

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES November 26, 1996

PRESENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald  
Councillors: Bill Dooks  
Gordon R. Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Ron Cooper  
Harry McInroy  
Jack Greenough  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Clint Schofield  
John Cunningham  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Graham L. Downey  
Larry Uteck  
Howard Epstein  
Russell Walker  
Bill Stone  
Ron Hanson  
Stephen Adams  
Barry Barnet  
Bob Harvey  
Peter Kelly  
Reg Rankin  
Jack Mitchell

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Patti Halliday, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. **INVOCATION**

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with an Invocation.

2. **PROCLAMATIONS - None**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 18, 1996**

In review of the minutes of the Public Hearing held on November 18, 1996, Councillor Cunningham noted Mr. Merrigan's first name should read "David" rather than "Jim."

Councillor Hetherington asked that the minutes reflect Councillors Cooper, Hetherington and Adams submitted Regrets for not attending this meeting.

**MOVED by Councillors Snow and Sarto that the minutes of November 18, 1996 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The Municipal Clerk requested the following items be added to the agenda:

- 13.1 Request from John F. Uthe to give a presentation to Council on December 3 re: Snow Removal for Seniors
- 13.2 Sale of Lot 41 Susie Lake Crescent, Bayers Lake Business Park
- 13.3 Councillor Harvey - Discussion - Tax Rate Structure
- 13.4 Councillor Barnet - Info Item #4 - Memorandum from Commissioner of Regional Operations dated November 15/96 re: Snow Services - Private Roads

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Walker that the Order of Business and Additions and Deletions be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None**

6. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - None**

7. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - None**

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Fitzgerald reminded Council there will be a "Mayor's Blood Clinic" held on Thursday, November 28th from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Red Cross Building, Gottingen Street, Halifax. He encouraged all

members of Council to attend, if possible.

**8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**8.1 Campaign Contributions (deferred from Nov. 19/96)**

- ! A report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services, regarding campaign contributions, dated October 23, 1996, was before Council. The report recommended that staff await any legislation which is forthcoming from the Province on this issue and will review and comment on their proposal at that time.

Councillor Hendsbee stated he had research done on this issue during the summer. He noted approximately one-half of the other provincial jurisdictions across the country are re-evaluating municipal elections as well. Councillor Hendsbee stressed the importance of this issue being dealt with early in the new year.

**MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Hetherington that the staff report be accepted and that this issue be studied early in 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Hendsbee agreed to provide the information he has to staff when they examine this issue.

**9. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**Petitions**

Councillor Mitchell passed the following petitions to the Municipal Clerk:

- ! Petition (5 signatures) from residents of Amy's Drive, Hackett's Cove, agreeing to turn all responsibility over to the municipality for the upkeep of Amy's Drive.
- ! Petition (57 signatures) from residents of the Brigley's Road community expressing concern regarding the side road off the upper end of Brigley's Road and safety hazards in the event of an emergency.

**11. REPORTS**

**11.1 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**11.1.1 International Softball Congress - Councillor Schofield**

- ! A memo from Councillor Schofield requesting the opportunity to address Council regarding the possibility of hosting the ISC world championships in 1999 in Halifax as part of the celebration of its 250th birthday, was before Council.

Councillor Schofield noted Mr. Bill Schurman, Chair of the host committee for the World Softball Tournament, was not available this evening. Councillor Schofield requested that Mr. John Brown, Commissioner, Atlantic Canada, International Softball Conference (ISC), be permitted to speak in his place. Council agreed with his request.

Mr. Brown stated he has been involved with the International Softball Conference (ISC) for the past six years. The ISC itself has been in existence for 51 years. It is the longest running fastball tournament in the world. The tournament consists of 1500 players and 48 teams. When this tournament was held in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, in 1994, it attracted 6,000 people per day. Mr. Brown felt if the tournament was held in HRM it could attract 15,000-20,000 people per day. The tournament would bring people from all over the world to the area.

