

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
April 12, 2005

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger (1:30 p.m.)  
Bill Karsten  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy (1:25 p.m.)  
Dawn Sloane  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum (1:30 p.m.)  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen Adams (1:45 p.m.)  
Brad Johns  
Reg Rankin

REGRETS:

Councillors Becky Kent  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Robert Harvey  
Gary Meade

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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**1 CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - APRIL 5, 2005**

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Goucher, that the minutes of April 5, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

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

**4. SIGN BY-LAW**

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning Services, introduced the sign by-law presentation noting the presentation would highlight what is contained in the by-law as well as some of the contentious. Mr. Dunphy advised staff is looking for direction on two issues: (1) Council's intention with regards to the public hearing and what is to be advertised relative to the timeframe a temporary sign can be up and (2) not changing the regulations for temporary signs where they are currently more restrictive.

Mr. Kurt Pyle, Planning Services, provided a brief overview and background on the by-law, noting it is in response to community concerns with regards to lack of applications for the signs and signs being located incorrectly on property causing a safety concern. He noted there is currently a lack of effective enforcement tools available to HRM. The purpose of the by-law is to consistently and effectively regulate temporary signs on both private property and within HRM right-of-ways.

In response to Councillor Snow, Council was advised that this by-law would address the issue of maintenance such that if a sign was not being maintained, HRM would have the authority to either issue a ticket or remove the sign.

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, advised the issue is temporary signs that are on wheels or supported by sandbags or concrete blocks, noting there is nothing to prevent a business owner from taking that same sign face and putting it on a permanent base and keeping on their own property for twenty years.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that when the by-law becomes applicable in rural areas it be

justifiable.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Goucher, seconded by Councillor McInroy that Council confirm the more restrictive existing regulations in Bedford, Downtown Dartmouth, Cole Harbour/Westphal (C-1 zone) and Eastern Passage/Cow Bay (C-2 zone) and Sackville Drive.**

Councillor McInroy noted that due to the diverse nature of HRM a uniform regulation may not be possible.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Sloane that no political signs be allowed on HRM property. Further staff bring forward the proposed elections by-law for inclusion.**

Mr. Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, suggested the by-law regarding political signs be brought forward separately and not included as part of the proposed sign by-law.

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

**MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Deputy Mayor Goucher that this matter be referred to staff to address whether or not there would be implications with regards to the election sign by-law being included.**

**MOTION TO REFER CARRIED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the signs be permitted on a four month up and two month down basis.**

Councillor Wile stated all signs should be designated temporary or permanent.

Councillor McCluskey expressed concern that this may be creating hardship for small businesses and the sign companies. She questioned whether taxes are being paid on the leased spaces which contain large billboard signs.

**MOTION DEFEATED**

Councillor Hendsbee questioned what would happen with regards to temporary signs for sporting events. The Councillor suggested streetscapes and landscapes should not have temporary signs and historic properties should not have mobile signs.

**MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the signs be permitted on a four month up and one month down basis.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Dunphy noted that signs for non profit groups would be exempt but they would have to meet the location criteria which is indicated in the draft by-law. The signs on private property will have to meet requirements of the by-law but won't have to apply for a license. Signs in right-of-ways will have to meet by-law requirements and will have to apply to right-of-way services.

In response to Mayor Kelly, Mr. Dunphy advised the by-law would be coming forward in June.

**5. FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

Ms. Geri Kaizer, Director, Shared Services, introduced David Muise, Manager of Information Technology who presented the report to Council.

In response to Councillor McCluskey, Mr. Muise advised the intention will be to look at opportunities to put conduit in place to facilitate the placement of the cable underground.

In response to Councillor Streach, Council was advised the purpose of this is to support HRM's data requirements. On further question, Mr. Muise advised that from the signing of the contract there would be a six month construction time and another month for the final connections.

Mayor Kelly thanked staff for the update.

**6. HOMELESSNESS IN HRM: PORTRAIT OF STREETS AND SHELTERS VOLUME II - UPDATE ON HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk