

DARTMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 6, 1990

LOCATION: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEPUTY MAYOR THOMPSON

MAYOR SAVAGE

ALDERMEN SARTO, RODGERS

BILLARD, MACFARLANE

LEVANDIER, CONNORS

PYE, WOODS, HAWLEY

GREENOUGH, WALTON

HETHERINGTON

MEMBER ABSENT: ALD. MCCLUSKEY

ACTING CITY ADMINISTRATOR: B. SMITH

DEPARTMENT HEADS & ASSISTANTS

INVOCATION

Deputy Mayor Thompson opened the meeting with the Invocation, and welcomed to the meeting, the Second Westphal Scout troop, with their leaders.

MARCH BREAK

Ald. Hetherington proposed that Council not meet during the week of the March break, that is, on March 13th. The next regular Council meeting would therefore take place on March 20th.

MOTION: That Council take a break during the week of March 12th, and not meet again until March 20th.

Moved: Ald. Hetherington
Second: Ald. Greenough
In Favour: All members except
Against: Ald. Billard
Motion Carried

JANITORIAL TENDER

Ald. Pye sought permission to present a motion pertaining to the recently-awarded tender for janitorial services, but the necessary majority vote of Council, to place a motion on the floor, was not received. Ald. Pye will give notice of motion on this item at a later date.

FEEDING OF DUCKS

Ald. Levandier suggested that Council may have to look at the policy decision taken to not allow the

feeding of ducks, in view of the recent controversy over ducks that have continued to winter on Sullivan's Pond and the fact that they are being fed now by a Parks & Recreation Dept. employee. He asked for a report from the City Administrator on this matter; Mr. Smith will bring the request to Mr. Burke's attention.

1.0 1990 BUDGET PROPOSAL REVIEW

BUDGET REVIEW
REVENUES

Council began the 1990 operating budget review, beginning with section B., the Revenue section. Mr. Corrigan was present to provide additional information, along with Mr. Walsh and Mr. Smith.

Pages B-1-1 and B-1-2 (Residential, Commercial & Business Occupancy Taxes) received considerable attention, in relation to the concerns of Council about the impact of assessment appeals and the adequacy of the \$500,000. allowance for 1990 appeals. Several members were in favour of increasing this amount to 1.5 million dollars, which they considered to be a more realistic figure, taking into account that 1990 appeals amount to almost a billion dollars. They asked
** to come back to a decision on the allowance figure before any decision is made on the 1990 tax rate.

(Ald. Connors was present from this point in the meeting.)

Page B-3-3: Mr. Corrigan advised that the figure shown on page B-3-3 (\$725,000.) should be increased by \$15,000. A motion to make this change was presented.

MOTION: To change the 1990 estimate on page B-3-3 (Grant in lieu of Taxes: Province of Nova Scotia) to read \$740,000.

Moved: Ald. Rodgers
Second: Ald. Greenough
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

Page B-3-6: Mr. Corrigan advised Council of a grant in lieu of taxes that the City will receive from Petro Can, in the amount of \$25,900. for their property in Burnside Park. A motion was presented to add this revenue item.

MOTION: To add a revenue item in the amount of \$25,900., to reflect the grant in lieu of taxes from Petro Can (Burnside Park property), to be shown as page B-3-6 in the Revenue section of the budget.

Moved: Ald. Rodgers
Second: Ald. Sarto
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

Page B-5-1: Council was advised that the budget estimate for the Waste Water Maintenance Charge should be reduced by \$114,000., as a result of the delay in implementing the new rate until April 1st of this year.

MOTION: To reduce the amount of the revenue estimate on page B-5-1 (Waste Water Management Charge) by an amount of \$114,000., reflecting the delay in implementation of the new rate.

Moved: Ald. Rodgers
Second: Ald. Woods
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

Concerns that this revenue item exceeds the matching expenditure in the Engineering Dept. budget, were discussed with Mr. Smith and Mr. Corrigan.

