

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

September 11, 2007

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Dawn M. Sloane  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen D. Adams  
Brad Johns  
Robert P. Harvey  
Reg Rankin  
Gary G. Meade

**REGRETS:** Councillors: Patrick Murphy  
Gary Martin

**STAFF:** Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. CALL TO ORDER ..... 3
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES ..... 3
- 3. GATEWAY PROJECT - GREATER HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP ..... 3
- 4. ADJOURNMENT ..... 5

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Wile that the minutes of July 31, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. GATEWAY PROJECT - GREATER HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP**

A PowerPoint Presentation entitled, *Building the Gateway* was submitted.

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer advised that Mr. Stephen Dempsey was in attendance to brief Council on recent activities the Greater Halifax Partnership (GHP) has undertaken in regard to the Gateway file.

Mr. English explained that he represents HRM on the Halifax Gateway Council, an agency in which the GHP was a founding member. He added that the Gateway Council's aim is to promote growth in the transportation sector, and that under the umbrella of the Gateway concept, is the Nova Scotia Gateway Strategy and the Atlantic Gateway Concept, and each are working toward the same broad outcomes.

Mr. English noted that focus on Gateway is very much consistent with HRM's economic strategy and the Regional Plan outcomes. In conclusion, Mr. English advised that Mr. Dempsey's presentation will be the first in a series of discussions around Gateway that staff intend to bring to Council and that, within the next month, staff will be back to Council with a comprehensive discussion paper on Gateway and it will speak to priorities and opportunities for our community. He also noted that a staff report will accompany the discussion paper and it will contain recommendations on direction as it relates to Gateway and it will include a strategic approach to maximizing opportunities and discussion of the next steps.

Mr. Stephen Dempsey, President and CEO, Greater Halifax Partnership, addressed Council and provided a presentation on the Halifax Gateway initiative. He began his remarks by providing some context around the terms associated with the Gateway initiative as follows:

- C Atlantica - refers to the geographic area, which is the New England states and the four Atlantic Provinces and which are linked by a common culture, a common experience, and similar industries.
- C Atlantic Gateway exists within Atlantica - it connects everyone in Atlantica.
- C Nova Scotia Gateway includes all the ports in Nova Scotia but recognizes that

- the main Port in the Region is the Port of Halifax.
- C Halifax Gateway - is the single largest asset in the Nova Scotia Gateway context, and in the Atlantic Gateway as well.

At 2:16 p.m. Councillor Younger entered the meeting.

Additional highlights of Mr. Dempsey's presentation are noted as follows:

- C Halifax Gateway has been in existence since 2004; modelled after the Vancouver Gateway Initiative
- C The key issues of the Halifax Gateway are: market development; access to infrastructure development and funding; economic and industrial development; government policy
- C Priority projects include: developing a business case for air cargo, and a strategy on how to grow access to Air Cargo; a cruiseship home port strategy; building the container transload sector
- C 16 % of all Gross Domestic Product in HRM is attributed to Gateway activities
- C The Halifax Gateway provides over 12,000 jobs for HRM residents, and the salary tends to be 32% higher than the provincial average; the number of jobs generated as a result of the multiplier impact are over 28,000 jobs and over \$1.5 billion in economic activity.
- C Federal Government monies are attached to the Atlantic Gateway - HRM should take the opportunity to claim ownership of the Atlantic Gateway; it is important to have the Atlantic Gateway brand attached to our community.
- C In the medium to long term, an inland terminal maybe an effective mechanism that could be used to increase our ability to handle containers while not overtaxing the road infrastructure.
- C The concept can be successful with the following:
  - C clear leadership and support from Regional Council by claiming the Atlantic Gateway for this community
  - C brand our distribution assets as the Atlantic Gateway
  - C seek Federal Government infrastructure money and support
  - C aggressive marketing of the Gateway initiative.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Peter Stickings, Manager, Real Property, responding to questions of Council.

The following points were noted:

- C Burnside Park provides the most immediate opportunity in regard to land that could accommodate most of the growth with the Gateway concept.
- C The idea of an inland terminal is much further down the road; therefore any decision that Council would have to make for lands it controls would be several years in the future, and not an immediate concern.

- C The Bridge Commission should be included as a participant in the Gateway initiative.
- C Sheet Harbour is an underutilised port and the Gateway Council has been working with the Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce, as some of the activities may be better suited for Sheet Harbour.
- C Concern was expressed that the intent of the Regional Plan which called for buffering of uses in the east end of the lands in Burnside Park may not be followed, and the Gateway Council was asked to be cognizant of this point.
- C It was noted that the Provincial Government recently announced support for the Melford site, and concern was expressed that Municipalities within the Province were competing with each other for support.
- C The Gateway Council was asked to ensure that the Burnside Park Association has an opportunity to provide input.

At 3:13 p.m. Mr. English retired from the meeting and Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer assumed his seat in Council.

At 3:16 p.m. Mayor Kelly retired from the meeting and Deputy Mayor Uteck assumed the Chair.

- C The trucking industry is concerned that an inland terminal will diminish competitiveness, and the Gateway Council was asked to keep this in mind as they move forward.
- C With regard to branding, it was suggested that when staff come back to Council with their report, that any references to branding contained in the report refer to 'Halifax'.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk