

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 5, 2006

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck
Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Gary Martin
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

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 5:15 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Walker.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 21, 2006

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that the minutes of November 21, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Additions

- 11.1 Proclamation - Civic Remembrance - December 6, 2006
- 11.2 Councillor Smith - Request for report re: Area-rated Sidewalks
- 11.3 Legal Matter - Settlement of Claim
- 11.4 Council Focus Areas - Community Development
- 11.5 Council Focus Areas - Infrastructure

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Kent, 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

Councillor Snow served a petition in support of new sidewalk construction on Beaver Bank Road to extend the sidewalk up Beaver Bank Road to Kinsac.

Councillor Harvey served a petition on behalf of residents requesting the playground at Nordic Crescent be closed.

Councillor Harvey served a petition on behalf of residents requesting the walkway from Metropolitan Field to Gertrude Parker School be closed.

Councillor Sloane submitted a letter from a constituent requesting HRM improve the standard of pedestrian safety.

9. REPORTS

9.1 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

9.1.1 Councillor Walker - Request to add November 14, 2006 Information Item #4 to the Agenda - 2006 Crosswalk Education and Public Awareness Program

- A copy of the November 14, 2006 Information report was before Council.

Councillor Walker noted the number of accidents in the area of the RA-5 lighted crosswalks and suggested that if the lights had been further down on the pole they would be more visible to traffic. He requested the matter of RA-5 lights be sent back to staff to reevaluate to see what the costs would be to put them in.

The Councillor referenced the ladder type cross hatch lines and requested staff come back with a report on HRM painting crosswalks with lines to make them stand out.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that staff provide a report on the re-evaluation and costs of the RA-5 lights on posts being lowered, painting of zebra lines on crosswalks, installation of fluorescent crosswalk signs, and placement of posts with crosswalk signs in medians in locations such as Dunbrack Street.

Deputy Mayor Uteck assumed the Chair.

Councillor Martin stated HRM needs to create a public service announcement to correspond with these initiatives. The mover and seconder agreed that this be added to the motion.

The motion now reads.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that staff provide a report on the re-evaluation and costs of the RA-5 lights being lowered, painting of

zebra lines on crosswalks, installation of fluorescent crosswalk signs, and placement of posts with crosswalk signs in medians in locations such as Dunbrack Street. Further, HRM create a public service announcement to correspond with these initiatives.

Mayor Kelly resumed the Chair.

Councillor Younger noted Maine uses a thickened paint such that the surface of the crosswalks are raised. He suggested staff look outside Canada to see what other options there may be.

Councillor Adams questioned whether it would be possible to put a black background on the flashing overhead lights to allow for better visibility.

Councillor Johns asked if it would possible to start remarking some of the crosswalks and whether there was a way to speed up the crosswalk light when pushed by a pedestrian.

Councillor Harvey requested the report include budget implications.

Councillor McCluskey requested a copy of the information on flashing red beacons be forwarded to Council. She further noted other cities have a clock showing the time remaining which would be helpful.

Councillor Walker stated he was requesting a report to Council not an information report. He stated he would like alternatives on how HRM can request the Province to allow signs if they are currently not allowed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Murphy noted the most RA-5 signs are flashing amber lights on multi lane roadways and are not on two lane crosswalk locations. He stated that on busy smaller traffic roadways throughout the Peninsula, such as North Street there is a need for flashing lights as there is a high volume of traffic coming off the bridge.

MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Smith, that staff provide a report on the installation of flashing amber RA-5 lights on smaller busier roadways throughout the Peninsula. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Hum - Recognition

At this time Councillor Hum recognized Ms. Samantha Neilson, who initiated contact with and sponsorship of a family for Christmas, noting Ms. Neilson raised \$250.00 towards this

initiative. The Councillor noted Ms. Neilson was the Nova Scotia winner of Rogers Win Your Dream contest and had been officially recognized at a ceremony in Ottawa as well as being a part of the Rogers Canada Campaign.

