

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES November 20, 2001

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Robert P. Harvey
Councillors: Stephen Streach
Gary Hines
Keith Colwell
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Brian Warshick
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Diana Whalen
Linda Mosher
Stephen D. Adams
Brad Johns
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. George McLellan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Patti Halliday, Assistant Municipal Clerk

Table of Contents

1.	INVOCATION	4
2.	PROCLAMATIONS	4
	2.1 National Child Day - November 20, 2001	4
	2.2 National Housing Strategy Day - November 22, 2001	4
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE	4
4.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	4
5.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	4
6.	MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE	4
7.	MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE	4
8.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - Nov. 13/01	4
	8.1 Property Buy-Back - Lot 64-9D Crane Lake Dr., Bayers Lake Business Park	5
	8.2 Removal of Garbage from the Metro Food Bank - Councillor Johns	5
9.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	5
	9.1 Petitions	5
	9.1.1 Councillor Goucher - School Bus Service - Bedford	5
	9.1.2 Councillor Hines - One Zone - Taxi Industry	5
	9.1.3 Councillor Mosher - Letters of Thanks re: Removal of Partial Street Closures off Quinpool Road	5
	9.1.4 Councillor Sarto - Mount Edward Elementary School Playground Equipment	6
	9.2 Presentation	6
	9.2.1 National Housing Strategy Day - Dorothy Patterson	6
10.	REPORTS	6
	10.1 HALIFAX REGIONAL TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE	6
	10.1.1 Removal of Limitations of the Number of Taxi Owners Licenses in the Halifax and Dartmouth Taxi Zones	6
	10.2 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	12

10.2.1	Armview Corridor Shortcutting	12
10.2.2	Case 00407 - Application to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy for Cole Harbour/Westphal	13
10.2.3	Kiosks and Pole Collars Project	14
10.2.4	Request for Legislative Change - Issuance of Debt by HRM	15
10.3	MEMBERS OF COUNCIL	15
10.3.1	Councillor Goucher - Request for Status Update Regarding an Amendment to the Municipal Government Act Respecting Reduced Speed Zones in residential areas	15
12.	ADDED ITEMS - None	16
13.	NOTICES OF MOTION	16
13.1	Councillor Streach - Deregulation of Taxi Industry	16
13.2	Councillor Mosher - Amendment to Admin Order #1	16
13.3	Councillor Adams - Increase in Taxi License Limitation - Halifax Zone ...	17
14.	ADJOURNMENT	17

1. **INVOCATION**

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Rankin.

2. **PROCLAMATIONS**

2.1 **National Child Day - November 20, 2001**

November 20, 2001 was proclaimed to be National Child Day.

2.2 **National Housing Strategy Day - November 22, 2001**

November 22, 2001 was proclaimed to be National Housing Strategy Day.

In other business, Councillor Rankin requested that the Mayor send a letter of congratulations to Saint Mary's University in recognition of the SMU Huskies football team's decisive win over Laval in the Atlantic Bowl held last weekend, and, in particular, recognition of Larry Uteck, SMU Athletic Director, former coach and Councillor. Councillor Warshick requested that a letter of congratulations also be sent to the coach and players of the St. Pat's Fighting Irish high school football team which won, for the first time in almost 30 years, the city wide championship held last weekend.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE**

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

There were no additions, deletions or changes to the agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the agenda be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Councillor Goucher advised Council and the public that the application for exemption from the Noise By-Law from Greater Homes regarding the Summer Cove Condominium, which was scheduled for a Public Hearing on November 27, 2001, has been withdrawn.

6. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE**

7. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE**

8. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - Nov. 13/01**

8.1 **Property Buy-Back - Lot 64-9D Crane Lake Dr., Bayers Lake Business Park**

C This matter was discussed during an In Camera session held on November 6, 2001, and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Whalen, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that:

1. **Pursuant to the Buy-Back Agreement, Halifax Regional Municipality authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to buy-back Lot 64-9D Crane Lake Drive, Bayers Lake Business Park for the amount of \$57,365.10, plus applicable closing adjustments.**
2. **Funds to be withdrawn from the Business Park Expansion Reserve Q-121.**
3. **That the October 15, 2001 Private and Confidential staff report be released to the public. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.2 **Removal of Garbage from the Metro Food Bank - Councillor Johns**

Councillor Johns requested that the following be taken into consideration in the staff report requested by Councillor Fougere on November 13th with respect to this issue: what the implications would be to remove the current tipping fees being paid by any food or furniture bank within the Municipality. The Councillor noted the organizations would still pay for their garbage collection, but they would receive a break on the tipping fees. Councillor Johns noted Metro Food Bank is currently paying \$64,000 per year for garbage removal.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

9.1 **Petitions**

9.1.1 **Councillor Goucher - School Bus Service - Bedford**

Councillor Goucher submitted correspondence from a Bedford resident requesting that the boundaries for school bus service be re-examined. The Councillor requested that the Mayor send a letter to the Halifax Regional School Board expressing Council's concerns with respect to this issue.

9.1.2 Councillor Hines - One Zone - Taxi Industry

Councillor Hines served a petition from Zone Three Owners and Operators requesting that one zone be considered as a solution to the taxi situation in HRM.

9.1.3 Councillor Mosher - Letters of Thanks re: Removal of Partial Street Closures off Quinpool Road

Councillor Mosher submitted letters of thanks from residents with respect to the removal of the partial street closures off Quinpool Road.

9.1.4 Councillor Sarto - Mount Edward Elementary School Playground Equipment

Councillor Sarto served correspondence from the Mount Edward Community Group requesting assistance from HRM to replace the playground equipment on the grounds of Mount Edward Elementary School. The Councillor asked that the request be forwarded to staff for consideration in the upcoming capital budget.

9.2 Presentation

9.2.1 National Housing Strategy Day - Dorothy Patterson

Ms. Dorothy Patterson, in recognizing Council's proclamation regarding National Housing Strategy Day, made a presentation to Council with respect to homelessness and the lack of adequate affordable housing.

Mayor Kelly thanked Ms. Patterson for her presentation, and expressed support for her time and efforts on this issue. The Mayor noted that Councillor Rankin has previously brought these issues forward to FCM on Council's behalf.

10. REPORTS

10.1 HALIFAX REGIONAL TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE

10.1.1 Removal of Limitations of the Number of Taxi Owners Licenses in the Halifax and Dartmouth Taxi Zones

C A report from the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee regarding the above was circulated to Council for its consideration.

- C Correspondence from David Withrow and Edis Flewwelling dated November 15, 2001, regarding the above was before Council for its consideration.
- C Correspondence from David Withrow, dated November 20, 2001, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.
- C Correspondence from Darshan Virk and J. P. Gallant, United Cab Drivers Association of Halifax, dated November 8, 2001, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.
- C Correspondence from Emile Abi Daoud, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

Councillor Adams, Chair, Halifax Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee, presented the Committee's report to Council.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Smith, that Halifax Regional Council approve, in principle, that limitation of the number of taxi owner licenses (roof lights) in the Halifax and Dartmouth taxi zones remain in place with the limit of taxi owner licenses increasing in Halifax from 550 to 610 and the limit remaining at 200 taxi owner licenses in Dartmouth.

Responding to a question of Councillor Uteck, Mr. Peter James, Regional Coordinator, By-Law Enforcement, stated there are 604 licensed taxis currently operating in the Halifax zone. Mr. James stated the matter of how to issue additional roof lights will be discussed by the Committee in December. Mr. James further stated it is his opinion that the increase of six taxis will have a negligible impact on the availability of taxis, and, from a public policy position, staff does not recommend limitation on the number of taxi owner licenses in HRM.

