

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES

February 17, 2009

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair  
Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee  
Councillors: Barry Dalrymple  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn M. Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Jennifer Watts  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen D. Adams  
Brad Johns  
Robert P. Harvey  
Tim Outhit  
Reg Rankin  
Peter Lund

REGRETS: Councillors: Steve Streach  
Bill Karsten

STAFF: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Roxanne MacLaurin, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - February 3, 2009**

**MOVED By Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the minutes of February 3, 2009 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**3. COUNCIL FOCUS AREA - MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Staff Report dated February 10, 2009 was before Council;
- A Board of Police Commissioners Report dated February 10, 2009 was before Council.

**MOVED By Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that Regional Council approve the recommendations and Action Plan endorsed by the Board of Police Commissioners as set out in the Staff report dated February 10, 2009.**

Chief Frank Beazley, HRP, gave an overview of the presentation.

He noted that a gap analysis was completed of what HRM has been doing and what was recommended in the report. HRP has consulted with over 100 different stakeholders. The success of this report will be based on how well the stakeholders work together. Further, he advised Council that the three levels of Government must work together for successful changes to be made.

He advised findings were presented to and endorsed by the Board of Police Commissioners on February 9, 2009.

The Mayor introduced the Honourable Minister, Cecil Clarke, Attorney General, to Council.

Minister Clarke spoke of the Province's interest in the Mayor's Roundtable. He announced the Province's support for funding of the Public Safety Officer. He noted that there are many opportunities for partnerships and collaboration between the Province and HRM. He spoke of programs such Restorative Justice and the Rites of Passage which the Province have implemented already.

Discussion ensued with Councillors noting their appreciation of the collaboration of the Province with HRM. The following points were noted:

- Prostitution trade is an unique situation and the Minister and the Chief are in

- consultation on the challenges this presents;
- Province implemented a mental health court and now are looking at drug courts to lessen the dockets of the Courts;
- Police officers are being put into areas that most require their services. The visual presence of these officers in these hot spots are making a noticeable difference in the crime rate;
- HRM has been recognized for having the best Restorative Justice Program in Canada
- Council recognizes the need to get the message of Crime Prevention out to children as early as possible.

The Mayor thanked Minister Clarke for the Province and his cooperation in this major endeavour.

Minister Clarke responded with compliments to the Mayor and Council for initiating the Roundtable and the work that went into this report.

Chief Beazley returned to the podium to answer any questions of Council. The councillors reiterated that they were impressed with the crime statistics going down. Chief Beazley noted that there were 62 recommendations in the report and not all were HRP or HRM specific. The ones that were the responsibility of other stakeholders were left in the report and the tentative lead attached so that the recommendation would not be lost.

He advised the report would not present any new asks for money from the budget noting that restructuring of funds and manpower would cover the costs for this year.

Councillor Dalrymple expressed concern that more people were moving to the rural areas of HRM and with it, increased crime but the amount of policing services was not matching the increased numbers of people.

Superintendent Beaton stated the RCMP will be continue to work very closely with the Public Safety Officer to address these concerns.

Chief Beazley went on to note that:

- This is a good news story and as such should be communicated to the public;
- Lack of the positive initiatives by HRP being communicated to the public is a problem that needs to be dealt with;
- To be accountable to the Board of Police Commissioners, a report will go to the Board once a month on how well any initiatives are working;
- The Public Safety Officer will be looking at the different forms of transportation during late night hours to cut down on crime in the downtown core.

Councillor Rankin inquired about the accountability issues of the report. Council needs to

be able to have some way to measure the outcomes, not just statistics. He notes that Council and the community supports the broad outcomes which are sustainability, diversity, and provincial partnerships which he would hope would also include federal partnerships. Statistics do not always give a good picture of qualitative outcomes. Councillor Rankin stated he would like to see a qualitative way that could be used as to how well these initiatives are working.

Councillor Lund spoke of a Help Line for their students that Sir John A. MacDonald High School has initiated. He inquired whether there are any initiatives such as this in the report. The Chief advised he would bring an answer back to Council.

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

#### **4. REGIONAL PARKING STRATEGY**

- A report dated January 21, 2009 from Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee, Vice-Chair, Regional Plan Advisory Committee was before Council.
- Extract from Regional Plan Advisory Committee minutes, January 21, 2009 was before Council.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management Planner, Regional Transportation, Infrastructure and Asset Management presented an overview of the Regional Parking Strategy and its implementation process noting the following:

- Allow HRM to have a choice of transportation modes, therefore reducing the use of the private vehicle;
- Allow for the mitigation of traffic congestion;
- Have a safer, healthier parking strategy for HRM;
- Would need to alter land use bylaws and municipal planning strategies to reflect the recommended changes

**MOVED By Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Halifax Regional Council adopt in principle, the Regional Parking Strategy to guide the implementation of changes to parking provision within HRM.**

Discussion ensued.

Without a vote being taken on the motion, the following motion was made.

**MOVED By Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the motion be amended to direct staff to look at free parking spots in and about universities for motorcycles and scooters.**

Discussion ensued on the amendment with questions being answered by staff.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

The main motion now reads.

**MOVED By Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, seconded Councillor Sloane that Halifax Regional Council adopt in principle, the Regional Parking Strategy to guide the implementation of charges to parking provision within HRM; further, direct staff to look at free parking spots in and around the universities for motorcycles and scooters.**

Discussion ensued on the amended motion with the following being noted:

- Neighbourhood parking in the north end is taken by the shipyards and the navy.
- Because of the success of the Link buses, HRM needs more park and rides
- HRM needs to have more secure bike parking
- Parking by permit passes can be obtained at Customer Services Centers
- Homeowners may need to obtain passes to park on the street
- Partnering with Mac Pass may be one way of paying for parking it would be a very costly capital investment.
  
- Councillor Hum suggested that the U-Pass offered to universities for Metro Transit fares be extended to Nova Scotia Community Colleges.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Acting Municipal Clerk