

DARTMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 1, 1992

LOCATION: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR SAVAGE
ALDERMEN: MCCLUSKEY, HETHERINGTON
WALTON, WOODS, SARTO,
PYE, HAWLEY, MAY,
LEVANDIER, CUNNINGHAM,
MACFARLANE, GREENOUGH

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: J. BURKE
DEPARTMENT HEADS AND ASSISTANTS

REGRETS: RODGERS
GREENOUGH (would be late due to open house
at I. W. Akerley Campus)

1992 - 1993 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

The meeting opened with an explanation by Mr. Larry Corrigan on how the amount in the budget reconciles with the numbers the library put forward at last night's meeting. Mr. Corrigan explained the reconciliation as follows: City: Expenses = \$2,704,000, Revenue = \$947,000, Balance = \$1,757,000; Library: Expenses = \$2,607,000, Revenue = \$850,000, Balance = \$1,757,000.

Mr. Corrigan also reported on the issue of budget detail as some aldermen had requested to receive. Mr. Corrigan discussed this with Mr. Burke and they agreed that budget detail should be made available to all members of Council and the Mayor. As a result, Mr. Corrigan distributed four handouts to Council which included the following: 1) summary of revenue - roll up of all accounts that make up individuals lines on budget, 2) expenditure summary - shows all of the accounts rolled up in one number in the budget (Mr. Corrigan noted that this was only a working copy and not the final budget), 3) computer printout - listing of every object of expense, will list line by line every department that budgeted an amount for one particular area (ie. conferences), 4) information to go in budget binders.

Mayor Savage then opened the budget deliberations beginning with the Fire Department.

Fire Department Budget:

Chief Greene reviewed the Fire Department's 1992-93 operating budget for Council members using overheads of which copies were distributed to members of Council.

During discussion of Chief Greene's presentation, Ald. Levandier inquired as to whether or not three chiefs were needed in

the department and asked if it would be possible to replace one with a civilian as was done in the police department. Chief Greene stated that he did not believe this could be done under the present structure and noted that the police department has other divisions that the fire department does not have. Mayor Savage suggested that this idea should be brought back at another time in the year for further discussion.

Ald. Woods also inquired about deleting one of the deputy chiefs or the lieutenant chief. Chief Greene stated that there has not been any concrete discussion on restructuring the department.

Ald. MacFarlane asked if the mechanic was the only person reporting to the superintendent. Chief Greene noted that he was but explained the superintendent is also a licensed mechanic and does a lot of the work as well. He noted that most of the administrative work is done by the Deputy Fire Chief.

With regards to repairs and maintenance, Ald. Hetherington inquired how much of this was contracted out. Chief Greene replied that as little as possible is contracted out and if it can be done in their shop it is done there.

During discussion of the communications division, Chief Greene noted that Council made a decision a few years ago to replace these positions with civilians. He noted that the last fireman is leaving this position and the position will not be filled. Some discussion followed regarding a joint dispatch system with the police department and it was agreed this would be cost effective.

With regards to the training division, Chief Greene noted that they have added staff in this division since last year due to the workload and noted that the responsibility for health and safety will also be added to this division. Ald. Woods inquired if the Fire Department has ever had discussions with Halifax regarding joint training projects. Chief Greene replied that they have spoken to Halifax and are doing some joint projects with them now. Ald. Woods asked if there would be a possibility of eliminating one position in the training division next year as a result of combined training with Halifax. Chief Greene stated that he did not believe so as it would take longer than one year to complete the process. When asked how long it would take, he replied, hypothetically, five years. Mayor Savage suggested that the Fire Department prepare a report on the combined training issue by June 1, 1992. Ald. May and Ald. MacFarlane expressed concerns that five years is too long. Ald. May suggested middle management should be cut out, possibly with early retirement packages. Ald. MacFarlane stated the process of combined training needs to be accelerated and hoped that when it is discussed again there will be more specific information available. It was agreed that the Fire Department would prepare a

report on this by June 1, 1992.

Ald. Pye stated that in a report that was made five years ago to the citizens of Dartmouth, it was recommended that additional fire stations be built for Dartmouth. He inquired how this budget reflects these recommendations. Chief Greene reported that he was not in complete agreement with this report. He stated that he felt the report was going in the right direction but went too far. When asked by Ald. Pye if he was comfortable with the reductions, Chief Greene stated that he was concerned but could not predict the future. Mr. Burke noted that the reductions are being proposed by him. He explained that there has been no change in the fire service for the last fourteen years. He noted that the building codes today are much stronger than they were fourteen years ago. He noted that fire codes on occupancy, smoke alarms, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, fire apparatus, and fire education have improved greatly. He stated that the overall balance of what is happening has to be looked at.

Ald. May asked if there had been any indication of how members would feel about rolling back pension plans and benefits to what they used to be. Chief Greene reported that there had been no conversation on this. Mr. Burke noted that the Pension Committee could consider making changes to the plan. He also noted that all departments have representation on this committee.

Ald. Levandier stated that it was Mr. Burke who recommended the hiring of four new fire firefighters four months ago and is now recommended the reduction of four. He stated that he felt this showed a lack of planning. Ald. Levandier also stated that he felt the \$2,000 budgeted for conferences should be eliminated. He stated that the overtime budget is an area that he felt should be looked at as well. He also questioned the fact that a new piece of apparatus was purchased (a new fire pumper) and the department is now facing layoffs. (Ald. Greenough arrived at this time, 8:20 p.m.)