In response to a question from Councillor Schofield, Mr. Brown replied the tournament was held with no cost to the City of Summerside as grants were obtained from the provincial and federal governments, and the tournament in 1994 provided Summerside with facilities that otherwise would not be in place.

Councillor Schofield acknowledged letters from the Hotel Association of Nova Scotia, the Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Halifax Conventions and Meetings Bureau endorsing his proposal to place a bid to have this tournament held in Halifax.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Brown for travelling from Summerside to attend this meeting.

**MOVED by Councillor Schofield and Deputy Mayor Greenough that staff be requested to prepare a report on the feasibility of holding the ISC tournament in Halifax in 1999. The report is to include examining facilities required to hold this event and whether or not they currently exist, confirmation of the indication that the Province will pay part of the money required up front, any grants that might be available, and whether or not HRM is interested in going ahead with such a proposal. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **11.2 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

### **11.2.1 Macdonald Bridge Approach Study - Consultant's Final Report**

- ! A report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations; Valerie Spencer, Commissioner of Policy and Planning; and, Dan English, Commissioner of Community Services, regarding the consultants' final report for

the Macdonald Bridge Approach Study, was before Council for discussion.

Councillor Blumenthal recognized the presence in the gallery of the following members of the Bridge Commission: Mr. Larry Doane, Chairman; Mr. Bill Bell, Secretary; Mr. Steven Snider, General Manager and CEO.

Mr. Donovan reviewed the staff report and the recommendations included in it.

Councillor Downey stated he supports staff's recommendation of Alternative #2. He felt this alternative should be implemented as it is cost effective and further prolonging the problem would be unfair to the residents. Councillor Blumenthal and Mayor Fitzgerald agreed with Councillor Downey's comments.

Councillor Kelly asked if there was any commitment for cost-sharing from the Bridge Commission. Mr. Donovan replied there was some discussion for cost-sharing but only relative to the bicycle connections from the bridge to the street network.

Councillor Kelly inquired as to what the value of the land is that will need to be given up for this proposal. Mr. Donovan stated they should have this information before making a final financial commitment.

With respect to Councillor Kelly's suggestion of having a priority two way traffic time frame, Mr. Dan O'Halloran, O'Halloran Campbell Consultants Limited, offered that serious consideration was given to this suggestion in a previous assessment for the Bridge Commission in 1985. The detailed traffic assessment of the diverted traffic showed that the north end of the city was incapable of handling the additional traffic. Councillor Kelly asked what the costs would be to repair the problems with the diverted traffic to which Mr. O'Halloran replied the costs would be quite significant and there would also be the need for considerable land acquisition.

Mr. Dave McCusker, Streetwise Engineering, presented the Macdonald Bridge Approach Study with the use of overheads.

Councillor Downey reiterated his comments regarding Alternative #2 and noted he has in his possession numerous studies that have been done on this issue.

Councillor Epstein stated he has concerns with approving the entire project all at once and suggested public hearings should be held as the bridge is a central piece to the transportation plan. Residents have ideas as to what they would like to see done. Mayor Fitzgerald and Councillor Hendsbee agreed that public input should be obtained as quickly as possible. Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with Plates 9 & 10 noting they are costly; however, he stated five or six plates should be implemented immediately.

Councillor Cooper asked if any alternatives to allow traffic to flow from two lanes on North Street to permit the closing off of Brunswick Street had been examined. Mr. Donovan

replied unless they can get the traffic up from Barrington Street, Brunswick Street will still need to be required.

Deputy Mayor Greenough stated the commuters have suffered long enough and it is incumbent for Council to do whatever they can in the shortest possible time frame to alleviate this problem. He agreed public hearings should be held and suggested one be held in Dartmouth and one be held in Halifax.

Deputy Mayor Greenough asked if this study has been discussed with the Bridge Commission. Mr. McCusker replied the Bridge Commission sat on the steering committee and they were satisfied the plan addressed the bridge improvements.

Councillor Blumenthal suggested the public hearings should be directed through the Community Councils. In response to a question from Councillor Blumenthal as to cost-sharing with the Province, Mr. Donovan replied he was unable to confirm this amount.