** Page B-6-13: Additional information was requested by Ald. Hawley from the Planning Dept. on the figures shown for the revenue item Other Planning, page B-6-13. He questioned both the 1990 estimate and the 1989 budget figure, asking why they are so low.

Page B-7-2: Ald. Billard noted the considerable difference between the cost of dog services and the revenue received by the City in fines and license fees. He asked that this item be given further attention before the tax rate is decided, to determine whether or not license fees need to be increased this year; also, to take into account the tenders for animal services, which are likely to come to Council in the meantime.

Page B-9-1: A recommended \$10. increase was noted for Tax Certificates, page B-9-1, and a motion was presented to approve the increase.

MOTION: To approve the recommended \$10. increase for tax certificates, increasing the fee from \$20. to \$30.

Moved: Ald. Hawley
Second: Ald. Sarto
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

** Page B-9-3: Ald. Billard asked to see the Marina Fee schedule, and suggested that fee increases for the marina should be considered, to bring them in line with other locations on the harbour.

Page B-10-1: Parking rate increases have not been recommended for 1990. The question of the rate paid by City employees was raised by Ald. Pye, and Mr. Smith suggested that Mr. Muzzin or Mr. Burke could provide further information on the collective agreement provision that covers employee parking rates. Ald. Billard and Connors asked to have this item given

** further attention at a later point in the budget discussions.

The meeting was chaired by Mayor Savage from this point onward in the meeting.

Page B-16-2: Ald. Pye felt the City is not receiving the revenue warranted for Firearms Acquisition Certificates, as reflected in the \$5,000. budget estimate on page B-16-2. He requested that the Deputy Police Chief and the Mayor discuss the item further.

Page B-16-4 & B-16-5: Ald. Hawley felt the City should be receiving more than we presently are for the Highway Maintenance Grant and the Conditional Snow Removal Grant (applicable to Provincial highway sections), and asked
** that the Mayor forward a letter, seeking to have these grants increased for Dartmouth.

At the conclusion of the Revenue section review, Ald. Connors stated his concerns about additional budget requirements that Council is likely going to have to deal with, such as the assessment appeal allowance, the cap for Social Services, and the projected School Board deficit. He considered a tax rate increase of no more than 4% to be acceptable, even taking these

additional requirements into account, and was in favour of sending the budget back to staff for budget reductions that would produce a 4% tax rate increase.

MOTION: To refer the budget back to staff for two weeks, to prepare a scenario that would produce a 4% tax rate increase.

Moved: Ald. Connors

Second: Ald. MacFarlane

Ald. Rodgers provided information he has received, as he requested, on staff complement, payroll and salary increases, over the period 1987 to 1989 and including the 1990 projections. He said that a higher level of productivity should be expected from employees when salary increases have exceeded the inflation rate. Ald. MacFarlane requested that
** copies of this information be made available to all members of Council.

Several members who spoke on the motion did not feel that a 4% tax increase is realistic, considering that a number of budget cuts are already being proposed by Mr. Burke to produce a 5.3% increase, and a number of the items recommended for deletion are likely to be reinstated by Council. Ald. Rodgers noted that the additional requirements referred to by Ald. Connors (School Board deficit, assessment allowance and the cap for Social Services) would add another 3% to the tax rate alone. He was in favour of having a number of scenarios, for percentage increases of 5%, 6% and 7%, so that Council can then assess the impact of tax rates set at all those levels and not just at 4%.

AMENDMENT: That in addition to the 4% scenario, staff be asked to indicate scenarios to produce rates at 5%, 6% and 7%.

Moved: Ald. Rodgers

Second: Ald. Greenough

It was further requested that staff suggest any possible ways of generating additional revenue, such as the sale of City assets (land and buildings) not required for use.

The vote was taken on the amendment.

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Second: Ald. Greenough

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The vote was taken on the amendment.

In Favour: All members except
Against: Ald. Billard, Hetherington, Pye
Amendment Carried

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended.