Ald. McCluskey brought up the issue of false alarms. She stated that she felt apartment owners should be fined for false alarms as they happen so frequently.

Ald. Woods suggested using a smaller vehicle to go to fires when the larger pumper is not required. He suggested that this be discussed further at another time.

Ald. Sarto asked Chief Greene if the department looked at relocating a fire station in the Mount Edward area which was an idea suggested in the Nova Scotia Research Foundation report. Chief Greene noted that this report only dealt with the east end of the city and that nothing could be done unless the entire city was considered. Ald. Sarto requested that this be kept in mind for

next year's budget preparations.

Ald. Sarto asked Chief Greene what effect the layoffs would have on response times. He replied that he did not think it would effect response time but it may effect back up response time.

Ald. MacFarlane stated that he feels that there were areas in the budget that could be cut without further cuts to personnel.

MOTION: that the Fire Department budget be referred back to staff to identify additional savings without further personnel reductions.

MOVED: Ald. MacFarlane

SECOND: Ald. Levandier

Ald. McCluskey asked Chief Greene if the budget was sent back to the Fire Department was there any area other than personnel that he felt could be reduced. Chief Greene replied that there was not. Ald. McCluskey reiterated that she would like fines for false alarms to be considered.

IN FAVOR: Five

AGAINST: Seven

Motion defeated

Ald. Hetherington noted that false alarms in the police department are higher than those for the fire department. Chief Cole reported that the by-law for false alarms for the police departments in Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford has been addressed and there will be a report available in two to three weeks.

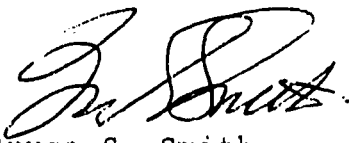
Police Department Budget:

Chief Cole made his presentation to Council regarding the Police Department budget. He noted that the recommendations being put forward are his recommendations but he did have guidelines to adhere to. Chief Cole distributed copies of the overheads used in his presentation to members of Council. Mr. Walsh reviewed the financial aspects of the presentation with Council.

Ald. Levandier asked if any progress was made in decreasing overtime costs as was suggested by the auditors. Mr. Walsh reported that they were proposing to decrease overtime and contract earnings to \$510,000. He noted the main decrease will be in regular overtime (25%) budget to budget from last year. Ald. McCluskey inquired how the police department proposed to make this reduction. Mr. Walsh explained that through reorganization, restructuring and by identifying specific areas they hope to achieve their goal.

As it was agreed earlier to end the budget meetings at 10:00 p.m. and the time was now 10:15 p.m., a vote was taken to decide if Council wished to continue with the Police Department budget and finish it now or to defer it until tomorrow night's meeting. It was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



Bruce S. Smith
City Clerk Treasurer

Dartmouth City Council, April 1, 1992

ITEMS:

- 1) 1992-93 Budget Deliberations, Page 1
- 2) Fire Department Budget, Page 1
- 3) Police Department Budget, Page 4

LOCATION: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

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

1992/93 OPERATING BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Services Dept. presentation was completed by Mary Lou Griswold, and she then proceeded to explain the ramifications of budget cuts questioned by Council specifically, and listed for further consideration at the end of the budget deliberations, as per the items from page 4 of the April 2nd minutes. Added to that list at this time was #25719, one Community Care Worker, at a net cost of \$23,400.

Ald. May asked for information on the down-loading of costs by the Province, in relation to the impact on the City's budget, and was advised that in addition to what has already occurred, it appears likely that further down-loading can be expected in the Family Benefits Program, probably in the area of half-a-million dollars. Mr. Burke later made a short presentation to Council, giving details of down-loading implications in the areas of General Assistance and Child Care, plus the cost implications of reinstating the Family Benefits Supplement. In the same presentation, he also gave comparative figures for General Assistance, Homes for Special Care, and Transportation Services, in all four local municipalities and including the Province, indicating Dartmouth's position in per capita funding. Ald. Rodgers requested that a letter be sent to all three Dartmouth MLA's, bringing to their attention, the additional costs the City is facing as a result of Provincial down-loading onto the municipality, and seeking their help in trying to resolve these problems.

Other information requested by members, during the Social Services budget debate, was as follows:

- 1) what has the wage freeze saved the City this year and for next year? (Ald. May)
- 2) What would be the impact of increasing marriage license fees from \$35. to \$50.
b) Deed Transfer Tax fees, from 1¼% to 1 3/8% (Ald. May)

- c) information on cash reserves, including the operating surplus of the Water Utility, and any legal impediments attached to them. (Ald. May)
- 3) information on rural tax rates in other parts of the Province, in comparison with urban rates, considering the services the cities have to provide themselves, whereas policing, snow removal, etc. are provided by the Province in rural municipalities. (Ald. Rodgers) Also, projections as to where our tax rate could be in a couple of years time. (Ald. Rodgers).

Ald. Pye attempted to have three items added to the list being compiled for review at the end of the budget process; these were:

- 1) Bus passes for ABU's (\$75,000. net)
- 2) Dental benefits (\$50,000.net or half that amount - both rejected)
- 3) Furniture benefits (\$65,000 net)

Council rejected the addition of all three items, by a vote taken by the Mayor.