Councillor Adams noted that previously a lot of roof lights were renewed and, subsequently, the vehicle insurance was cancelled and the light ended up in a closet. The Councillor noted that although there were 656 licensed taxis at one time, they were not all working. Councillor Adams noted there is now a 30 day renewal period so the vehicles have to be back on the road within 30 days of expiry of the license. Previously, it was six months. The Councillor stated that the increase of six licenses, taken in context with all the other recommendations approved by Council, will work as a package.

In response to a question of Councillor Uteck, Councillor Adams stated the Committee will recommend next month who will get licenses and how they will get them. The Councillor suggested some improvement in service will be seen when these licenses begin to be issued.

Councillor Adams stated the recommendation makes sense given the current economic times. Councillor Uteck expressed concern with the upcoming holiday season and the difficulties people experience attempting to get taxis.

Responding to a question of Councillor Hetherington, Mr. James stated there are currently 190 owners licensed in Dartmouth. The renewal deadline is the end of this month, and there will be 200 at that time. Councillor Hetherington recommended that this number be increased to 210 or 220, noting he also receives calls from residents experiencing difficulty in obtaining taxis.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Cooper, that the motion be amended so that the limit of taxi owner licenses in the Dartmouth zone be increased to 210.

Councillor Warshick spoke in support of the amendment.

Speaking against the amendment, Councillor Smith stated there was no discussion of raising the Dartmouth limit at the Committee level. The Councillor stated, personally, he has experienced no problems obtaining a taxi in Dartmouth.

Speaking against the amendment, Councillor Adams stated he has received no complaints regarding the number of taxis in Dartmouth, and there was very little discussion from the Dartmouth taxi drivers on this issue at the Committee level. Councillor Adams stated this increase will not resolve the problems of obtaining taxis. Mayor Kelly inquired if the Committee has looked at the possibility of seeking amendments to the legislation from the Province to ensure the taxi companies have a certain number of dispatchers and cars in use at all times. Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, stated he could not recall the Province ever being approached in this regard. Mayor Kelly inquired if the Committee would be willing to look at this, and Councillor Adams responded in the affirmative.

Closing the debate on the amendment, Councillor Hetherington noted that Dartmouth residents who experience problems obtaining taxis are more likely to call Dartmouth Councillors to express their concerns.

The vote was then taken on the amendment.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Responding to a question of Councillor Walker, Mr. James stated there is currently no official waiting list to issue roof lights. However, he noted there is a list of people who have requested roof lights which contains over 800 names. Councillor Adams clarified there is a list of drivers that is supposedly a seniority list, but it is not an accurate reflection of who would want a light, as it also includes everyone who now has a light. The Councillor stated the intent is not to give someone, who already has a light, another light. Councillor Adams suggested there are approximately 120 people who could potentially receive one of the new lights. Mr. James

agreed this list was not an appropriate tool to use to issue roof lights and an appropriate procedure to issue these roof lights will be discussed by the Committee in December.

In response to a further question of Councillor Walker, Mr. James stated staff has no way of determining who will work as once the license is issued it is up to the individual whether or not they wish to work. The feasibility of having a "use it or lose it" clause has been discussed as an alternative by the Committee. In response to a question of Councillor Walker regarding brokers, Mr. James stated the idea of moving towards regulating brokers would be further entrenching the municipality in the regulation of the taxi industry. Councillor Walker stated if the cars are not dispatched in an orderly manner, the increase will not work. In response, Mr. James stated if there were a lot of roof lights out there with no brokers giving them the calls, new brokerage firms would emerge and fulfill that demand. Mr. James stated it would be his preference that this type of recommendation would be discussed with the Committee, as well, as it is a significant policy change. Mr. George McLellan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, suggested the issue regarding brokers can be addressed at the Committee without involving a regulatory response from staff. Councillor Walker stated he had no problems with this going to the Committee, however, he stated if Council is going to get involved in the dispute, it needs to regulate both.

