

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
May 24, 2005

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy (1:45 pm)  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy (2:00 pm)  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Linda Mosher (2:45 pm)  
Stephen Adams  
Brad Johns (1:50 pm)  
Robert Harvey  
Reg Rankin (2:15 pm)  
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillors: Krista Snow  
Debbie Hum

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 26, 27, 28, May 3, 5 & 9, 2005.**

**MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Wile that the minutes of April 26, 27, 28, May 3, 5 & 9 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

The Order of Business was **approved as circulated.**

**4. UNDERGROUND UTILITIES FEASIBILITY STUDY**

- A copy of a staff report dated May 19, 2005 was submitted.
- A copy of the Underground Utilities Feasibility Study for Halifax Regional Municipality, dated March 4, 2005 and previously circulated to Council at its April 26, 2005 meeting was before Council.
- A copy of the powerpoint presentation was circulated to Council.

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning and Development, provided an overview of the report and then introduced Mr. Ray Piercy, Senior Engineer, Distribution Systems Department, Kinectrics Inc., who presented the report.

**MOVED BY Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Regional Council authorize staff to undertake the following activities:**

- 1. Develop a Joint Trench Agreement in cooperation with the utilities;**
- 2. Pending adoption of a Joint Trench Agreement, prepare recommendations regarding the type of developments which should have underground services as well as the type of services to be placed underground; and,**
- 4. Develop a plan to expand the existing pole-free zone, pending negotiation of cost sharing agreements, and delineation of**

**responsibilities amongst utilities and HRM.**

Discussion ensued with Mr. Piercy responding to questions of Council. The following comments/concerns were raised:

Councillor Younger commented that there is a perceived increase in reliability of service by placing wires underground but the statistics show underground wires provide, at best, a 50% reduction in power outages. Not all areas would be without power at once but, there could be the same number of outages during the year. This factor might increase response time for Nova Scotia Power. Mr. Piercy clarified for Councillor Younger that trees do assist with slowing down the wind but are also often the cause of power outages. He further clarified that costs will vary with differing design.

Deputy Mayor Goucher commented that HRM should be looking at burying secondary services to residential houses. He added this action may require an amendment to the Subdivision By-Law. He suggested immediate action should be taken in consultation with UDI and the Home Builders Association as it is critical that new subdivisions have direction from Council on this issue.

Deputy Mayor Goucher further suggested a relaxation of standards for HRM street trees to permit the trees to be planted further back on the property. He explained that, currently, when HRM plants street trees, the trees are planted within HRM's right of way which may fall directly under the wires.

Councillor Sloane indicated she hoped Spring Garden Road would be considered as one of the first locations for underground wiring in the capital district and was prepared to move an amendment to the motion in this regard. The Chair advised staff would be reporting back to Regional Council with specific recommendations at a later date.

Following further discussion it was **MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Deputy Mayor Goucher that the motion be amended to include a fourth recommendation to read:**

- 4. Give priority to investigate direct home secondary installs.**

**THE MOTION TO AMEND WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

The Mayor left the Chair at 3:05 pm with the Deputy Mayor assuming the Chair.

**MOVED BY Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Sloane that recommendation**

**# 3 in the original motion be amended to read as follows:**

1. **Develop a plan to *extend* the existing pole-free zone *giving priority to the Capital District*, pending negotiation of cost sharing agreements, and delineation of responsibilities amongst utilities and HRM.**

**THE MOTION TO AMEND WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

The amended motion now reads as follows:

**MOVED BY Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Regional Council authorize staff to undertake the following activities:**

1. **Develop a Joint Trench Agreement in cooperation with the utilities;**
2. **Pending adoption of a Joint Trench Agreement, prepare recommendations regarding the type of developments which should have underground services as well as the type of services to be placed underground; and,**
3. **Develop a plan to extend the existing pole-free zone giving priority to the Capital District, pending negotiation of cost sharing agreements, and delineation of responsibilities amongst utilities and HRM.**
4. **Give priority to investigating direct home secondary installs.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **2. CIVIC ADDRESSING**

**Deferred** due to time constraints.

## **3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds

Acting Municipal Clerk