

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
November 20, 2007

MINUTES

- PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams
Councillors: Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn M. Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Brad Johns
Robert P. Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary G. Meade
- REGRETS: Councillors: Steve Streach
Harry McInroy
Linda Mosher
Gary Martin
- STAFF: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

3. COUNCIL FOCUS AREA - Infrastructure Continuation

This matter was discussed at the November 13, 2007 Committee of the Whole meeting when, due to time constraints, it was deferred to this meeting.

A Power Point presentation, originally submitted at the November 13, 2007 Committee of the Whole meeting was before Council.

Ms. Cathie O'Toole addressed Council and provided a brief synopsis of her presentation from the November 13, 2007 meeting.

At 2:26 p.m. Councillor Murphy entered the meeting.

A discussion ensued with Ms. O'Toole and staff responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- C Concern was expressed that a number of initiatives will be coming forward to Council that are unfunded, such as the Community Energy Plan, and the Municipality will not be able to take advantage of synergistic opportunities. Therefore, these initiatives will end up costing more in the long run.

At 2:38 p.m. Mr. English retired from the meeting and Ms. Kaiser, DCAO, assumed the Chair.

- C Concern was expressed about the over-capacity problem at the Sackville Transit Terminal. It was noted that, although staff have future plans to address the situation, the opportunity at the Beaverbank/Windsor Junction crossroad for a transit terminal park and ride will be lost if staff do not act now.
- C Support was expressed for the Neighbourhood Busing concept and it was noted neighbourhood busing is key to the Metro Link system working.
- C Staff was requested to bring forward information on transit cost recovery, making

comparisons with similar cities across the country, and indicating how the municipality will grow the system when staff provide their 'check-in' presentation at an upcoming Committee of the Whole session.

At 3:05 p.m. Mayor Kelly entered the meeting and assumed the Chair.

C Staff was requested to provide rating information on streets, sidewalks, and curbs according to condition; further, it be noted when they were reconstructed.

C it was noted that Council never sees the information on the state of HRM's assets, and it was suggested that this information be provided to Council in the Budget.

At 3:06 p.m. Councillor Jim Smith entered the meeting.

C It was suggested that staff look into developing partnerships (e.g. with universities) as a way to leverage funding to get sport infrastructure projects, such as a new rink, done faster.

C Concern was expressed about the increased volume of traffic and the need for a Metro Link in Clayton Park West, and it was suggested that it was time to update the Transit Strategy.

At 3:17 p.m. Councillor Fougere entered the meeting.

At 3:24 p.m. Councillor Murphy retired from the meeting.

C It was noted that it would be a great opportunity to do something with the Starr Manufacturing Site if it were included as part of the 2009 Visioning Process.

At 3:33 p.m. Councillor Walker entered the meeting.

At 3:36 p.m. the Deputy Mayor assumed the Chair.

C Noting that it takes several months to paint all the crosswalks in HRM because there is only one sign-painting truck, it was suggested that the lack of trucks was becoming an operational issue (safety). It was recommended that at some point in the future staff should look at the costs of foregoing an additional sign-painting truck vs. the length of time it takes to paint the crosswalks in the entire region and safety issues associated with this.

At 3:50 p.m. Mayor Kelly returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair.

C The criteria for 'new sidewalks' needs to be reviewed, as there have been some on the list for four (4) years.

C Reference was made to the Dartmouth Crossing and North Gate developments and

it was noted that the Municipality required that the developments put in the infrastructure but not for Transit and, as a result, the Municipality is left to shuffle its transit priorities to accommodate them.

- C It was pointed out that new Walmart Store in Bedford did not install landing pads for accessible transit, leaving it to the Municipality to look after. It was suggested that in the future, in the Permitting or Development Agreement stage, it be made mandatory that the big box stores provide the proper landing pads and accesses for all concerned.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Acting Municipal Clerk