Ald. Pye felt that grants to the Dartmouth Boys & Girls Club should not be cut, and that this organization should receive special consideration. He also suggested that the Social Services Dept. should consider a public relations program, on a metro-wide basis, to inform citizens just who needs and benefits from the public service programs provided in the community, and how General Assistance applies. The other organization named by Ald. Pye to receive special consideration for a grant, was the Dartmouth Work Activity centre.

Concluding comments on the 1.2 million-dollar reduction in the budget for Community Care Services, were made to Council by Mr. Cleary, translated into monthly benefits that both single people and families will receive accordingly.

The figure for Provincial responsibility transferred to the City, as per Mr. Burke's presentation (referred to on page 1 of these minutes) is \$2,465,000. With reinstatement of the Family Benefit Supplement, an additional Provincial responsibility, in the amount of \$700,000. would be added, for a total of \$3,165,000. The possibility of further down-loading for Family Benefits would be on top of that. The Mayor advised Council that the report from the Task Force on Municipal Reform, which may deal with the need for some uniformity in the delivery of services across the province, and a one-tier system for social services, is expected by April 9th. A large part of the Council discussion, in connection with the Social Services budget, pertained to the inequities being imposed on municipalities by the present two-tier funding arrangements for delivery

of social services, and the resulting hardships for a city like Dartmouth, under those circumstances and taking into account the present conditions of recession.

SCHOOL BOARD

SCHOOL BOARD

Council proceeded next to the Dartmouth District School Board budget, presented by Sandra Everett (Chairman), Supt. Reid Harrison, and David Gray, Director of Finance.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Everett outlined to Council, the Board's efforts, over recent years, to try and preserve the present level of education, in spite of ongoing financial difficulties and reductions; this is also the aim of the budget before Council. If Provincial and City funding commitments remain as presently indicated, however, the Board will be 4.1 million dollars short of what is required to operate the Dartmouth school system at that level. Ms. Everett referred to the impact of such a major shortfall, in terms of education standards for children in Dartmouth and their future. She reported to Council on the comprehensive audit now in progress, for the Board, and at a later point in the day, members of Council received copies of the Phase One summary, and had the opportunity to ask questions about specific individual items from it.

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

Supt. Harrison addressed Council on the involvement of staff and the Board in the budget process, to this point, advising that staff were asked to prepare information on the implications for the school system, of the 4.1 million-dollar reduction; copies of this staff report were circulated later in the day.

The financial presentation was made by Mr. Gray, using a series of overheads to explain to Council a comparison of operating revenues, from 1990 to 1992/93; staff enrollment patterns, from 1989 to 1992/93; an operating expense summary for the 1992/93 budget; and information on facilities usage. One of the major expense items in this year's budget is the funding required for teachers' service awards - an amount of \$452,000. for 25 teachers; there is presently only \$50,000. remaining in the awards fund. Ald. Rodgers asked if it would be possible to make these allocations over a period of time, rather than in lump-sum payments. Supt. Harrison said this may be a question for the Board to address further.

Other questions from Ald. Rodgers at this time, had to do with items in the budget shown at Level 1 for funding purposes, when in his opinion, they should have been shown as Level 3 items. He referred specifically to a roof repair project from the 1991 budget.

The effects of a 4.1 million-dollar budget cutback were detailed for Council in a report presented by Supt. Harrison, copies of which were circulated to all members of Council. These include such measures as: school closures, a reduction in teaching staff of 100 positions, elimination of the Enriched Program, professional development reductions, reductions in areas of Special Education, secretarial service reductions, elimination of Driver Education, and so on. In general, a lessening of educational standards throughout the system, an increase in the size of classes, and a major impact on specialist programs and school maintenance, an area that has already been adversely affected by budget cuts in previous years.

Ald. May had several questions about benefit costs for both teaching and non-teaching staff. He was advised that the average teaching salary is about \$48,700., without benefits. He requested a figure for the average mean salary (ie. including benefits). Ald. Pye suggested a charge for parking on school properties, as a source of additional revenue, and asked that consideration be given to his suggestion.

In answer to questions from Ald. Greenough about the cost of substitute teachers, Council was advised that the budgeted amount for this year is \$1,632,000. Asked if principals and vice-principals are filling in for teachers, Supt. Harrison said that a fair amount of this is done, wherever possible. Ald. Hawley later commented further on the teaching duties that principals and vice-principals assume, insofar as they are able to, with all the other demands on their time. He provided information for Council on some of the pressures that school staff are faced with in our present society, as a result of stress in the home life of children and influences outside the classroom that teachers have to cope with daily, besides trying to educate children.

The allocation of administrative time was a concern of Ald. Rodgers as well. He noted that smaller schools in Halifax do not have vice-principals at all, and he felt this policy should be looked at for Dartmouth. Also, we should be getting more teaching duties from vice-principals in our system. He also felt there could be improvements in our Dartmouth policy with respect to the use of substitute teachers, an area where possible budget savings could be achieved. He said there are presently grey areas in planning procedures, where opportunities are being lost to realize economies. Ald. Rodgers was concerned as well that there are no cuts being proposed for administration staff.

