

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
January 27, 2009

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Barry Dalrymple  
Gloria McCluskey  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Mary Wile  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Jennifer Watts  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Tim Outhit  
Reg Rankin  
Peter Lund

REGRETS:

Councillor Jim Smith  
Stephen Adams

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. INVOCATION**

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Karsten.

**2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Councillor Blumenthal noted that over 2000 persons have utilized the skating rinks in the north end over the last two weeks. He reminded residents of an upcoming public information meeting to be held at the Saint Andrew's Centre in regard to the Bayers Road apartment development.

Councillor Wile encouraged residents to attend an open house at the Halifax West High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. concerning the functional plan for Ragged and Bayers Lake.

Councillor McCluskey congratulated Mr. Wayne MacDonald, Chairman of the SEDMA Honda International Minor Hockey Tournament for a successful event held in 2008 with a provincial revenue reaching \$15,579,996.00; of which \$9,733,887 was in the Halifax Regional Municipality with \$1,344,571 spent on accommodations/food services. In the past, the event has included seven provinces, one territory, US states and four European countries. All nineteen (19) ice surfaces were utilized. The tournament financed and constructed two dressing rooms and meeting rooms at the Bowles arena and contributed \$25,000 in monies to assist in the construction of dressing rooms at the Gray Arena.

Councillor Sloane noted that the Tai Chi Society on North Park Street hosted a nine course Chinese New Year banquet last weekend. She invited everyone to come out and support three Councillors who will be participating in the upcoming "Battle of the Wits" at St. Agnes Church Hall; the proceeds will go to Crime Stoppers. She also noted the opening of Black Cultural / History month at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the George Dixon Centre.

Councillor Watts thanked all participants who took part in the Quinpool Road Streetscaping Consultation held last week. She noted that a number of great ideas were generated.

Mayor Kelly entered the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Councillor Streach noted the following upcoming public meetings: on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Visioning Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Eastern Shore District High School. On Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, a meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Meaghers Grant Community Hall in regard to the future of the facility and the forming of the new Board of Directors.

Councillor Outhit noted two events taking place on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in Bedford; the Lions Club sponsored *Speak Out* competition and the Rocky Lake Development Association's inflation of the dome over the temporary rink.

Councillor Mosher advised that Fusion Halifax would be hosting a "*Future of Halifax: Will You Be Part of This?*" program on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Results of an employment survey will be released at the event.

Councillor Younger, on behalf of Councillor Smith, provided a reminder that the re-scheduled public information meeting, in regard to the rezoning of land in Dartmouth Crossing, would be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> at Farrell Hall.

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee encouraged the public to view the events calendar on the African Nova Scotia website in regard to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Black History month being celebrated during the month of February. He noted that a Youth Strategy Open House would be held on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Echo Community Centre from 7-9:00 p.m.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 13, 2009**

**MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the minutes of January 13, 2009, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

- Additions:**
- 12.1 Councillor Blumenthal - Overnight Parking in HRM Owned Parking Lots
  - 12.2 Information Item - Memorandum from Director, Transportation and Public Works, dated January 26, 2009, Possible Overnight Parking in HRM Owned Parking Lots
  - 12.3 Personnel Matter - Citizen Appointments to Boards, Committees and Commissions
  - 12.4 Councillor Younger - Regulation and Use of Halifax Hall
  - 12.5 Property Matter - Multi-Pad Arena Project - RFP Results

**MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

6. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE**

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

15. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

10. REPORTS

10.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.1.1 Millbrook Band Council - Proposed Land Addition to Sheet Harbour Indian Reserve #36

- A report dated January 14, 2009 was before Council.

**MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Halifax Regional Council provide a letter of support to Chief Paul for submission with their Application for reserve status. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

10.2 ENERGY & UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10.2.1 Utilities Common Trench - Governance and Financing Models Study

- A report dated January 16, 2009 was before Council.

Councillor Uteck entered the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

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

1. **Approve the issuance of a Common Trench Study that will focus on governance and financing models which are based on municipal best practice.**
2. **Approve an increase in the operating budget by \$13,000.00 with funding from A131 Energy and Underground Service Reserve, and cost sharing from Nova Scotia Power.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

10.3 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.3.1 Public Consultation - Bayers Road / Highway 102 Corridor Study

- An Information Report dated December 31, 2008 was before Council.

**MOVED BY Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that Halifax Regional Council request that the format of the upcoming public consultation meetings, in regard to the Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor Study, be that of a presentation to the public followed by a question and answer session and that all available information be accessible to Council and the public prior to the consultation meetings.**

Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Regional Transportation Planning, and Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management, responded to questions of clarification as follows:

- Council's approval of the awarding of the study was requested approximately one year ago.
- A Public Affairs Coordinator, Ms. Deanna Wilmshurst, has been hired.
- Information on planned road widening and the transportation section of the Regional Plan has been provided to, and meetings held with, the Chebucto Residents Association and the Ecology Action Centre.
- No report exists at this time, however; a set of drawings are ready for viewing at the public information meetings. HRM requested the ability to distribute copies of the material in advance, however; the province denied that request. The area Councillors were invited to a meeting with staff and were shown the information.

Mr. McCusker agreed to approach the province again in regard to distribution of the material prior to the public meeting.

Councillor Blumenthal noted that a motion had been passed in 1995 at a meeting held at Westmount School, attended by himself, former Mayor Walter Fitzgerald and former Councillor Howard Epstein, that assured residents the area between Connaught Avenue, Chebucto Road and Oxford Street would not be touched in regard to road widening.

Councillor Sloane suggested that the public meetings be postponed until the information was ready for public circulation.