**MOVED by Councillors Downey and Blumenthal that design Alternative Two, (Page 5 of the staff report), be adopted in principle and that staff be requested to provide a report confirming cost-sharing arrangements with the Province as well as additional information regarding the cost figures for land acquisitions; further, that public hearings be held directed through the Community Councils (one to be held in Dartmouth and one to be held in Halifax). MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **2ND WAVERLEY SCOUT TROOP**

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Snow acknowledged the presence of the 2nd Waverley Scout Troop and introduced the 17 scouts and their 5 leaders. Mayor Fitzgerald welcomed the scouts and leaders to the meeting.

## **RECESS**

Council broke for a ten minute recess at 8:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Councillor Rankin arrived after the recess.

### **11.2.2 Vandalism - Halifax Public Gardens**

! An information report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, dated November 12, 1996, regarding recent vandalism in the Halifax Public Gardens, was before Council for discussion.

! An additional information report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, dated November 22, 1996, providing further information on

vandalism in the Halifax Public Gardens, was circulated to Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Uteck and Downey that existing Park Patrol in Point Pleasant Park be extended from 01 December 1996 to 31 March 1997 keeping a general eye on both facilities and the Halifax Public Gardens. The proposed extension would see one park security person on duty Sunday to Thursday night and two park security personnel on duty Friday and Saturday evening. Any observed infractions would be reported immediately to Halifax Regional Police as the proposed night time park patrol is basically a surveillance operation. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.2.3 Maintenance Agreement No. HRM-04, Halifax Regional Municipality**

! A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, recommending that Council authorize the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk to sign Maintenance Agreement No. HRM-04, was before Council for discussion.

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Sarto that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to sign Maintenance Agreement No. HRM-04 on behalf of Halifax Regional Municipality.**

Councillor Barnet expressed concern with the last sentence in the letter attached to the report from the Department of Transportation and Communications dated October 28, 1996 which read as follows:

*“When the agreement is executed, the snow and ice control grant payment will be forwarded to the Regional Municipality.”*

Councillor Barnet expressed concern that if HRM does not sign the agreement, it will not get the money owed from the Province.

Deputy Mayor Greenough assumed the Chair at 8:20 p.m.

Councillor Kelly asked why the following criteria from the July 29, 1996 letter from the Province was not negotiated into the agreement: *“Cost-sharing will be provided for routes that service shipping and ferry terminals which allow for the movement of freight and/or people on a national or international basis.”* In particular, he was referring to the Bedford Highway and if HRM has the right to restrict container vehicles on highways that are not cost-shared. Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Engineering Services, replied traffic cannot be stopped on streets because they are not cost-shared. If Council wishes, staff can go back to the Province and try to renegotiate additional streets to be added in the agreement. Truck traffic can be restricted on certain streets during particular times of the day, but not a certain type of truck traffic.

Councillor Hetherington asked if staff is looking at designating certain streets as truck routes, in particular the Victoria Road and Windmill Road Extension and Pleasant Street in Dartmouth. Mr. Dhillon replied maybe they should look at a new truck ordinance across HRM. Councillor Hetherington suggested this is something staff should be examining.

Councillor Stone stated a case needs to be made to have cost-sharing reinstated for streets that are being discontinued. Mr. Meech agreed and stated the present use of streets needs to be reviewed to determine if they should or should not be truck routes.

In response to a question from Deputy Mayor Greenough, Mr. Dhillon stated by not signing this agreement, HRM could lose the grant of just under \$200,000.

Councillor Stone asked for a listing of the streets that have been removed from the list for cost-sharing to which Mr. Dhillon agreed to provide this information.

**MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Barnet that Maintenance Agreement No. HRM-04 be deferred pending the upcoming meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.2.4 Cost-Sharing - Oversize Street, Clayton Park West - Phase 2**

! A staff report prepared for Richard Cameron, Acting Commissioner of Community Services, recommending that Council approve additional cost-sharing for the increased public open space frontage on Radcliffe Drive, was before Council for discussion.

