10,000 and monies could include promotion, research as well as promoting and strengthening partnerships with ongoing twinning relationships.

Ms. Macomber, Acting Director, Tourism, Culture and Heritage, advised the benefits to a twinning policy are economic, educational, social and tourism benefits.

In response to Councillor Younger, Council was advised twinning is one of the benefits and uses that are used in the Business Case for the Special Events Reserve. She noted there are a number of projects currently committed from the Reserve.

Councillor Goucher expressed concern with the twinning policies and the commitment to the current twinning initiatives. He noted that over the last six years delegations have come to Halifax from the twinned cities but HRM has not recently visited those cities.

#### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

##### **9.1.6 Case 00891 - Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) Amendment for the South-East Corner of Creighton & Gerrish Streets**

- A report dated April 5, 2006, on the above noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Authorize staff to initiate a process to consider amending the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy and Peninsula Land Use By-Law to allow for the replacement of a 12 dwelling unit apartment building at the South-East corner of Creighton and Gerrish Streets (PID40877292) and,**
- 2. Instruct the Municipal Planning Strategy amendment process include a public participation program in accordance with the Public Participation Resolution**

adopted by Halifax Regional Council on February 25, 1997.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9.2 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**9.2.1 Councillor McInroy - 2006 Crosswalk Education and Public Awareness Program**

Deferred to April 25, 2006 under the approval of the Order of Business.

**10. MOTIONS**

**10.1 Councillor Younger - Amendment to Administrative Order 19 Respecting the Corporate Coat of Arms, Logo and Flag**

Councillor Younger noted there have been a number of events where the flag has been requested and according to Administrative Order 19 the flag can only be flown on municipal buildings. He noted the former City of Dartmouth had held a flag contest which resulted in a public flag.

**MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that staff provide a report on either amending Administrative Order 19 or the possibility of a flag contest to design a public flag.**

Councillor Streach stated he would not want HRM to yield to public pressure to turn over the coat of arms whenever requested.

Councillor Harvey noted the flag is the centrepiece of the coat of arms. He stated it was intentional that it be restricted in its use and that it would only fly over certain municipal buildings.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. ADDED ITEMS**

**11.1 Council Focus Area: Infrastructure - Stormwater and Wastewater**

- This item was addressed at a Committee of the Whole session held earlier and was now before Council for ratification.

**MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Fougere, that Regional Council endorse the following directions:**

1. Continue to adopt 'utility-like' practices, research merger with HRWC, and pursue alternative (to Council) rate setting strategies.
2. Pursue review of alternative stormwater revenue methods but maintain current water rate approach in the interim.
3. Investigate Impacts of a fully burdened Wastewater Rate (Water Bill) to support full cost recovery and a true User Pay system.
4. Commence negotiation with HIAA to raise rates and raise Aerotech and Area wastewater rates in the interim.
5. Help offset current capital funding pressure by exploring the following options:
  1. Recommending increase to interim wastewater rate/sewer redevelopment/trunk sewer charges.
  2. Closing out old projects and directly reinvesting in new projects (bypass CRESPOOL)
  3. Phase in HRWC dividend over 3 years to directly invest in wastewater/stormwater projects.
6. Investigate a rate escalation policy.
7. Simplify and improve financial accountability & expenditure flexibility by collapsing current reserve structures (and associated bylaws) to maximum extent possible and setting up one or two reserves.
8. Simplify the water bill to show two charges; one for the water charge and the other for wastewater charges.
9. Each of these items for direction, to come back to Council as it relates to any change in current policies.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.2 Wrights Cove Land Use & Transportation Plan**

- This item was addressed at a Committee of the Whole session held earlier and was now before Council for ratification.

**MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Wile, that Regional Council:**

1. **Approve-in-principle the findings and recommendations of the “Wrights Cove Land Use and Transportation Plan” dated January 2006, and request staff to commence the process to incorporate the land use provisions of the report recommendations into the draft Halifax Harbour Plan, MPS Policy and Land Use By-Law regulations: and**
2. **Staff consider providing residential zoning to existing homes on Cove Lane, Greenbank Crescent and Basinview Drive.**
3. **Regional Council request HRM Transportation and Public Works staff to conduct further analysis and property owner consultation regarding recommended traffic improvement measures along the Windmill Road Corridor.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. **NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk

**The following information items were circulated to Council.**

1. Proclamation - Administrative Professionals Week, April 23 - 26, 2006
2. Memorandum from Acting Director, Finance and Acting Manager, Strategic Capital Projects dated April 6, 2006 re: Investment Activities - Quarter Ending December 31, 2005
3. Memorandum from Co-Chairs, Investment Policy Advisory Committee dated April 6, 2006 re: Quarter Ending December 31, 2005
4. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk, dated April 13, 2006 re: Requests for Presentation to Council

<b>Date of Request(s)</b>	<b>Name of Delegation(s)</b>	<b>Disposition of Request(s)</b>
April 10 - 14, 2006	Halifax International Airport Authority - Presentation of Annual Report - Eleanor Humphries, President & CEO and Frank Matheson, Chair, Board of Directors	This presentation has been scheduled for April 25, 2006.