9.1.2 Councillor Mosher - Request to add November 14, 2006 Information Item #3 to the Agenda - Pedestrian Signal Indicators

- A copy of the November 14, 2006 Information report was before Council.

Councillor Mosher stated the staff report indicates there is not enough data and staff was not recommending proceeding due to the costs. She stated these timed indicators enhance safety and noted a number of cities which use these timed signal indicators. The Councillor indicated that she would make her research available to staff for reference.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that

- 1. pedestrian countdown signals be install at locations frequented by a high percentage of seniors, children and other mobility challenged pedestrians, at locations with a history of pedestrian/vehicle conflicts and those that generate high pedestrian or vehicle traffic levels as per the Transportation Association of Canada recommendations.**
- 2. pedestrian countdown signals be a standard component of all LED traffic control signal installations and LED replacements programs.**
- 3. a pilot project be instituted for existing LED conversions pending success of a pilot project and approval of budgetary measures.**

Mr. English, CAO, suggested proceeding with the pilot project but defer parts 1 and 2 until budget debate.

Councillor Mosher stated she was requesting Council proceed as per her motion suggesting Joseph Howe Drive at Springvale Elementary School as the location for the pilot project.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.1.3 Councillor Smith - Request for report re: Heritage Gas: Impact of Installation of Gas Lines on Streets and Roads

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Kent that a staff report be provided on the following;

- **The paving standards that are in place for cuts being put in streets;**
- **What standard is HRM requiring Heritage Gas to use and the cost for using HRM streets;**
- **Is HRM using partnership opportunities;**
- **Is HRM paying 100% for curb or is natural gas paying;**
- **What is the effect on construction SDI rating and priorities and how is that going to affect streets on the priority list;**
- **What is the effect on HRM costs;**
- **Whether the funds are returned to the District involved when Heritage Gas provides money for street repairs.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Harvey - Capital Debts - Regional Recreational Facilities

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Snow, that staff provide a report on the Halifax Regional Municipality absorbing the capital debts of its regional recreational facilities which primarily provide active recreational opportunities namely the Dartmouth Sportsplex, Sackville Sportsplex and Cole Harbour Place.

Councillor Harvey clarified these are HRM owned facilities and the motion refers to absorbing the capital debt payments. He noted the facilities provide activities that promote well communities and healthy lifestyles yet they carry the capital debt along with their operating since they are regional facilities the capital should be carried by the entire municipality.

Without a vote being taken on the motion on the floor, the following motion was placed.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Streach that the Metro Centre, Halifax Forum, Eastern Shore Community Centre and the St. Margarets Arena be included as part of the staff report.

Councillor Meade requested information on whether any of these complex's are currently funded through an area rate.

Councillor Harvey stated his motion is in reference to category one facilities as per page 2 of the July 4th, 2006 entitled "Financial Performance HRM Major Facilities".

Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Acting Director, Finance, clarified that St. Margaret's Bay Arena is

different from the others on the list being referred to in the July 4th report as it is area rated.

Councillor Streach noted this was only a request for a staff report stating he was in favour of the amendment and the inclusion of the Eastern Shore Community Centre.

Councillor Fougere requested the report show the difference between the ways facilities are funded.

Councillor Walker requested the report include alternatives.

AMENDMENT PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Rankin stated the report has to be fair as there may be implications on a go forward basis.

Councillor Johns requested the report include what the implications of looking at an area rate to offset deficits including information on who would be area rated and what services would be area rated.

Councillor Snow requested the report provide a clear definition of a regional facility as well as what portion of operational expenses do regional facilities or recreational facilities within the urban core pay.

Motion as amended.

**MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Snow, that staff provide a report on the Halifax Regional Municipality absorbing the capital debts of its regional recreational facilities which primarily provide active recreational opportunities namely the Dartmouth Sportsplex, Sackville Sportsplex, Cole Harbour Place, Metro Centre, Halifax Forum, Eastern Shore Community Centre and the St. Margarets Arena
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Harvey, that HRM not sign any contracts that changes the situation at the Sackville Sportsplex until after the requested report comes back to Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council recessed at 7:10 p.m.
Council reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

11. MOTIONS

11.1 Proclamation - Civic Remembrance - December 6, 2006

The proclamation was circulated for the information of Council.

11.2 Councillor Smith - Request for a Report re: Area Rated Sidewalks

Councillor Smith stated that it has been indicated to him that this cannot be done at the present time but is permitted under the MGA and requested a staff report on the possibilities and implications for having the community paying 100% for sidewalks under an area rate.

Mr. Dan English, CAO, advised it is up to the Councillor whether or not there is a Local Improvement Charge or area rate charged.

Councillor Hendsbee noted that if additional sidewalks are built then there will be additional maintenance costs on the operational budget and any area rated sidewalks should also include the maintenance.

Councillor Snow requested the report indicate that if you are within the urban core does HRM, out of the general tax rate, pay 50% with the other 50% being paid through an LIC or area rate.

Councillor Johns asked that the report indicate what is defined as an area rate and what is an LIC and what they can be used for.

Councillor Streach stated staff has to be prepared to look at alternatives that would work in different communities at different times requesting Musquodoboit Harbour and Sheet Harbour be addressed in this report as well. He stated this matter has to be addressed in an equitable fashion.

11.3 Legal Matter - Settlement of Claim

- The following item was addressed at an earlier In Camera session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Settle this claim brought by the Plaintiff in the amount of \$28,000.00 to achieve a full and final settlement of the Plaintiff's action, upon obtaining a full release from the Plaintiff from any further claims arising out of the accident on December 19, 2001;**

2. The November 23, 2006 report remain private and confidential.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4 Council Focus Areas - Community Development

- The following item was addressed at an earlier Committee of the Whole session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Wile, that Regional Council approve the following:

- **Regional Plan: Continue Implementation**
- **Youth: Partnership esp. re: Disengaged Youth**
- **Community Building: Partnerships, Review of HRM's Community Engagement practices**
- **Community Space & Facilities: Recapitalisation, Facility Condition Survey, Strategic Priorities, Capital District Project Delivery, Service Exchange/Joint use Agreements**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.5 Council Focus Areas - Infrastructure

- The following item was addressed at an earlier Committee of the Whole session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Fougere, that Regional Council:

- **Approve 5 year approach for Infrastructure Recapitalization Planning and Capability Planning**
- **Endorse Asset management as an approach for better capital planning**
- **Recognize that staffing capacity and alignment will be key to effectively deliver the five year plan.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Snow

Take Notice that at the next regular meeting of the Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, the 12th day of December 2006, I intend to introduce a motion to rescind a portion of the In Camera recommendation passed by Regional Council on November 21, 2006 regarding the Sackville Sports Stadium and the conversion of the curling rink space at the stadium to an indoor soccer facility and field house after the 06/07 season.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk

The following information items were circulated to Council.

1. Memorandum from Director, Transportation and Public Works dated November 24, 2006 re: Petition for New Sidewalk, Hallmark Avenue - Central Region
2. Memorandum from Director, Community Development dated November 28, 2006 re: Polling District Review Process
3. Memorandum from Director, Community Development dated November 17, 2006 re: Community Art Pilot Project
4. Memorandum from Chief Administrative Officer dated November 29, 2006 re: First Year Activities - "Strategies for Success"
5. Memorandum from Acting Director, Finance dated November 16, 2006 re: Procurement Policy - Committees of Council and Community Committees
6. Memorandum from Director, Environmental Management Services dated November 29, 2006 re: Rolling Stones Summary Report
7. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk dated December 1, 2006 re: Requests for Presentation to Council - None