**MOVED by Councillors Stone and Walker that Council approve additional cost-sharing for the increased public open space frontage on Radcliffe Drive pursuant to Cost-Sharing Policy 2105 in the amount of \$18,932.77 plus GST. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.2.5 The Khyber Building - 1588 Barrington Street, Halifax**

! A supplementary report prepared for Dan English, Commissioner of Community Services, regarding The Khyber Building, 1588 Barrington Street, Halifax, identifying the projects that cannot be implemented in fiscal year 1996-97 and the funds to be included in the 1997-98 Capital Budget in accordance with Council's 22 October 1996 motion, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Downey and Blumenthal that the following projects be referred to the 1997-98 Capital Budget:**

Northcliffe Multipurpose Room	\$52,000
Heritage Clock Contingency	\$20,000
Destination Signage Study	\$20,000

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.2.6 Change in Jurisdiction for Public Crossings in the Province of Nova Scotia, for the Bedford, Dartmouth and Chester Subdivisions, CN**

**!** A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, recommending changes in jurisdiction for public crossings in the Province of Nova Scotia, for the Bedford, Dartmouth and Chester Subdivisions, CN, was before Council for discussion.

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Schofield that Council accept the change of road authority and associated cost apportionments, to the identified crossings as shown below:**

**Bedford Subdivision**

**Mile 12.70 - Trunk 2 (Rocky Lake Drive); grade separation.**

**Mile 15.09 - Cobequid Road**

**Mile 16.02 - Fall River Road (McGuires Crossing)**

**Mile 16.31 - Community Centre Lane**

**Mile 17.24 - Fall River Road**

**Head Block Mile 13.12, Municipal Spraying Spur Mile 0.14 - Trunk 2**

**Dartmouth Subdivision**

**Mile 0.50 - Fall River Road**

**Mile 1.78 - Cobequid Road**

**Mile 2.23 - Trunk 2 (Rocky Lake Drive)**

**Mile 17.07 - Hines Road**

**Mile 17.34 - Howard Avenue**

**Head Block Mile 16.60, Auto Port Spur.**

**1) Spur Mile 0.45 - Hines Road**

**2) Spur Mile 0.71 - Howard Avenue**

**Chester Subdivision (Now Spur of Bedford Subdivision)**

**Head Block Mile 4.50, Lakeside Industrial Park Spur.**

**1) Spur Mile 0.22 - Dominion Crescent**

**2) Spur Mile 0.37 - Lakeside Park Drive**

Councillor Hendsbee asked if HRM is now going to be responsible for gate controls, signal lights, traffic controls, etc., for crossing railways. Mr. Anstey replied in the affirmative.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.2.7 Execution of Lease, Halifax Developments Ltd., Scotia Square**

- ! A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, recommending that a lease agreement be executed with Halifax Developments Ltd. to lease accommodation in Scotia Square for a fifteen (15) year period, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Adams and Blumenthal that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute a lease agreement with Halifax Developments Ltd., for 2,000 square feet of storage space, commencing April 1, 1996, for a term to run concurrently with the leases for office and storefront space, as part of an existing agreement previously entered into by the former City of Halifax.**

Mayor Fitzgerald resumed the Chair at 8:35 p.m.

Councillor Kelly asked if there was any more available space in the existing 46,500 square feet of space to find this 2,000 square feet. Mr. Meech noted some of this space is still occupied by the Province. Mr. McLellan added they just received notification that the Province will be vacating this space; however, Corporate Services will be moving into it. There is no other available space in the existing 46,500 square feet of general office space.

In response to a question from Councillor Barnet, Mr. Meech stated the space will be used for short term storage on an on-going basis.

Councillor Hendsbee asked what is the square footage charge for the lease to which Mr. McLellan replied he would report back with this information.

Councillor Cunningham stated storage is becoming a major problem and inquired about the usage of microfiche and computer scanning. Mr. McLellan stated microfiche is currently being used and there will be increased scanning in the near future.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.2.8 Corporate Issues and Initiatives**

- ! A staff report prepared for Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the Council workshop titled "Good Governance and Great Cities" held on October 4-5, 1996, was before Council.