Councillor Blumenthal also expressed concern with the brokers and the lack of night time taxi drivers, and put forth the following amendment:

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that this matter be referred back to the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee to discuss the possibility of the number of taxi licenses in the Halifax zone being increased by 10 percent and that these additional drivers be given a special roof light for nights only. Further, that the Committee examine the possibility of putting something forth to the Province regarding the regulation of brokers so as a certain number of dispatchers are in place per 100-125 taxis.

Mr. Anstey stated the practical difficulty with this is it is difficult to regulate the industry now and having roof lights that only apply to a particular time of the day will only add more complications. Also, he noted most of the taxi drivers who spoke at the Committee meeting do not want any additional taxis. Mr. Anstey stated the taxi drivers in Halifax would likely agree that there is no shortage of cabs in downtown Halifax in the night time, as they claim there are a lot of Dartmouth cabs in Halifax in the evenings in addition to the Halifax cabs. Mr. Anstey stated if this is true, it is contrary to the By-Law but it is not being enforced. Therefore, he suggested, if this motion passes, By-Law Enforcement will need additional staff to enforce it.

With regard to the regulation of the taxi industry, Mr. McLellan stated a lot of regulatory effort is related to the drivers' vehicles which have to be maintained in a certain order and condition.

He stated this is an issue that is a matter of policy, but not necessarily one of regulation. Mr. McLellan suggested the Committee should be perhaps expressing a view on how they intend to revisit that periodically with regard to advising Council on instances such as this.

Responding to a question of Councillor Warshick, Mr. James confirmed that there is a waiting list for roof lights in Dartmouth. Councillor Adams stated there are currently 139 names on this list.

Councillor Blumenthal agreed to separate his motion, noting the issue of the regulation of brokers is another matter. The Councillor stated he would put forth another motion later regarding the brokers. Both the Mover and the Secunder agreed to the following amended motion:

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that this matter be referred back to the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee to discuss the possibility of the number of taxi licenses in the Halifax zone being increased by 10 percent and that these additional drivers be given a special roof light for nights only.

Mr. Anstey stated the Committee has already expressed its opinion on this issue as a motion to increase the number to 650+ was already defeated by the Committee. He noted that the vast majority of industry members that spoke at that meeting were in favour of maintaining the status quo.

Mayor Kelly noted HRM does not currently have the authority to regulate when the taxis can and cannot work. If Council wanted to proceed with this, the Province would need to be approached for the legislation to do so.

Based on these comments, Councillor Blumenthal withdrew his motion.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

Responding to a question of Councillor Warshick, Councillor Adams confirmed there will be a Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee meeting in December at which time issues, such as dispatchers, will be discussed. Councillor Warshick stated it is his understanding there are few owners that own two or three cab companies. Therefore, the Councillor stated he believes they are working on efficiencies within them and cutting back on dispatchers. Councillor Warshick inquired if this has been discussed by staff or the Committee. In response, Mr. James noted there are 159 registered taxi companies, the majority of which are independents. He stated discussions have not been initiated with the brokers, nor have staff looked at efficiencies there through working cooperatively. Councillor Warshick suggested for the upcoming report from the Committee, that an outline be provided identifying the larger numbers of cab companies, who are the owners, and how many cabs are currently registered

to them. The Councillor inquired if information will also be provided regarding people who own more than one roof light. In response, Councillor Adams stated there is a recommendation that any new roof lights issued will be issued one per person from this point forward.

Councillor Smith stated Council needs to look at trying to provide more service to the residents, and it is evident that the number of taxis is not the entire problem. The Councillor expressed concern that there is no regulation of the brokers.

Responding to a question of Councillor Sloane, Mr. James stated all taxis, including independents, are licensed by zone. The Councillor expressed concern with the lack of regulation of brokers.

