

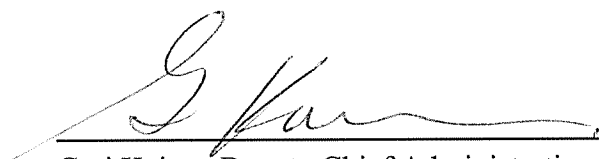
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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
April 18, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 14, 2006

SUBJECT: Council Meeting Schedule - Options

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the December 2005 Council meeting Councillor Younger requested a staff report on alternative council scheduling for 2007.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Administrative Order No.1 Section 8 (2) states that “Council shall meet every Tuesday by the hour of 6:00 p.m., with the exception of vacation periods as determined by Council by resolution”. Each year in late fall the Municipal Clerk’s Office circulates the proposed Regional Council meeting schedule for the upcoming year (current schedule attachment “A”).

Based on Administrative Order No. 1, the schedule sets out weekly Council meetings to begin at 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday. The schedule also indicates dates for summer recess and for statutory holidays such as Victoria, Thanksgiving and the December holiday period. In addition, Committee of the Whole has been scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesday each month as required. Additional Committee of the Whole meetings are scheduled throughout the year as the need arises.

Staff seeks direction

To commence discussions on this topic draft attachment “B” indicates one option that Council may care to consider. Administrative Order No. 1 does not require Council to meet for Committee of the Whole on any specific day or time. It is possible to have Regional Council meetings (which would include Public Hearings) and In Camera meetings one week, alternating with Committee of the Whole the following week.

Under this scenario, motions passed at Committee of the Whole would be ratified by Regional Council immediately following the Committee of the Whole session. An amendment to Administrative Order No. 1 would be required to set out the process whereby Council would convene in order to ratify a recommendation from the Committee.

In terms of Community Council meeting dates, the option in draft attachment “B” could facilitate the Community Councils if they choose to meet on either the second or the fourth week of the month. This would mean that Community Councils could restrict their meetings to the same week as the Committee of the Whole meetings and this may provide more flexibility in their schedules during the weeks scheduled for Regional Council meetings.

In addition to the above suggested draft option, staff is requesting Council’s direction regarding options that Members of Council would like to have considered in a revised meeting schedule format. Council may wish to refer discussion on this matter to a Council workshop session. Following input from Council, staff will return to Council with recommendations.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

Staff is seeking Council's input regarding scheduling options.

ATTACHMENTS

- "A" 2006 Regional Council Schedule
- "B" Sample Option - 2007 Proposed Schedule

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by :



Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk Ph: 490-4210

Financial Review :

N/A
[Name/Financial Consultant & Phone #]

2006 HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

APPROVED DEC. 13/05

MONTH	DATE	MEETING	TIME	MONTH	DATE	MEETING	TIME
January	Jan 3	No Meeting		July	July 4	Regular Session	6:00 pm
	Jan 10	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		July 11	No Regularly Scheduled Meetings	
	Jan 17	Regular Session	6:00 pm		July 18		
	Jan 24	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		July 25		
	Jan 31	Regular Session	6:00 pm	August	Aug 1	Regular Session	6:00 pm
February	Feb 7	Regular Session	6:00 pm		Aug 8	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm
	Feb 14	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		Aug 15	No Regularly Scheduled Meetings	
	Feb 21	Regular Session	6:00 pm		Aug 22		
	Feb 28	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		Aug 29		
March	Mar 7	Regular Session	6:00 pm	September	Sept 5	Regular Session	6:00 pm
	Mar 14	March Break			Sept 12	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm
	Mar 21	Regular Session	6:00 p.m.		Sept 19	Regular Session	6:00 pm
	Mar 28	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		Sept 26	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm
April	April 4	Regular Session	6:00 pm	October	Oct 3	Regular Session	6:00 pm
	April 11	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		Oct 10	No Meeting	
	April 18	Regular Session	6:00 pm		Oct 17	Regular Session	6:00 p.m.
	April 25	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		Oct 24	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm
May	May 2	Regular Session	6:00 pm		Oct 31	Regular Session	6:00 pm
	May 9	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm	November	Nov 7	Regular Session	6:00 pm
	May 16	Regular Session	6:00 pm		Nov 14	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm
	May 23	No Meeting			Nov 21	Regular Session	6:00 pm
	May 30	Regular Session	6:00 pm		Nov 28	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm
June	June 6	No Meeting (FCM- Montreal)		December	Dec 5	Regular Session	6:00 pm
	June 13	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		Dec 12	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm
	June 20	Regular Session	6:00 pm		Dec 19	Holiday Season	
	June 27	COW Regular Session	TBA 6:00 pm		Dec 26		

Note: COW - Committee of the Whole Meetings every second & fourth Tuesday of the Month as required.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>Month</h1>						
5	6	7 In Camera Regional Council (Including Public Hearings)	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Committee of the Whole and Community Council Meetings possible meeting dates						
19	20	21 In Camera Regional Council (Including Public Hearings)	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Committee of the Whole and Community Council Meetings possible meeting dates	