Ald. Woods raised points about the quality of the City's education system and what is being done to improve education standards generally. He asked if consideration is being given to a longer school year or longer school days, in order to accommodate the kind of curriculum required to bring our levels of education up to other countries, particularly Pacific Rim countries. He said that until some initiatives such as this are considered, to improve education standards, he would not be in favour of additional funding for a status quo system. Other members who spoke during the debate, had serious concerns, however, about maintaining even our present levels of education for Dartmouth children, with the budget reductions the School Board faces. Ald. Walton inquired, for example, about the computer program, and Supt. Harrison said that only \$100,000. has been allocated for the program in the budget; also, that we are no where near the point we should be in this kind of technology.

Ald. May felt the School Board should be issuing reports to the public at the end of school years, making people aware of what was achieved during the year; he wanted to have a commitment from the Board that they will consider an annual report on the school system, as he has proposed.

All members of Council received copies of the Phase One summary of the Comprehensive Audit, now in progress, together with copies of a letter from Price Waterhouse, on the status of Phase Two and recommendations that will come from their completed study. Insofar as possible, the School Administration staff and Ms. Everett, responded to questions about specific sections of the summary report circulated, although it was pointed out that this report is really of a preliminary nature, leading up to the next phase of the Audit, from which actual recommendations will come, for consideration by the School Board. Ald. Rodgers addressed a number of points, in connection with the Audit report, some of which have been referred to in these minutes.

Ald. Rodgers maintained that goals and objectives put before the Board, following last year's budgetary process, have not been met, and that all is not being done that should be done, to comply. Ms. Everett responded to several of the statements Ald. Rodgers made in this connection, advising that three or four of the items to which he referred, have in fact been addressed, including the formation of a coalition group from the community, to work with the Board.

Ald. May felt that as a department with a 54 million-dollar budget, the Board responsible should be meeting more often than the present monthly meeting. He asked that consideration be given to putting teacher-librarians back into the classroom, and replacing them with library assistants, as a cost-saving measure.

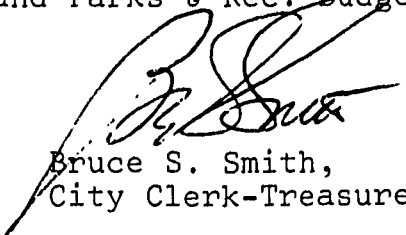
The final presentation of the day was by Mr. Burke. He presented a number of overheads, to show the breakdown in School Board funding by the City, both mandatory and optional, based on five-year figures, the funding percentage for education costs, in relation to total City expenditures, and per student contributions from City funding. The five-year average figure for per pupil contribution, is \$1,541., based on a five-year average number of students. Other additional funding initiatives, to address School Board difficulties, were also noted, such as: the \$1,300,000. Water Utility dividend + 2% tax levy (1990) and deduction of extraordinary grant to the Board for 1991/92 (\$1,700,000. x 80%) additional tax levy. At this point, the Provincial funding level for 1992/93 has not been announced, so estimates presented in the Board's budget are based on the 3.5% previously given. Any reduction in this percentage will impact still further on the School Board budget.

Mr. Burke also circulated, with copies of the overheads he presented, the details of the proposal for additional school funding, on which budgetary decisions were made by Council last year. The conditions set out are seven in number, and Mr. Burke went through these ^{with} Council, by way of assessing what progress has been made in compliance. Ms. Everett provided additional information as required, on the Board's action in attempting to comply, taking into consideration the implications of an elected School Board and that election in the interim.

The fact of a proposed reduction in the City's contribution to education costs (\$622,000. less year-over-year) was noted, and the effects recognized, in spite of the responsibility the City has assumed for optional funding, to make up the Provincial shortfall. The down-loading of the Province in the area of education was commented on in this debate, as it had been previously by members in the Social Services debate.

This day-long meeting of Council adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Council will meet next on Monday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m., to deal with the Engineering and Parks & Rec. budgets.



Bruce S. Smith,
City Clerk-Treasurer.

ITEMS

Social Services, pages 1 & 2.
School Board, pages 3 to 6 incl.

DARTMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 6, 1992

LOCATION: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TIME: 7:00 P.M.

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: J. BURKE
ASST. CITY CLERK: V. CARMICHAEL
DEPARTMENT HEADS AND ASSISTANTS

1992 - 1993 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

A revised budget deliberation schedule was distributed to members of Council. Mayor Savage noted that tomorrow night's meeting would begin at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. The budget will be dealt with from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. followed by the public hearing. After the public hearing, budget deliberations will continue.

ENGINEERING AND WORKS:

Mr. R. Fougere made a presentation to Council regarding the City of Dartmouth Department of Engineering and Public Works 1992-93 Operating Budget. His presentation included highlights of the 1991-92 fiscal year, budget overview for 1991-92, budget overview 1992-93 and a future outlook. A copy of the overheads used in Mr. Fougere's presentation were distributed to Council.

During Mr. Fougere's presentation, there were several concerns raised regarding the deletion of sidewalk snow and ice removal. Ald. Pye inquired if the commercial sector would be responsible to clear their own sidewalks. Mr. Fougere responded that they would and a by-law would be made to enforce this. Ald. Greenough raised the importance of the safety factor in sidewalk plowing, especially on the Waverly Road. He did not feel this was an area in which Council could afford to cut due to the safety implications. Ald. Greenough requested that this item be flagged for reconsideration. Ald. Sarto suggested that a solution may be to only plow the collectors and their arteries.

Mr. Fougere noted that the only sidewalks that would be plowed would be ones adjacent to city owned property. Ald. Hawley raised concerns about the cost effectiveness of having a plow putting its blade up and down driving to various city owned properties. He felt that citizens would ask why the street plows could not do the

same thing while passing driveways so as not to fill in shovelled driveways with snow.

(Ald. Woods arrived at this time in the meeting, 7:20 p.m.)

Ald. Hawley inquired if there would be any savings by contracting out snow removal. Mr. Fougere responded that this has been looked at but they do not have a program set up yet. He explained they looked at having a contractor take on responsibility for one particular area. This would include plowing, salting, etc. Ald. Hawley stated that he would like to see this looked at again for next year and hopefully something will be in place for the next budget year.

Ald. Hawley stated that some educating of the public on what is being done and what will have to be done to explain why snow removal will be delayed. Mr. Fougere agreed that there would be delays with snow removal and the public will have to be informed of this. Ald. Hawley also stated that some areas such as the main thoroughfares cannot be plowed while others are not being plowed. He stated that the City should do all or none.

Ald. Thompson also stated that he could not go along with the deletion of sidewalk snow removal. He asked how much the City pays for retainer fees for equipment. Mr. Fougere responded \$850 per month per unit plus the hourly rate.

Ald. Hetherington brought up the issue of costs of prosecuting offenders of the snow removal by-law. He also noted the large number of provincial and federal buildings and asked if they would be responsible for their own snow removal. Mr. Fougere stated that they would be responsible.

Ald. McCluskey raised concerns about timing of snow removal. She asked if residents would be required to have their sidewalks shovelled by a particular time and would this be in time for children going to school. Ald. McCluskey also expressed concern for delayed plowing on sidestreets and how this might affect access for ambulances and fire vehicles. Mr. Fougere noted that the City is divided into five areas and there would be a piece of equipment in each area. If one area was to be handled by a contractor, then the equipment would be spread out between four areas.

Mr. Burke noted that there is not a group of employees who only do snow removal work. He explained that these employees do a multitude of tasks and it is therefore very difficult to isolate money saved by contracting out. He noted that whatever equipment that is being used for snow removal (ie. trucks) is also used for various tasks throughout the entire year. Another point Mr. Burke made was that there is GST costs on contracting but the GST is not considered in the same light when the work is done by the City.

Ald. Greenough expressed concern regarding the additional financial burden that would be placed on seniors if they were to be responsible for their own snow removal.

Ald. MacFarlane stated that he felt this amount could be taken out of the engineering administrative section of the budget. He noted there was a reduction in budgeted overtime but it did not seem to be as significant as it was in the police and fire departments' budgets.

Ald. Cunningham stated that he agreed with Ald. Hetherington and that this area of the budget was something worth looking at again.

Ald. Levandier stated that he felt removing the snow and ice removal service would inconvenience many people especially children and seniors. He also commented on the costs that would be incurred by enforcing the by-law.

Ald. Pye suggested a possible solution would be to plow one side of residential streets to create a minor cost reduction.

Ald. May stated that he had received many complaints from seniors as well regarding the cut of sidewalk snow removal. He suggested providing funds to organizations such as the Boys and Girls club to initiate programs to provide snow removal for seniors. Ald. May also suggested selling the equipment to the employees and give them the opportunity to provide the service on their own.

Ald. Hawley inquired how much of salaries were overtime when performing snow removal duties. Mr. Fougere replied that all snow removal work was overtime. When questioned on this, Mr. Fougere explained that they determined it was cheaper to pay time and one half during all storms than to start paying double time for after hours work. Ald. Hawley suggested that plowing only be done during regular hours and therefore paid at regular time. However, it was noted that timeliness of snow removal would be a problem especially for school children.

It was the general consensus that snow and ice removal was an area that should be reviewed again.

The next areas discussed were streets and environmental health services. It was noted that the elimination of street resurfacing did not include potholes.

During discussion of service adjustments in the section called Other, the idea of obtaining some of the funds from the Burnside Sale of Land Account was raised. Mr. Burke explained that the accounting rules must be consistent and cannot be continually

changed. The importance of Burnside as generating a greater tax revenue was also discussed.

Ald. McCluskey reported on a call she received from a citizen suggesting ways that the Engineering Department could save money. One point this citizen raised was money could be saved if the trucks were turned off when the drivers are not in them. Mr. Fougere noted that the drivers are instructed to turn the trucks off when they are not in them, but some need to be left on during the winter so equipment on these trucks will not freeze. The other point was why two people are required to empty trash bins. Mr. Fougere noted that some bins are too heavy for one person to lift.

Ald. McCluskey inquired what division the six positions being cut are from. Mr. Fougere stated that they are in the operations division and they are looking at the possibility of early retirement for some.

Ald. Walton inquired about crosswalk painting and asked if there was an increase in the budget in this area. Mr. Fougere stated that the same amount was budgeted for this year as was for last year.

Ald. Hawley inquired about the cost of a by-election, if needed. Mr. Burke stated that an overexpenditure would have to be authorized.

Ald. May inquired about professional fees and who is responsible for paying them. Mr. Burke stated that if the City requires specific qualifications and makes a membership a condition of employment, the general policy is that the City pays for them. These fees are paid at various times throughout the year depending on the organization.

Concluding the discussion of the engineering and works budget, Mayor Savage stated that this department has made major responses to the audit.

A ten minute break was then taken (8:45 p.m.). The next area of the budget to be discussed was Parks and Recreation.