Councillor Streach questioned why the municipality is involved in the regulation of the taxi industry. In response, Mr. Anstey stated the municipality originally regulated taxis from a safety point of view. From this, the regulation expanded into driver training, language and geography testing, etc. In 1995, there was pressure from the industry in Halifax and Dartmouth to impose limitations on the number of licenses. A consultant study was completed in Halifax recommending against it and staff agreed with this recommendation. However, there was a lot of political pressure put on by the industry and it was subsequently adopted by Council. Councillor Streach suggested it may be time to move away from this and introduce deregulation of the taxi industry. The Councillor stated he knows of no other industry that has the ability to dictate who and how much the competition will be. Councillor Streach requested that a comment on deregulation be included in the forthcoming report.

Councillor Sarto stated if the industry is overloaded with taxis, everyone will suffer. The Councillor suggested the problem lies with the dispatchers.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Rankin stated it is a fair compromise which was worked through by the Committee. The Councillor noted the municipality has imposed a number of standards on the industry and the drivers should be able to expect a reasonable livelihood.

Councillor Whalen stated the increase in license numbers is insignificant and will not make an appreciable difference in the overall operation of the industry. The Councillor suggested HRM does not belong in the taxi business because limiting the number of licenses is not helping the residents. However, Councillor Whalen stated she will support the motion as it is a move to attempt to take some of the pressure off the industry, but she suggested Council should be considering what it can do that is more significant, such as changing the composition of the Committee to consist of all residents.

With respect to the motion, Mr. McLellan stated whatever the merits are of HRM being in this business, virtually all of Council's enforcement is related to public safety or quality of life. Mr. McLellan advised Council needs to stay within its mandate which is unrelated to managing the economics of any private sector.

Speaking against the motion, Deputy Mayor Harvey stated it will only perpetuate that Council should be setting the right number of licenses in the former City of Halifax. The Deputy Mayor agreed with Mr. McLellan that Council is supposed to be regulating the quality of the cab and the driver. With respect to the number of cabs and drivers, Deputy Mayor Harvey stated that should be left to the marketplace to determine.

Councillor Uteck suggested it is time for the public to make its voice heard, as there is a silent majority that has concerns with respect to this issue.

Councillor Cooper stated the increase in the number of licenses is not going to make much difference. The Councillor suggested the problem lies with the dispatchers not getting the taxis to the people who require them

Responding to a question of Councillor Streach, Mr. James stated the policy of limitation was introduced in the Halifax zone in 1995. Mr. James noted when the matter of limitation first came forward to Council, he made the recommendation that limitation should be removed but HRM should remain in the business of regulating the safety of vehicles, drivers and taxi fares.

Closing the debate, Councillor Adams stated the number of taxis should not be increased only to satisfy the increased demand during certain periods of the year, such as the Christmas season. The Councillor stated many aspects of the industry are regulated and opening up the number of licenses will not mean free enterprise. Councillor Adams stated it should be recognized that the proposed increase indicates a movement on part of the drivers. The Councillor noted there are individuals in the taxi industry who have made significant improvements, making the industry one of the best in the country. Councillor Adams stated the motion is a reasonable compromise for all those involved. In closing, the Councillor encouraged Council to adopt the motion, and the Committee will come back in December with a report addressing the questions regarding brokers, deregulation, and the other issues raised by Council.

The vote was then taken on the motion. A **Recorded Vote** was requested.

Members of Council voting **in favour** of the motion: Mayor Kelly, Councillors: Colwell, Cooper, Warshick, Sarto, Smith, Cunningham, Sloane, Uteck, Fougere, Walker, Whalen, Mosher, Adams Rankin and Meade.

Members of Council voting **against** the motion: Deputy Mayor Harvey, Councillors: Streach, Hines, McInroy, Hetherington, Blumenthal and Goucher.

MOTION PASSED. (16 in favour, 7 against) (Councillor Johns was absent for the vote.)

10.2 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.2.1 Armview Corridor Shortcutting

- C An information report prepared for Phil Cochrane, Acting Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, was circulated to Council.
- C Correspondence from William and Susan McCann (including 38 names), John Dick, and Dr. Deborah Thompson and Family, regarding the above, was circulated to Council.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that this matter be referred to the Peninsula Community Council meeting of December 10, 2001, for a recommendation to be brought back to Regional Council.