Mr. McCusker explained that the purpose of the information meetings was to enable the Consultant to collect comments from the public in order to complete the study as modifications would be made to the plan based on the public input. He added that there has been no approval for any work on Bayers Road as the project was solely at the consultation level at this time.

Councillor Uteck noted that HRM was a participating partner with the province in regard to the study and if Council requested a copy of the report prior to the meeting, the information should be made available.

In response to Councillors Wile and Walker, Mr. McCusker advised that the consultation would be led by the Project Consultant with HRM and provincial staff in attendance. HRM, as a funding partner for the study, could request that the Consultants change their presentation/meeting format so that a presentation would be held first with questions following.

Councillors Harvey and Mosher suggested a combined open house/presentation format be utilized for the meetings in order to provide the information required for members of the public to formulate their questions.

Councillor Mosher suggested that information be provided in time for Councillors to include it in their newsletters/community mailouts or as an online survey and that local newspapers be provided time to report on the issue.

Councillors Rankin and Lund noted that stakeholder consultation should include outlying areas such as Districts 22 and 23 as those residents also travel Highway 102 to Bayers Road and had expressed concern in regard to the Chebucto Road widening project.

Councillor Watts advised that the dates of the two upcoming public meetings would be Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Saint Andrew's Centre, Bayers Road from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at the LeBrun Centre in Bedford from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. She commented that the province was a partner with HRM in regard to the project and should provide the information required. She encouraged staff to formulate and put forward a communication strategy for the project.

Mr. McCusker clarified that the meeting at the LeBrun Centre would be focussed on the Highway 107 corridor while the Bayers Road meeting would focus on the Highway 102 corridor.

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

#### **11. MOTIONS**

#### **12. ADDED ITEMS**

#### **12.1 Overnight Parking in HRM**

- An Information Report dated January 26, 2009 was before Council.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works, advised that staff had considered options for off-street parking and will commence a pilot project at the Bloomfield Centre next week. The Bloomfield site was chosen as permit parking was currently offered at this location. An evaluation of the project would be done at the end of the season to determine if the option would be offered next season. The rate for parking during the pilot project would be approximately half the current rate.

Councillor Blumenthal thanked staff for their efforts and noted that anyone interested in obtaining off street parking at this location should contact Ms. Claudette Levy at 490-4629.

**MOVED BY Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Uteck that Halifax Regional Council request staff to commence the public consultation process with residents on the Peninsula to find a solution for off street parking.**

Councillor Younger suggested that Council wait for the Regional Parking Strategy to come forward prior to forwarding the motion.

Councillor Sloane noted that many residents work shift work and that the bar/restaurant owners require a place for their patrons to park.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.2            Information Item - Memorandum from Director, Transportation and Public Works, dated January 26, 2009, Possible Overnight Parking in HRM Owned Parking Lots**

This item was dealt with under 12.1. See page 9.

**12.3            Personnel Matter - Citizen Appointments to Boards, Committees and Commissions.**

This matter was discussed during an earlier In Camera session and was now before Council for ratification.

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

- 1.     Approve the citizen appointments to boards, committees and commissions as per the Membership Selection Committee reports dated January 23 and 26, 2009**
- 2.     The current terms of the Cultural Advisory Committee be extended to February 28, 2009**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.4            Regulation and Use of Halifax Hall**

**MOVED BY Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report on having Halifax Hall made available for Committees of Council. The report is to include information on the following:**

- 1. Budget implications in regard to Halifax Hall usage as a meeting site as well as budget implications for moving Committee meetings to other locations such as the Saint Mary's Boat Club or the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.**
- 2. Alternative meeting sites for larger Committees.**
- 3. Larger meeting rooms that are wheelchair accessible.**
- 4. Utilizing Council Chamber for meetings such as the Dangerous and Unightly Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee so that the audio visual equipment and sound system may be utilized.**

The report is to be submitted in time for the February 3, 2009 Regional Council session.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Council recessed at 7:10 p.m.

Council reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

#### **12.5 Property Matter - Multi-Pad Arena Project - RFP Results**

This item was discussed at an earlier In Camera session and was now before Council for ratification.

**MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Johns that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Authorize staff to begin contract negotiations with Halifax Sports Complex Partners under the assumption of 100% HRM funding to design, build and operate a new 4-pad arena complex on the Bedford site, with the final contract to be brought back to Regional Council in the next two months,**
- 2. Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to extend the option to Purchase on the Bedford West Hammonds Plains site, identified as Block B17 in the Bedford West Master Plan until conclusion of contract negotiations with Halifax Sports Complex Partners.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOVED BY Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council request that HRM expedite phase two of the arena capacity project should the current fourplex proposal receive partnership funding from other levels of government. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**13. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**13.1 Councillor McCluskey**

*“Take Notice that at the next regular meeting of the Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, I intend to introduce a motion to rescind the motion adopted by Regional Council on October 7, 2008 relating to the Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities in Capital District, specifically as it related to the ranking of the Ochterloney Street project.”*

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Acting Municipal Clerk

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**January 27, 2009**

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1. Proclamation - Family Literacy Day - January 27, 2009
2. Proclamation - White Cane Week - February 1 - 8, 2009
3. Memorandum from Chief Administrative Officer & Director, Business Planning & Information Management dated January 27, 2009  
re: Report on Progress Against 2008 - 2009 Council Focus Area Objectives
4. Memorandum from Director, Finance dated January 15, 2009  
re: Award of Contracts - CAO Approval, Interim Award Policy
5. Memorandum from the Acting Municipal Clerk dated January 23, 2009  
re: Requests for Presentation to Council