PARKS AND RECREATION

A presentation was made by Mr. Bill Stevens regarding the Parks and Recreation budget. A copy of overheads used in the presentation were distributed to members of Council.

Mr. Stevens explained that the 1991/92 operating surplus for Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$120,400 included not replacing the assistant director's position. (Mayor Savage left

the meeting at this point and Deputy Mayor McCluskey took over chair of the meeting, 9:10 p.m.)

Ald. Walton asked Mr. Stevens if they had been approached by Soccer Nova Scotia about putting crusher dust on the soccer fields as this would require less maintenance. Mr. Stevens reported that they were in contact but have not yet met and he noted that they would like to discuss this idea further. (Mayor Savage returned to the meeting at this time and resumed chair, 9:20 p.m.).

Ald. Thompson inquired about markings on both ball and soccer fields. Mr. Stevens responded that initial markings are done on the soccer fields and again at mid season. The remainder are provided by the soccer associations themselves. All baseball markings are the responsibility of the people using the fields.

Ald. May expressed concern regarding the field behind Prince Arthur School and suggested that it should be closed for safety reasons. Mr. Stevens stated that the field would receive spring maintenance and be inspected at that time.

The planting of the flower beds was discussed. Mr. Stevens noted that with the reduction in overtime the number of beds planted may have to be reduced. Ald. MacFarlane expressed concern regarding the planting of flower beds and not inspecting playground equipment. Mr. Stevens noted that the playground equipment will still be inspected but repairs may not be completed as quickly, however the safety aspect will be maintained.

With regards to field maintenance, Ald. Hetherington stated that he felt this was an area to go back and look at as there are many volunteers willing to do such work.

Ald. Walton stated that he could not accept some of the cuts being proposed in the Parks and Recreation budget (ie. planting flower beds and cutting playground services). Ald. Walton suggested getting volunteers to plant these flowers. Mr. Stevens stated that there are other things involved besides planting including delivery of flowers, tools and equipment and timing. He noted that all flowers are planted within a three week period and the savings would be minimal (\$3,000 - \$4,000).

With regards to the cutting of playground services, it was noted that the number of registered users of the playgrounds has decreased drastically over the last number of years. This was attributed to the changes in social trends and needs. It was noted that there are 500 - 600 paid registrants of the playgrounds with slightly higher numbers in limited resource areas.

Several aldermen expressed concern regarding the cut of playground services. Ald. McCluskey noted that the playgrounds are the only place some children get to go during the summer months. She requested that summer program reductions be put back in for reconsideration.

Ald. Cunningham asked if it would be possible to raise fees in the cemeteries. Mr. Stevens noted that presently there are no available burial lots in the cemeteries, however they have identified 500 possible lots and that they hope to have a report to Council on this in the near future. He noted that this would be a revenue source.

There was also concern expressed regarding the cut in recreation integration of \$1,000. It was the general consensus that this amount be put back in for reconsideration.

It was then agreed to adjourn the budget deliberations until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday night.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

V. Carmichael
Vi Carmichael
Asst. City Clerk

Dartmouth City Council, April 6, 1992

ITEMS:

- 1) 1992-93 Budget Deliberations, Page 1
- 2) Engineering and Works, Page 1
- 3) Parks and Recreation, Page 4

Lib. Ref. Dept.

DARTMOUTH CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

* TUES., APR. 7/92 *
* 7:30 PM *
* COUNCIL CHAMBER *
* IN CAMERA SESSION *
* 10:00 PM *

1. INVOCATION
2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS: March 3, 10, 24, & 31st, 1992.
3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
4. CONCERNS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS OR QUESTIONS (15 MINUTE MAXIMUM)
5. DELEGATIONS & HEARINGS PROTEST
6. ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS
7. PUBLIC HEARING
 - i) Application for Development Agreement - Proposed Day Care - 81 Spring Avenue
8. PRESENTATION
9. PETITION
10. REPORTS
 - 10.1 CITY ADMINISTRATOR
 - 10.1.1 Application, Retail Video Outlet, Echo Video
 - 10.1.2 Application, Retail Video Outlet, People's Choice
 - 10.1.3 Dartmouth Tourist Commission Appointment

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10.2 FINANCE & PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE

- 10.2.1 Tax Exemption Request: Dartmouth Curling Club
- 10.2.2 Tax Exemption Request: Wellington Sports & Fitness Centre
- 10.2.3 Water Billing Practices

11. MOTIONS

11.1 ALD. LEVANDIER/MACFARLANE

- 11.1.1 Possible amalgamation of services

11.2 ALD. MAY

- 11.2.1 Feasibility of privatizing the Dartmouth Water Utility

11.3 ALD. MACFARLANE

- 11.3.1 Development of a tot lot

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

LOCATION: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: DEPUTY MAYOR MCCLUSKEY /MAYOR SAVAGE
ALDERMEN SARTO, THOMPSON
CUNNINGHAM, MAY
LEVANDIER, PYE, WOODS
HAWLEY, GREENOUGH
WALTON, HETHERINGTON

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: J. BURKE
CITY SOLICITOR: M. MOREASH
ASST. CITY CLERK: V. CARMICHAEL
DEPARTMENT HEADS & ASSISTANTS

MEMBERS ABSENT:
ALD. RODGERS
MACFARLANE (ILLNESS)

1.0 INVOCATION

Mayor Savage opened the meeting with the Invocation.