Responding to a question of Councillor Mosher, Mayor Kelly confirmed the matter will come back to Regional Council for final deliberations. With respect to the information report, Councillor Mosher stated the agenda indicated the report would be circulated, however, she noted a copy was given by staff to Councillor Uteck yesterday. The Councillor advised that she received calls from residents last night and this morning regarding the report before obtaining a copy herself. Councillor Mosher stated all Councillors are supposed to receive reports at the same time, and advised she will be putting forth a Notice of Motion to ensure this does not occur again in the future. On a Point of Order, Councillor Uteck apologized to Councillor Mosher, stating it was her understanding that the report was going to be delivered to all Councilors at the same time. On behalf of staff, Mr. McLellan apologized to Councillor Mosher, stating a member of staff released the report to Councillor Uteck, which is not uncommon when a key Councillor is involved in an issue. The purpose is to give them some indication of where staff is headed in terms of its recommendation.

Councillor Walker stated he has no problem with the matter being referred to the Community Council, but requested that when it comes back to Regional Council it comes with staff's blessing.

Responding to a question of Councillor McInroy regarding jurisdiction with respect to the Traffic Authority, Mr. Anstey stated many items referenced in the information report are within the jurisdiction of the Traffic Authority. Councillor McInroy stated Council needs to clearly understand that there is not the legal ability for a Community Council or Council to direct the

Traffic Authority. Mr. McLellan noted that although this issue will be dealt with by the Peninsula Community Council, it is an area of interest beyond that Community Council. However, the request is that the Peninsula Community Council be permitted to consider it first and, following that, it would be his understanding that staff will take into account the interests of the larger area in terms of factoring their response to Council.

For the record, Councillor Uteck stated that, two weeks ago, the Traffic Authority endorsed what Council overturned in one week without a report. The Councillor noted that Metro Transit indicated that the buses ran one to two minutes behind during the partial street closures. Councillor Uteck stated she would like the opportunity for the residents to come together for one last chance at conciliation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RECESS

A recess was taken at 7:50 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

10.2.2 Case 00407 - Application to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy for Cole Harbour/Westphal

C A staff report prepared for Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning and Development Services, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor McInroy, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Initiate the process to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy for Cole Harbour/Westphal to permit warehousing at 850 Highway No. 7, Westphal by development agreement.**
- 2. Request staff to follow the public participation program as approved by Council in February 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.2.3 Kiosks and Pole Collars Project

C A staff report prepared for John Sheppard, Acting Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

With the use of sketches, Councillor Sloane illustrated the proposed kiosks and pole collars.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Fougere, that Halifax Regional Council permit, without charge, the encroachment of two kiosks and ten pole collars for bill posting in the downtown locations shown on the sketch attached to the staff report dated November 20, 2001. These post boards will be owned and operated by the Halifax Downtown Business Commission.

In response to a question of Councillor McInroy, Mr. Mark Bernard, Right-of-way Engineer, stated the funds for this project will come from the Capital District capital funds for the Streetscape Improvement Program. Ms. Deborah Grant, Executive Director, Downtown Halifax Business Commission, stated the Commission applied for funding through the Streetscape Project and received an amount of \$53,000.

Responding to a question of Councillor Meade regarding the pole collars, Mr. Bernard stated Engineering has approved them, noting they are very easy to remove. With respect to the proposed location for one of the kiosks in Grand Parade, Councillor Meade stated he did not think it was appropriate. In response, Mr. Bernard stated it is his understanding that this matter is still before the Heritage Advisory Committee. He noted that the matter currently before Council is for the two that require an encroachment permit.

Councillor Fougere advised Council that these initiatives are also being considered for Quinpool Road. The Councillor noted the design of the kiosks can be altered somewhat to accommodate the locale. Councillor Fougere stated that both she and Councillor Uteck have designated money from their discretionary funds for two kiosks on Quinpool Road.