Ms. Val Spencer, Commissioner, Policy and Planning, and Mr. Dan Gautreau, Principal, Corporate Issues and Initiatives, presented the report to Council.

Councillor Blumenthal requested that consideration be given to his religion when future

meetings are set up on Friday nights and Saturdays.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern with the time it takes for information to be made available to the residents on many issues. He stated the information should be provided to the public as quickly as possible.

**12. MOTIONS - None**

**13. ADDED ITEMS**

**13.1 Request from John F. Uthe to give a presentation to Council on December 3 re: Snow Removal for Seniors**

! A copy of an E-mail message from Mr. John F. Uthe requesting permission to make a presentation to Council on December 3, 1996 regarding the Spencer House Snow Removal Program, was before Council for consideration.

**MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Snow that Mr. John F. Uthe be permitted to give a presentation to Council on December 3 re: Snow Removal for Seniors.**

Councillor Hendsbee reported the Grants Committee met earlier in the day and will be making a recommendation to Council that a grant in the amount of \$5,000 be given for this snow removal program.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**13.2 Sale of Lot 41, Susie Lake Crescent, Bayers Lake Business Park**

! This issue was discussed In Camera before the regular Council Session.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Hetherington that the recommendation adopted In Camera be ratified by Council approving the sale of Lot 41 on Susie Lake Crescent in the Bayers Lake Business Park subject to the terms and conditions set out in the agreement of purchase and sale. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Cooper reiterated that the recommendation includes an option to purchase additional property.

**13.3 Information Item #4 - Memorandum from Commissioner of Regional Operations dated November 15/96 re: Snow Services - Private Roads**

! During the Approval of Additions and Deletions, Councillor Barnet requested that this item be brought forward from the Information Items for discussion.

Councillor Barnet expressed concern with Springfield Lake Road noting since 1975 the road has been maintained by the Province. This road stopped receiving maintenance on June 21, 1996. In 1992 or 1993, the municipality and the Province upgraded half of Springfield Lake Road to build a sewage treatment plant and to provide better accessibility for half of the residents of the street. The other half of the road remained a private road. Councillor Barnet stated every resident of this street has called him over the past six weeks expressing concern with the upcoming winter and inquiring whether or not there will be any maintenance of the road.

Councillor Barnet stated the residents are in the midst of preparing a petition indicating they are prepared to cost-share with the Municipality to upgrade the road and have it deeded over to the Municipality so they will no longer have this problem. Councillor Barnet asked if it would be possible for Springfield Lake Road, Quarry Road and Station Road to be provided courtesy winter maintenance service this year for the health and safety of the residents who live on these roads year round.

**MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Adams that a courtesy winter maintenance service be provided for residents of Springfield Lake Road, Quarry Road and Station Road for this year.**

Councillor Snow stated District 2 has a lot of citizens living on private roads as well. He felt all private roads should be identified and all citizens treated equally.

**MOVED by Councillors Snow and Hendsbee that this issue be deferred for two weeks pending a staff report identifying all private roads in HRM and the cost implications to plow them.**

Councillor Uteck expressed concerns with this issue noting there are a number of streets in his District that have never been plowed. He stated it will cost a significant amount of money to plow all private roads.

Councillor Dooks stated as of next year, private roads in the outer core area that are maintained by the Province will no longer be maintained. He stated if the inner core area private roads are going to be plowed, then the outer core area roads should be extended the same service.

Councillor Dooks requested when studies are done on the inner core that they also be done on the outer core area. He reiterated previous requests for reports and stated he will ask through the means of the Community Council that these studies are done and followed up.

Councillor Hendsbee stated he would like to see all private roads upgraded in the core area so this problem will not occur next year.

Councillor Epstein stated his understanding is the report before them is an interim solution for this year and that the issue of private roads will be dealt with in the future.

Deputy Mayor Greenough stated the cost ramifications need to be determined before any streets are added nothing that an overall policy for private roads needs to be developed.

Mr. McLellan stated HRM has an obligation for twenty-two roads as per a prior agreement. The agreement has nothing to do with roads outside the core area. If there are to be arrangements for private road maintenance outside of the core area, they will be done through the Department of Transportation and Communication and the residents of the road.

Councillor Walker stated he would like to have a report on the costs of adding the three roads requested by Councillor Barnet.

Councillor Stone stressed the importance of receiving staff reports on issues before making decisions.

Councillor Adams expressed concern with safety hazards if private roads are not being plowed. An example he offered would be fire protection vehicles not being able to access houses if the street were not cleared.

Councillor Hetherington expressed concern with as to where the funding will come to pay for the maintenance of these private roads as well as the liability of municipal vehicles going on private roads.

Councillor Barnet reiterated his request stating it was only for an interim basis.

Mr. McLellan stated any private road in the core area could be evaluated to be added to the list. However, as it stands now, HRM's obligation is for the twenty-two roads in the report.

Councillor Mitchell stated people living in the rural areas on private roads need to be taken into consideration.

Councillor Cooper stated he would like to see public road rights of way to be taken into consideration as well.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated as much as he would like to see all private roads plowed, there is no money to provide this service.

Mr. Meech noted there are many people who live on a private road because that is where they chose to build and may not want to absorb the cost for maintenance service. Councillor Barnet noted that is not the case on the three roads to which he is referring.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.4 Councillor Harvey - Single Tax Rate Structure**

- ! A memo from Councillor Harvey regarding press reports about unannounced meetings of urban councillors to discuss capital projects and a single tax rate structure, was before Council for discussion.

Councillor Harvey spoke on the recent press reports about unannounced meetings of urban councillors, in camera meetings and workshop meetings. Councillor Harvey stated it was really a press issue rather than a case touching many people, at least in District 20. However, residents he represents sees this as unequal treatment of their interests and contradictory to the spirit of this Council and members' oath to represent all of HRM. Councillor Harvey stated Council has the ability to put this issue aside publicly tonight and move on to provide the citizens with decisions on issues that treat them with equity and fairness. Councillor Harvey appreciated Councillor Hetherington's statement printed in the press.

Mayor Fitzgerald commended Councillor Harvey for his comments.

Councillor Blumenthal stated he spoke to Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, earlier in the day and there is no law that states two or three Councillors cannot get together to talk about issues. For the record, Councillor Blumenthal confirmed Councillor Hetherington's press statement was factual. Councillor Blumenthal stated he will do whatever is necessary to help the residents he represents.

Councillor Cooper stated that there was a public perception of blocks of Councillors meeting from the recent sequence of events reported in the paper. Councillor Cooper stated residents must get the feeling of unity in Council. If not, they will begin to demand protection for their individual districts.

Councillor Barnet accepted the discussion on this issue and agreed with Councillor Harvey the time has come to move on for the good of the entire municipality.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated he believed Council is beginning to work together and this issue is just a "growing pain."

Councillor Kelly stated this issue is a matter of trust with Council and trust of the public in Council to do their job collectively and fairly.

Councillor Mitchell stated he felt Council is made up of team players who are open minded and fair.

Mayor Fitzgerald reiterated he felt Council is doing an excellent job working together.

Councillor Hetherington explained the meeting held previously was on recommendation of Council to obtain information on Community Councils for those not familiar with them. The other meeting was an information session to obtain a better understanding of area rates. Councillor Hetherington stated he will do whatever it takes to get the information needed to make decisions for the people he was elected to represent. Councillor Hetherington further stated there is great respect in this Council.

Councillor Dooks stated to gain the public's respect, Council should work together, bring in a balanced budget and focus its attention on no tax increases for the residents of HRM.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated he appreciated Councillor Harvey for raising this issue and all those who spoke on it.

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION - None**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal and Deputy Mayor Greenough that Council move In Camera at 10:05 p.m. to deal with a labour relations matter.**

Adjournment was from the In Camera session.

**Vi Carmichael  
Municipal Clerk**