In Favour: All members except
Against: Ald. Hetherington, Billard
Levandier, Pye
Motion Carried, as amended

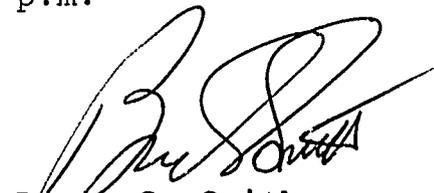
At 10:45 p.m., Council went in camera, on motion of
Ald. Levandier and Thompson.

After reconvening in open meeting, the action taken
in camera was ratified.

MOTION: To ratify the action taken while
meeting in camera on this date.

Moved: Ald. Hawley
Second: Ald. Thompson
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.



Bruce S. Smith,
Acting City Administrator.

ITEMS:

- Invocation, page 1.
 - March break, page 1.
 - Janitorial tender, page 1.
 - Feeding of ducks, page 1
 - 1.0 1990 Budget proposal review, page 2 to 6.
 - Revenues, page 2 to 4.
-

NO COUNCIL MARCH 13TH

LOCATION: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR SAVAGE
ALDERMEN SARTO, THOMPSON
BILLARD, MACFARLANE
LEVANDIER, CONNORS
RODGERS, MCCLUSKEY
PYE, WOODS, HAWLEY
GREENOUGH, WALTON
HETHERINGTON

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: J. BURKE
CITY CLERK-TREASURER: B. SMITH
DEPARTMENT HEADS & ASSISTANTS

1.0 CONTINUATION OF 1990 BUDGET PROPOSAL REVIEW

BUDGET REVIEW

At the opening of the meeting, Ald. Connors rose on a point of information, to advise Council of a change in the City deficit figure for 1989, resulting from the payment of grants in lieu of taxes, owed by the Federal Government, in the amount of \$1,107,532. The two-million-dollar deficit figure for 1989, as reflected originally in the Financial Statement for that year, is therefore reduced by the amount of the payments received, to a figure of \$911,155.

In this report to Council, on behalf of the Audit Committee, Ald. Connors noted the considerably improved financial picture for the City, in relation to the 1990 budget discussions, because of this reduction in the deficit. The 1989 Financial Statement, with this change, will be presented by the auditors at the March 27th meeting of Council.

In view of the information that has been received on the City's 1989 deficit position, Mr. Burke requested permission to make certain adjustments to his report of March 16/90, setting out tax increase scenarios requested by Council at the March 6th meeting.

MOTION: To refer Mr. Burke's report of March 16/90 back to him for adjustments, in light of the change in the City's deficit position for 1989.

Moved: Ald. Greenough
Second: Ald. MacFarlane
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

ENGINEERING
DEPT.Engineering Dept. Estimates

Council proceeded with a review of the Engineering Dept. estimates for 1990. Mr. Fougere and other department staff were present for the review, and introductory remarks on his budget were made to Council by Mr. Fougere. He noted that the Engineering budget is 1.41% below last year's funding level, and is considered to be a minimum budget with which to operate the department. He indicated to Council, the specific sections of the budget where additional projections have been provided for several activities, along with those areas where reductions have been proposed.

In the preliminary Council discussion, following Mr. Fougere's opening statements, Ald. Hawley and Sarto requested that consideration be given to additional funding for the activities specified on page C-5-31 (streets, sidewalks, walkways, curb repairs: \$50,000. to \$100,000. additional), and Page C-5-26 (\$30,000. for a section of Guysborough Ave.). Subsequently, however, a suggestion of Ald. Hetherington was considered to be preferable. His suggestion was to consider reinstating budget cuts Mr. Burke has proposed for the Engineering Dept., as listed in his initial budget report of Feb. 5/90.

** Two of the items identified at this point for future consideration, were:

- C-5-53 - reinstatement of a \$5,000. figure for Special Events, which represents half the original \$10,000. projection.
- C-5-25 - reinstatement of the \$22,800. amount for Street Resurfacing, which would provide funding for the Caledonia Road project, deleted from page C-5-26.

Members of Council indicated that they wished to go through the budget page-by-page, and the Mayor therefore agreed to follow this procedure.