Councillor Cooper also expressed concern with the proposed location of a kiosk in Grand Parade.

Responding to a question of Councillor Colwell, Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services, stated it is her understanding that the funding for this project is coming from the capital funds set aside and approved by Council in the streetscapes budget, which is an appropriate use in terms of the nature of the project. Mr. Lew Rogers, Director, Tourism, Culture and Heritage, stated the streetscapes budget is a capital budget item for the Capital District and is authorized by Council through the budgeting process. The streetscapes budget is a partnership budget, driven by applications by the business commissions. The Downtown Halifax Business Commission will be funding the operation and maintenance of these kiosks, and HRM will be funding the capital cost of them.

Councillor Streach stated he believes the Grand Parade location is very appropriate.

Closing the debate, Councillor Sloane stated the program will benefit the downtown.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.4 Request for Legislative Change - Issuance of Debt by HRM

- C A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Warshick, that Halifax Regional Council authorize the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, and the Minister of Finance, requesting that the necessary legislative changes be made which would enable the Halifax Regional Municipality to issue debentures. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.3.1 Councillor Goucher - Request for Status Update Regarding an Amendment to the Municipal Government Act Respecting Reduced Speed Zones in residential areas

Councillor Goucher noted a staff report was requested, as a result of a motion adopted on March 27, 2001, with regards to an Amendment to the Municipal Government Act respecting reduced speed zones in residential areas. The Councillor requested that the Mayor write a letter to both Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and the Minister of Transportation to request that the following motion adopted by Council on March 27, 2001 be moved forward:

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that staff be requested to prepare a report with respect to requesting enabling legislation under the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia to use reduced speeds, up to 30 kph, in residential areas deemed necessary for traffic calming and safety issues. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Walker stated he believes that Council received communication back from the Minister stating this would not be permitted at this time.

Councillor Hetherington noted the resolution would have to be approved by UNSM and forwarded to the Province. Any response from the Province would have been forwarded back to UNSM. The Councillor suggested the issue could be raised with Mr. Ken Simpson to determine the status.

Councillor Goucher stated the request of Council was made in response to a presentation made by Mr. Ken Linesman, Traffic Calming Consultant to Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 23, 2001. The Councillor noted, if this request was granted, it would resolve many of HRM's traffic concerns. Councillor Goucher requested that a status

report be requested from staff to confirm whether or not this request has been acted upon, and, if not, that the matter be addressed as soon as possible.

MOVED by Councillor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Sarto, that Council request a status update regarding an Amendment to the Municipal Government Act respecting reduced speed zones in residential areas, which was originally raised at the March 27, 2001, meeting of Committee of the Whole. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. ADDED ITEMS - None

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

13.1 Councillor Streach - Deregulation of Taxi Industry

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular meeting of the Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2001, I intend to introduce a motion to have staff initiate the process to commence deregulation of the Halifax Regional Municipality's taxi industry; and, more specifically, have HRM involved only in the aspects of licensing as well as training, safety and fares.

13.2 Councillor Mosher - Amendment to Admin Order #1

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, the 27th day of November 2001, I propose to place before Council for adoption as a policy pursuant to the Municipal Government Act an amendment to Administrative Order Number 1, the amendment being to add to Section 25 thereof an additional subsection as follows:

- (3) Where an item on the agenda has a notation indicating that the report will be circulated other than with the agenda package listed in subsection (1), the report shall be delivered, faxed, or circulated to all members of Council as soon as it is practical prior to the regular meeting of Council, and the report shall be provided to all members of Council as near as is reasonably possible at the same time, and in no event shall the report be made available to the public prior to the report having been provided to all members of the Council.

13.3 Councillor Adams - Increase in Taxi License Limitation - Halifax Zone

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, the 27th day of November 2001, I propose to introduce a motion to increase the limit of taxi vehicle licenses in the Halifax Zone from 550 to 610.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk