

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 1, 2008

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. **INVOCATION**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., with the Invocation being led by Councillor Meade.

2. **SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Councillor Sloane indicated that Child Find Nova Scotia would be holding a Monte Carlo night and auction at the Saint Mary's Boat Club on April 11, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. She also acknowledged the anti racism dedication service that had taken place at the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church and thanked Reverend Rhonda Britten for hosting the event.

Deputy Mayor Adams wished Councillor Mosher and her husband, Graham, a happy eighth anniversary. He congratulated the Midget B hockey team on winning the provincial tournament in Port Hood with Adam Conrad scoring the winning goal and team members including Devon Gray and Eric Saunier taking home all star honours. He also congratulated the Chebucto Atom B hockey team on winning the provincial championships, for beating Dartmouth and for members including Bobbie Strople, Alex Folger-Fort, Ben Pallum, Emmet Hallforth, Acton Budden, Matthew Strum and Brett Dempsey, taking home top honours in the skills portion of the championship.

Councillor Hendsbee congratulated the Halifax Mooseheads on their recent win and wished Mayor Kelly luck on his bid with Mayor Morgan from the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. He also asked that HRM residents take time to reflect on the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 2008, the anniversary of his assassination.

Councillor Hum congratulated the Halifax Hawks, a double A hockey team, who had won the provincial gold medal in their division. She also stated that the Halifax Hot Flashers, including team member Councillor Uteck, had taken home gold in Sydney when they participated in the Vince Ryan Memorial Hockey Tournament.

Councillor Fougere stated that she had attended a fundraiser for the Canadian Council of the Blind called, "Dinner in the Dark"; where participants had to eat while blindfolded to raise awareness of the every day conflicts that the blind and vision impaired face. She also noted that a Community Facility Master Plan open house would be taking place on the peninsula on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Maritime Hall at the Halifax Forum and that any member of the public was welcome to attend.

Councillor McCluskey indicated that she had taken part in the opening ceremonies of the Peewee Tier One Girl's Provincial Hockey Championship and she congratulated the event's organizers.

Councillor Johns stated that a Community Facility Master Plan open house would be taking place on April 3, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at Sackville Heights Junior High School and he encouraged residents to participate. He congratulated Millwood High School on winning the provincial hockey tournament with a special mention of Adam Maxwell.

Councillor McInroy congratulated the Cole Harbour McCain major midget team on winning the 2008 Provincial Major Midget Hockey Championship.

Councillor Smith stated that there would be a fundraiser for animal lovers at the Northbrook Community Centre on April 6, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Councillor Mosher stated that she had the honour of representing Council at the one hundred and eighty seventh (187) anniversary of Greek Independence at the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church on Purcell's Cove Road.

Councillor Barkhouse stated that on March 28, 2008, she and Councillor Karsten had attended the unveiling of a mural at Prince Arthur Junior High and she congratulated all those involved.

Councillor Harvey congratulated the Bedford Youth who produced the mural at the LeBrun Centre which had been unveiled on March 29, 2008.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

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

Additions:

12.1 Performance of Canada Post - Councillor Murphy

Changes:

Deputy Mayor Adams requested that item 10.1.7 be dealt with after item 9.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that items 10.1.3 and 10.1.4 immediately follow item 10.1.7

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Councillor Uteck requested that once the In Camera minutes from the March 25, 2008 session were approved that the section addressing the fast ferry be made public.

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

9.1 Correspondence - None

9.2 Petitions

Councillor Sloane submitted a petition with fifty two (52) signatures requesting that Council consider opening the Public Gardens earlier in the spring and closing later in the fall with limited access during the winter months.

10. REPORTS

10.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.1.7 2008 / 2009 Capital and Operating Budgets (Staff Presentation)

C A briefing package was before Council.

Mr. Dan English, CAO, Ms. Dale McLennan, Director of Finance, Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and Mr. Brad Anguish, Director of Business Planning and Information Management provided the presentation. The following highlights were noted:

C There is a provision in the budget for animal sheltering;

C The multi year financial plan has worked very well for HRM;

C The theme for this year's budget is Safer, Stronger, Better Planning for Now and the Future;

C The four (4) Council focus areas are as follows:

1. Public Safety
2. Infrastructure
3. Community Development

4. Tax Reform

- C The request from the Police Commission to add more officers and summary ticket offence clerks over and above the budget has not been included as it has not been directed by Council as of yet;
- C Note that the budget book includes a list of reserves;
- C The tax rates will rise by 2.6 percent or a seventy eight (78) dollar increase on the average tax payer;
- C Council was asked to bring any missing pieces of information to staff's attention;
- C A two (2) week informal consultation period with staff will begin on April 2, 2008 and continue until April 12, 2008. Staff hoped that this would make for a much shorter debate;
- C Council was asked to submit proposed budget amendments by 4:00 p.m. on April 11, 2008.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions. It was noted that taxes would be increased by a total of 5.7 percent.

Councillor Walker requested that Regional Council consider adding \$1,524,667 to the Police budget at the 2008/2009 Capital and Operating Budget deliberations for the purpose of hiring thirty two (32) new officers and two (2) Summary Offense Ticket Clerks. He indicated that the Police Commission had passed this motion at their March 20, 2008 meeting after the HRP and RCMP had presented their business plans for 2008/2009 for public safety. He noted that the Summary Offense Ticket Clerks were necessary due to the increase in night court sessions for the upcoming year. He also stated that the thirty two (32) officers would be employed for six (6) months and would be deployed in the following manner:

- C Eight (8) FTE HRP police officers in the East Division for the North End Dartmouth beat to reduce violent crime via foot patrol and bicycle;
- C Eight (8) FTE HRP police officers in the East Division for increased call demands for service especially in the Russell and Morris Lake areas;
- C Eight (8) FTE HRP police officers in the West Division to reduce violent crime; four (4) officers for Fairview and four (4) for Spryfield;
- C Eight (8) FTE RCMP officers; four (4) for Cole Harbour and four (4) for Lower Sackville.

In closing, Councillor Walker noted that Council may ask questions regarding the issue during the open house on public safety on April 7, 2008.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Adams, seconded by Councillor Snow that the 2008/2009 Capital and Operating Budgets be tabled. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council recessed at 7:29 p.m.

Council reconvened at 7:39 p.m. with the same Councillors present.

10.1.3 Park & Ride, Express and Rural Transit Services Study

- C A Power Point presentation was before Council.
- C A staff report dated March 20, 2008 was before Council.

Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager of Regional Transportation provided the presentation on the Park & Ride, Express and Rural Transit Services Study.

MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle the Park & Ride, Express and Rural Transportation Service Study.

A discussion ensued with Mr. McCusker responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- C There was a request for a cost analysis for exit five (5) at the Saint Margaret's Centre;
- C Regarding accessibility, the busses will be equipped with a lift;
- C There potentially will be three (3) services in the morning and evening and an additional round trip during the day;
- C Concerns were raised regarding the use of this rural transit system by non-HRM residents as it was a burden on the municipality's tax payers;
- C As many of these park and ride lots are located off of highway interchanges they are either provincially owned or the land is surplus to the interchange;
- C Funds to operate these busses will be collected from a combination of fares and area rates;
- C The busses will be equipped with bicycle racks;
- C There was a request to use these busses as a tourism opportunity in addition to being used by residents;
- C Once ordered, the delivery time of these busses is sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) weeks;
- C Communities such as Cow Bay, where there is no transit service, will be looked at in phase two (2) of the study.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.4 Draft Neighbourhood and Special District Signage Policy

- C A Power Point presentation was before Council.
- C A staff report dated March 11, 2008 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Regional Council:

1. **Adopt the draft Neighbourhood and Special District Signage Policy (Attachment 1);**
2. **Focus neighbourhood sign projects in the communities of Halifax and Dartmouth in accordance with the policy; and**
3. **Direct staff to initiate a special district sign project for the Fisherman's Cove and the Hydrostone Heritage District pursuant to the policy.**

Mr. Philip Hammond, Community Developer, provided the presentation on Draft Neighbourhood and Special District Signage Policy.

Councillor McCluskey left the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Councillor Johns left the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Councillor Rankin left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Hammond responding to questions. The following points were noted:

C There was concern over the legibility and maintenance of current community signage;

Councillor Rankin entered the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Councillor McCluskey entered the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

C Several Councillors noted that they had already installed signs in their districts with their councillor district funds and they were concerned that the new signs would not be as aesthetically pleasing;

Councillor Johns entered the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

C Staff attempted to identify areas within the municipality that had a sense of community;
C Special districts fit under the definition of an unofficial cultural district;

Councillor Sloane left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

C Staff will work with Councillors on the design of the signs and councillor district funds can certainly go towards enhancing them;

Councillor Sloane entered the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

- C Staff found it difficult to locate a complete and up to date list of neighbourhoods;
- C The signs will not be used as way finding tools, the intention was to use the park system to facilitate community pride;
- C It was agreed that Fisherman's Cove should have been designated as a special district.