Page C-5-4: Administration: Ald. Thompson requested clarification of points he raised about the percentage increase in salaries and benefits for Engineering/Works Dept. staff, across the board.

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Page C-5-4: Administration: Ald. Thompson requested clarification of points he raised about the percentage increase in salaries and benefits for Engineering/Works Dept. staff, across the board.

Ald. Connors picked out a number of estimates throughout the Engineering budget for items such as supplies, tools, conferences, contract services and so on, suggesting that it would have been preferable to see these items in a consolidated form, so they could be assessed more effectively by Council. He asked to ** have a consolidation of this information, if possible.

** Page C-5-8: Technical Services: Ald. Rodgers asked for a follow-up by Mr. Burke to his question about a 12½% salary adjustment reflected in these estimates He raised similar questions about the percentage increase projected in the page C-5-10 (Inspection) estimates.

Page C-5-12: Building Services: Ald. Hawley suggested that maybe Council should look at increasing rental rates again, and Ald. Woods asked about the follow-up report that was to come to Council on the condition of City-owned buildings and repairs required to them. ** The Mayor asked Mr. Rix to have the report to Council by July of this year.

Page C-5-17: Solid Waste Collection (Contract):Ald. Levandier objected to the termination of garbage collection services for merchants in the downtown. Ald. Connors had information on possible arrangements for reinstating this service, to be discussed with Ald. Levandier further.

Ald. McCluskey and Connors were concerned about the garbage collection policy for condo units, since the new tipping fee was implemented, and felt it should be looked at again; they considered that people living in these units are now being treated unfairly.

Ald. McCluskey suggested that paper could be saved by the City if new Internal Directories were not printed each time in their entirety, but instead, a single correction page of changes could be printed and attached to existing directories. She asked that ** consideration be given to this suggestion.

Page C-5-19: Solid Waste Street Cleaning: Ald. Rodgers had questions about the street cleaning program in the City and its effectiveness. He felt there should be better service over a broader area of the City, rather than concentrating so much of the service in the downtown. Mr. Murray explained the program that is planned to address some of the concerns raised.

Ald. Connors asked for a break-down of the 2,419 km. figure shown on page C-5-19 for street sweeping. He also felt the City should be reimbursed for expenses that will be incurred as a result of the new tipping fee policy, and that a request for reimbursement should go forward to the Metropolitan Authority. He said that at some future point in the budget discussions, he would present a motion to this effect. Mayor Savage said he would be willing to bring the matter to the attention of the Authority.

At the hour of 10:30 p.m., Council went in camera, on motion of Ald. Greenough and Thompson.

After reconvening in open meeting, the action taken in camera was ratified.

MOTION: To ratify the action taken in camera on this date.

Moved: Ald. Thompson
Second: Ald. Pye
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.



Bruce S. Smith,
City Clerk-Treasurer.

ITEM:

- 1.0 Continuation of 1990 budget proposal review, page 1 to 4.
(Engineering Dept.)

LOCATION: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TIME: 7:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR SAVAGE
ALDERMEN SARTO, THOMPSON
MACFARLANE, BILLARD
LEVANDIER, CONNORS
RODGERS, MCCLUSKEY
PYE, WOODS, HAWLEY
GREENOUGH, WALTON
HETHERINGTON

CITY CLERK-TREASURER: BRUCE S. SMITH
DEPARTMENT HEADS & ASSISTANTS

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Ald. Levandier rose on a point of privilege to indicate his concern about the possible loss of Moosehead Brewery, and asked what steps Council should take to try and prevent the loss of this business to the community. Mayor Savage said he would first contact them to determine what, if anything, Council can do to assist their position.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Ald. Hetherington stated his concerns about the delay on the part of the Province in advising municipalities of Provincial cost-sharing for education, thereby making it difficult for municipal tax rates to be set on time and adding to budget problems for municipalities such as Dartmouth. He felt that Council should protest this delay through a motion.

MOTION: That a letter of protest be sent to the Premier, stating our objection to the delay on the part of the Minister of Education in dealing with cost-sharing for education budgets.