He then explained the procedure to be followed for this meeting, that is, to deal with the Parks & Rec. budget until 7:30 p.m., at which time Council will proceed with the public hearing regularly scheduled for this date. Following the public hearing, budget discussions will resume. Mayor Savage was present from 7:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., when he left for a meeting of concerned parents at Brookhouse School. From 7:30 p.m. onward, the meeting was chaired by Deputy Mayor McCluskey.

1992/93 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

PARKS & REC.
DEPT.

Parks & Recreation Dept. staff, Bill Stevens and Geri Kaiser, were present and continued with their budget submission, begun at the April 6th meeting. Circulated to members of Council, was a report prepared by Mr. Stevens, showing a proposal for partial reinstatement of some playgrounds, in response to concerns from members about the elimination of the summer playground program from the Parks & Rec. budget. The net total cost projected for a partial reinstatement of playgrounds (2 locations per ward), plus the playwagon (1 unit), is \$35,500., and members were asked by the Mayor to indicate whether or not they want to have the playground item added to the list being compiled for reconsideration at the end of the budget. Three options were put to Council: (1) the original estimate of \$58,000.; (2) the partial reinstatement cost of \$35,500.; and (3) a suggested figure of \$25,000. The Majority vote favoured the \$35,500. figure, and therefore this is the figure that will be included for further consideration at the end of the budget process.

The next budget item that Council began to discuss was the proposed elimination of the Natal Day program from the Parks & Rec. budget, and the elimination of funding projections from other individual budgets, such as Works and Police Departments. Several members of Council were unwilling to give up the Natal Day budget altogether, and a scaled-down version, for a total cost of \$54,900., was circulated, having been prepared by the Natal Day Committee, for Council's consideration. Ald. Greenough suggested that perhaps the Works and Police Departments would be willing to assist with barricades and traffic control at no cost to the City, as a civic gesture, thereby further reducing the projected total of \$54,900., shown in the Committee's submission.

No decision was reached on Natal Day by 7:30 p.m., and budget discussions were adjourned in order to proceed with the public hearing scheduled for this date.

7.0 PUBLIC HEARING

i) APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT - PROPOSED DAY CARE,
81 SPRING AVE.

PUBLIC HEARING:
81 SPRING AVE.

Council set this date for public hearing of the application for a Development Agreement to permit the operation of a day care facility, for a maximum of 45 children, at 81 Spring Ave. The day care is presently in operation with 21 children, and this application would allow for an increase in that number to 45.

Members recorded as being absent, for purposes of the public hearing, were Ald. Rodgers and MacFarlane.

Members of Council previously received copies of all the relevant documentation, including the Planning Dept. report, which recommends in favour of the Development Agreement, and of Resolution 92-09, approving it. Mr. Lukan made the Planning Dept. presentation, advising that the application for 81 Spring Ave. complies with the M.P.S. and all the necessary criteria, as previously approved by Council. The existing driveway system will permit off-street parking, and will be modified in order to allow vehicles exiting the property, to do so in a forward motion (ie. instead of backing out onto the street). This addresses a traffic concern raised at the Neighborhood Information meeting. The property, zoned R-1, is to be converted totally to day-care use, the day care being presently operated under the Home Occupation provision for residential areas. Mr. Lukan stated the Planning Dept. recommendation that the Development Agreement be approved and authorized through the approval of Resolution 92-09.

Questions to Mr. Lukan from Council, concerned the compatibility of the day care with adjacent land uses (ie. residential); the adequacy of provisions for a buffer (fencing, as shown on the site plan circulated); access and egress on a busy street (Spring Ave.); the definition of 'compatible' and 'consistent', for purposes of the criteria applicable to this Development Agreement request. Mr. Moreash said these terms are more a question of Planning judgement and the judgement of Council, rather than a legal matter, and as such, to be decided by Planning and Council.

The Deputy Mayor opened the public hearing and called for speakers in favour of the application.

Council first heard Mr. Peter McInroy, representing the applicant, Helen Cadegan-Syms. He pointed out that the criteria in place for the Development Agreement, have been met, in the opinion of Planning staff, and that as a single-family residence, the building at 81 Spring Ave. is not going to be changed. He said the day care is deemed to be compatible with the R-1 area where it is located, that buffer and distance considerations have been adhered to, and that his client is willing to have a circular driveway provided, in order to improve access and egress conditions, and thereby addressing traffic concerns raised by area residents at the neighborhood meeting. He brought to Council's attention, the petition bearing 44 names of people who support the application, and submitted for the record, letters of support from: Sandra Francis, Allan & Darlene Wilson, Roger Morgan, and the Long family members - Kilmer Long, Heather Long and Gordon Long.

In response to questions from Ald. Hawley, Ms. Cadegan-Syms stated her two addresses as being: 81 Spring Ave. and 216 Flagstone Dr., Colby Village. She explained why the number 45 was chosen for expansion of her day care, down from the number 65, which she had originally proposed. Children cared for at her facility, range in age from three months to twelve years of age. There are presently ten children who attend school, and a van transports these children to and from the day care, so they are not walking and do not require the protection of crosswalks, a point of concern also referred to during the hearing.

Asked about other day cares in residential areas, Mr. Lukan advised that they are located at 7/7½ Mountain Ave., at 35 Andover Street (40 children), and at 34 Bellevista Drive (36 children). Ald. Woods asked about any noise complaints or accidents associated with this day care operation at 81 Spring Ave. Mr. McInroy said there have been none.

The following speakers, who have children attending the Spring Ave. day care, were heard in support of the Development Agreement application:

Mr. Roger Morgan, Collins Grove
Randy Power, Collins Grove
David Rushton, Collins Grove

All three speakers considered the day care to be well-run and an asset in the community. For the most part, their children are walked by the parents to and from the day care, so they did not feel they are contributing to the traffic on Spring Ave.

Another area resident speaking in favour was Ms. Molly Bishop, who lives on Dorothea Drive. She commended the day care operation at 81 Spring Ave., and said she could not see how it would be a disadvantage to the area in any way, including the outside use of the back yard by the children. She said there is more noise coming from a back yard adjacent to her property, than from the back yard of the day care.

The Deputy Mayor called three more times for any speakers in favour, and when there were none, she called for speakers opposed to the Development Agreement application.

Council first heard Mr. Charles Frost of 84 Spring Ave., a resident who has lived there for fourteen years. He looked on the day care as a commercial venture, and as such, an intrusion into the R-1 Zone where he lives. He felt that traffic volume will be increased on Spring Ave., with the additional children proposed (being dropped off and picked up by their parents), and was concerned that property values will depreciate in the area as a result of an expanded day care facility.

Mr. Jack Duffy, a twelve-year resident of 83 Spring Ave., also opposed the application, taking the position of Mr. Frost, that people who purchased properties in an R-1 Zone have a right to expect protection for their investment in those properties. He also felt the day care expansion will reflect negatively on property values, and complained that outdoor living during warmer months will be adversely affected by noise from the day care, especially with additional children in the back yard of the facility. He noted that in Halifax, day cares in residential areas cannot exceed 16 in number, and in the County, 14. He put on record, a letter of opposition from Mr. Fraser of 11 Medway Court, and a communication from Mr. & Mrs. Stirling Harris of 110 Collins Grove, who could not be present because they were at the closing for sale of their property, indicated as being sold because of the day care problems.

Asked by Ald. May about the relevance of property devaluation, in relation to the compatibility criteria, the Solicitor said his advice would be to focus on compatibility, and, if the proposal is so incompatible that it will affect adjacent properties, that will be an indication of incompatibility.

With reference to snapshots circulated by Mr. Duffy, with his submission to Council, showing a number of cars parked in front of the property at 81 Spring Ave., Mr. McInroy was permitted to inform Council that the pictures were taken on a Sunday, when there was a parents' meeting at the day care, and not during a regular weekday at the facility.

Ms. Heather Rae of 102 Collins Grove, a crosswalk guard in this area, told Council that patrons of the day care centre violate traffic regulations, and have created dangerous traffic situations at this location. Also opposed to the application before Council, was Mr. Charles Henman of 80 Spring Ave., who considered that the entire residential area will be hurt by what he called 'commercialization', in the form of this day care centre. He expected that traffic problems would increase with the additional children being brought to the day care, and he questioned the fact that the owner has been advertising additional space to take more children before her application was approved by Council.

The final speaker opposed was Mr. Colin MacPherson of Collins Grove, whose position was similar to that of the previous residents who spoke against. He accepted the day care facility, with the present number of children, but objected to any further expansion to 45.

The Deputy Mayor called three more times for any speakers against, and when there were none, declared the public hearing closed, on motion of Ald. Hetherington and Pye.

Following a brief recess, Council reconvened and proceeded with the consideration of Resolution 92-09, recommended by the Planning Dept.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 92-09,
as recommended by Planning Dept.

Moved: Ald. Hetherington
Second: Ald. Pye

Three members of Council supported the motion, Ald. Pye, Levandier and Hawley. They all felt that residential areas are the proper places for day cares, rather than in commercial or industrial zones. They did not see this

property use as being detrimental to the community where they are located, but rather, the offering of day care services was seen by them as worthwhile and suitable in a residential setting.

The other members of Council were not in support, because of the traffic on Spring Ave. (although it was recognized that traffic on this street would be bad with or without the day care); because they were not convinced that the compatibility criteria has been met by the application; because of the possibility of disturbance and disruption that would have a negative effect on property owners in the area; and the concerns of area residents about a devaluation of their properties due to the location of the day care in their neighborhood.

When the vote was taken on the motion, it was defeated.

In Favour: Ald. Pye, Hawley, Levandier

Against: All other members

Motion Defeated

In summing up the reasons for Council's rejection of the application for Development Agreement, the City Solicitor, listed the following:

- 1) parking requirements
- 2) traffic
- 3) Noise
- 4) incompatibility of use
- 5) devaluation of properties

Council members concurred with the list of reasons stated by the Solicitor.

Because of the lateness of the hour, Council adjourned at 10:15 p.m., without going back to the budget debate. The next budget debate will be held on Wed., April 8th at 6:30 p.m.

V. Carmichael

V. Carmichael,
Asst. City Clerk.

ITEMS:

- 1.0 Invocation, page 1.
1992/93 Operating Budget deliberations, page 1 & 2.
Parks & Recreation Dept., page 1 & 2.
 - 7.0 Public hearing, page 2.
 - i) Application for Development Agreement, proposed day care,
81 Spring Ave., page 2 to 6 incl.
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