MOVED BY Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Younger, that the motion be amended to state that community development would use councillor district funds to provide these signs. MOTION DEFEATED.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.1 Tender 08-216 - Old Sackville Road Intersection Improvements - Central Region

- C A staff report dated March 21, 2008 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Regional Council award Tender No. 08-216, Old Sackville Road Intersection Improvements - Central Region to Dexter Construction Company Limited for a Total Tender Price of \$124,114.80 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Account No. CTU01086 - Intersection Improvement Program, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the March 21, 2008 report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.2 Request for Proposal 07-391 - Reassignment of Area 1 Contract - Solid Waste

- C A staff report dated March 18, 2008 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Regional Council award the contract for source-separated solid waste collection and transportation services in Area 1 to the second highest scoring proponent, Waste Management of Canada Corp., for the monthly and other unit prices provided in their RFP response and in accordance with the requirements of RFP No. 07-391. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.3 Park & Ride, Express and Rural Transit Services Study

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. See page 7.

10.1.4 Draft Neighbourhood and Special District Signage Policy

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. See page 8.

10.1.5 Case 01136 - Amendment to the Sackville Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law and Regional Subdivision By-Law Service Requirement Map

- C A Power Point presentation was before Council.
- C A staff report dated March 14, 2008 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Regional Council:

1. **Initiate the process to consider amending the Sackville Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to consider the addition of institutional uses, specifically residential care facilities as a permitted use in the BP-1 (Business Park 1) Zone; and**
2. **Initiate the process to consider amending the Regional Subdivision By-law to extend the Urban Service Area to include the remaining portion of PID#41233388 located on Cobequid Road, Sackville; and**
3. **Request staff to follow the public participation program as approved by Council in February 1997.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.6 Case 01053 - Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy Amendment - Waverley Road Industrial Land, Dartmouth (Supplementary Report)

- C An extract of the October 30, 2007 Regional Council minutes was before Council.
- C A supplementary report dated March 19, 2008 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that Regional Council:

1. **Expand the site specific amendment process, initiated on October 30, 2007, for a site specific amendment process to the Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) to redesignate the properties as shown on Map "1" to commercial; and**

2. **Direct staff to expand the public participation program approved by Council in February 1997 to include additional public meetings.**

Councillor Younger clarified that the land would mostly be used to expand the residential area; not for strip malls or other full commercial uses.

Councillor McInroy left the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.7 2008 / 2009 Capital and Operating Budgets (Staff Presentation)

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. See page 6.

10.2 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10.2.1 2007 - 2008 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race

C A report dated March 20, 2008 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Johns, that Regional Council award \$25,000 to Events Halifax and approve an unbudgeted reserve withdrawal from the Marketing Levy Special Events Reserve Q315 as per the budget implications section of the attached staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.2 Amendment to Terms of Reference - Changes to Councillor Quorum

C A report dated March 26, 2008 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Regional Council amend the Councillor quorum required in the Special Events Advisory Committee Terms of Reference from two Councillors to one. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.3.1 Councillor Mosher - Request for Report re: Prohibition on the use of Garborators in HRM

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Wile, that Regional Council request a staff report to investigate options to prohibit in-sink garborators in new

home construction and other options such as inclusion under By-Law W-101, to reduce organic waste into HRM systems.

A discussion ensued regarding the motion. The following points were noted:

- C Not all HRM residents are on central services and, therefore, the report would also have to address how garborators effect septic fields and whether or not they can be exempt;
- C The report may also address how this prohibition would effect restaurants and the retail sector.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. MOTIONS - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Canada Post - Councillor Murphy

Councillor Murphy indicated that there had been a series of Canada Post delivery issues in his district including a lack of regular delivery hours and certain days being missed completely. He requested the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of Canada Post, the Honorable John McCallum and the President of Canada Post, Ms. Moya Greene, regarding this issue.

Councillors Snow and Hendsbee declared a conflict of interest.

MOVED BY Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Mayor forward a letter to the Minister and President of Canada Post regarding delivery issues in the North End of Halifax.MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Several Councillors noted that delivery service was also an issue in their respective districts.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Acting Municipal Clerk

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Memorandum from Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management dated March 20, 2008
re: Intersection Improvements - Burnside Drive
2. Memorandum from Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management dated March 18, 2008
re: Petition - Chebucto Road Widening
3. Memorandum from Director, Transportation & Public Works dated March 10, 2008
re: Weekly Green Cart Service Options
4. Memorandum from the Acting Municipal Clerk dated March 28, 2008
re: Requests for Presentation to Council - Aubrey Fricker re: HRM By Design - Downtown Strategy