Moved: Ald. Hetherington
Second: Ald. Thompson
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

1.0 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

i) REVIEW WITH AUDITORS

REVIEW OF
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

Present for the Auditors' review of the 1989 Financial Statements for the City, were: Mr. R. Jamieson, Mr. J. MULLOWNEY, and Mr. M. DuPlessis. The Statements had been previously circulated, and at this time, the Auditors circulated a presentation summary for Council to follow as the review proceeded.

Introductory remarks were made by Ald. Connors, Chairman of the Audit Committee. He advised that the Committee has met and dealt with the Statements in detail, and he asked for Council's approval of them.

MOTION: That the Financial Statements for the City for 1989, be approved as presented.

Moved: Ald. Connors
Second: Ald. Billard

During his presentation, Mr. MULLOWNEY indicated to Council that the deficit position of the ferry operation will require further attention, and this point was raised in debate by Ald. Levandier and Hetherington. It was suggested that the feasibility of integrating the ferry service into the metropolitan transit system should be considered, also, possible service modifications that would reduce operating costs. Ald. Levandier suggested that the Transit Advisory Board begin to study these suggestions and make recommendations back to Council for discussion.

Ald. Pye made the suggestion that in future Financial Statements, the Pollution Control item be given a separate page, as a means of highlighting the fund and interest revenue being accrued by it. This suggestion was noted by Mr. MULLOWNEY.

In response to a question from Ald. MacFarlane, regarding the Water Utility surplus, Mr. MULLOWNEY explained that these surplus funds could be returned to the City in the form of a dividend, especially in view of the fact that funds were previously taken from the City's operating account to assist the Water Utility, and a return of funds would represent a repayment to the City by the Utility.

The Mayor proposed that Council spend a meeting in May or June, discussing the subject of cross-harbour traffic and transit in its entirety.

When there were no further questions of the Auditors and no further items that members wished to have discussed, the vote was taken on the motion.

In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

The Auditors were thanked by Mayor Savage for their attendance and presentation to Council.

2.0

CONTINUATION OF 1990 BUDGET PROPOSAL REVIEW

BUDGET REVIEW

Engineering & Works

Ald. Connors questioned the continuation of the budget debate process, without knowing the Provincial figures for education cost-sharing, and moved deferral until this information has been received from the Province.

MOTION: To defer the budget debate until information is received on the Provincial cost-sharing figures for education.

Moved: Ald. Connors
Second: Ald. Thompson
In Favour: Three members
Against: All other members
Motion Defeated

After the motion on the floor was defeated, Council resumed their page-by-page review of the Engineering & Works Dept. budget, beginning at page C-5-21. Members of the Department, who attended the March 20th meeting of Council, were present again to assist with the review.

Page C-5-27: Streets (Paved) Bridges: Ald. Hawley asked when paving of the MicMac Parclo will begin, and the Mayor requested that Mr. Fougere find out about the completion of this project, including the work required on Braemar Drive, the sidewalks, and landscaping, for a report to Council.

Ald. Greenough noted that there is still work to be completed at the Caledonia/Main Street intersection. He requested an update on the schedule for completing the project.
Page C-5-30: Streets - Sidewalks, Walkways, Curb Repairs: Ald. Thompson requested that some provision be made to assist a resident on Bellevista Drive, in a wheelchair, who is having trouble getting onto and off of streets in that area; Mr. Fougere noted the request.

(Ald. Rodgers was present from this point in the meeting.)

Several Aldermen were concerned about any cutback in the page C-5-30 activity, this being one of the areas listed in Mr. Burke's original report to Council; the reduction proposed is in the amount of \$20,000. for brick sidewalk repairs. There was quite a number of questions about the problems with brick sidewalks and the on-going maintenance costs associated with them. Ald. Connors asked to have this item flagged
** for Council's further consideration at a later point.

Page C-5-31: Ald. MacFarlane and other members felt that greater attention should be focused on the present street repair backlog (sidewalks, curbs, etc.). He
** requested information from the compilation of infrastructure conditions, for his own ward. Ald. Connors said he would like to see a report, based on the infrastructure assessment, giving information details on a street-by-street basis, so that the condition of sidewalks on individual streets could be pinpointed more accurately.

While this subject of infrastructure assessment was under discussion, Mr. Fougere provided information on the Infrastructure Management System, and explained the importance of the Capital-out-of-Revenue item on page 1-23 of his budget, in this connection. Ald. Billard had previously questioned the merits of this item, suggesting the budget allocation of \$15,000. could be used to better advantage under the page C-5-30 activity.

Ald. Walton asked about City liability in the case of streets that need repair, and also, resulting from a lack of adequate snow and/or ice control. The Mayor
** asked that this question of liability be referred to the Solicitor for comment.

Ald. Levandier suggested that level 3 on page C-5-30 should be flagged, to be reconsidered, in order to be able to carry out all of the backlogged work referred to on this page.

Page C-5-34: Waste Water (Sanitary) Sewer Maintenance: Ald. Woods had questions about the adequacy of City response to citizen requests for assistance under conditions of residential flooding. He felt the Works Dept. should have wet/dry vacs. to assist with clean-ups after flooding. Mr. Murray advised that the operational policy to be followed in these situations

will be coming to Council for discussion and approval.

Ald. Connors asked for an explanation of the 24% increase in the figure for contract services on page C-5-34. Mr. Murray said the new tree-root policy has resulted in this increase. He responded to further questions from Ald. Connors about the use of contractors in these projects, which cannot be done entirely by the City. Ald. Connors continued to indicate his concern about this budget item and was not satisfied with the information provided.

Ald. Pye requested a rationalization of the figures representing money that is being collected through the waste water management charge, as compared with money being spent. The Mayor asked Mr. Fougere to bring a report, with this information, sometime in April. **

Page C-5-45: Emergency Coordination (Winter) Snow Removal: Ald. McCluskey indicated her objection to the order of priority shown on page C-5-45 for snow removal; she felt that locations such as bus stops and crosswalks should be given a higher priority than City-owned parking lots. Mr. Murray explained the priority listing in further detail, but since there were further objections from members, the Mayor suggested that this item be looked at and discussed further by Council at a meeting in June or July, separate and apart from budget considerations. **

Ald. Connors had several questions about information compiled by the Works Dept. on snow removal and control costs for individual storms, and the use that is being made of this information to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Mr. Murray provided information on areas where the information has been made use of already, and agreed to provide a subsequent report to Council in May, in response to the request of Ald. Connors. **

Page C-5-53: Special Events: It was noted that an amount of \$5,000. has been reinstated for this activity, representing half of the reduction proposed in Mr. Burke's report of Feb. 5/90. The figure for Special Events now stands at \$14,000.

Ald. Billard presented a motion to have this item deleted in the amount of \$14,000., but the motion did not receive a seconder.

After reviewing the Capital-out-of-Revenue pages for the Engineering & Works Dept., Council had completed that departmental budget.

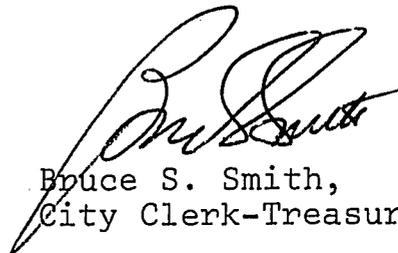
On motion of Ald. MacFarlane and Pye, Council went in camera at the hour of 10:00 p.m.

Council later reconvened in open meeting to ratify the action taken in camera.

MOTION: To ratify the action taken while meeting in camera on this date.

Moved: Ald. Sarto
Second: Ald. Thompson
In Favour: All
Against: None
Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.



Bruce S. Smith,
City Clerk-Treasurer.

ITEMS:

- Point of privilege, page 1.
 - Education funding, page 1.
 - 1.0 Financial Statements, page 1.
 - i) Review with Auditors, page 1 to 3.
 - 2.0 Continuation of 1990 budget proposal review, pg. 3 to 5.
 (Engineering & Works Dept.)
-