

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

October 12, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns
Councillors: Steve Streach
Barry Dalrymple
David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Gloria McCluskey
Darren Fisher
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Jennifer Watts
Russell Walker
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Robert P. Harvey
Tim Outhit
Reg Rankin
Peter Lund

REGRETS: Councillor Debbie Hum

STAFF: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 14, 2010

MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the minutes of September 14, 2010 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL REFORM

A supplementary report dated October 9, 2010 was before Council.
An extract of the Committee of the Whole minutes dated November 17, 2009 was before Council.

A presentation was before Council.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, provided the presentation on Committees of Council Reform. She stated that the supplementary report dated October 9, 2010 addressed Council's decisions and directions regarding Committees of Council Reform since November 17, 2009. Highlights were as follows:

- The unanimous recommendation from the Membership Selection Committee was to move to six Standing Committees of Council; Administrative, Appeals, Audit & Finance, Transportation, Environment and Sustainability, and Community Planning & Economic Development
- To address concerns regarding the appointment process, the recommendation was that every Standing Committee have one representative from each Community Council with two appointments at large to ensure fairness
- There was a proposed revision to the Standing Committee structure which would mandate Standing Committee's to consolidate, change, align or eliminate the advisory committees working below them
- All recommendations on appointments will go back to Council for decision

In closing, Ms. Mellett outlined the six Standing Committees of Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Deputy Mayor Johns, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the six (6) Standing Committees of Council as outlined in Appendix A of the supplementary report dated October 9, 2010**
- 2. Adopt, in principle, the consolidation of the mandates and terms of reference of current Committees of Council as outlined in Appendix A of the supplementary report dated October 9, 2010**

3. Direct implementation, as outlined in the supplementary report of October 9, 2010, to commence including the Community Council and “at large” appointment of Councillors to the Standing Committees and recruitment of community volunteers to Boards and Committees as required.

A discussion on the motion ensued with staff responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- Every member of Council will be required to sit on at least two, however, no more than three Standing Committees
- Several members of Council expressed concern that the Standing Committee structure could potentially overwork Councillors on smaller Community Councils
- Powers of Community Councils were under review as part of the Governance & Boundary Review process
- Standing Committees will decide how often they wish to meet
- There is an opportunity to initiate a mechanism to promote attendance at Standing Committee meetings
- There will be two types of volunteer appointments; Advisory Committees which are specifically aligned with a Standing Committee will be vetted through that Standing Committee, and external Committees will be vetted through the Membership Selection Committee under the Administrative Standing Committee
- As always, appointments will come back to Council with the opportunity for Councillors to make nominations on the floor
- The current mandate of the Heritage Advisory Committee will not change as it is legislated under the Provincial Heritage Act and reports directly to Council
- The Integrated Transportation Authority could become a part of this structure if HRM is granted the legislative power to do so by the Province
- It was requested that the appointments to the Shubenacadie Canal Commission be channeled through both the Harbour East Community Council and Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council
- The two Standing Committee members at large will be directed to the two larger Community Councils as the smaller Community Council members would already have a full slate and, therefore, would not qualify.

Councillor Karsten stated, for the record, that he and Councillor Walker had spent a great deal of time speaking to City of Toronto staff at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference in April 2010 regarding the Standing Committee structure, which Toronto uses as well. He advised that he was glad that the Membership Selection Committee’s decision was unanimous; however, he hoped that the Standing Committees would not come to Council with unanimous recommendations which would then place the burden on Council to agree. In closing, Councillor Karsten advised that Council still had the right to make its own decisions.

Mayor Kelly stated that every recommendation brought to Council was always open to full discussion.

Discussion on the motion continued. The following points were noted:

- A Seniors Advisory Committee was suggested and implementation could be discussed by a Standing Committee
- It was suggested that there be a broader focus on accessibility
- Staff and the Membership Selection Committee see this new structure as an opportunity to consolidate and streamline processes
- If Council adopts the new Committees of Council Reform structure, Councillor appointments to the Standing Committees will begin and the Standing Committees aligned with their subcommittees to create their structure and terms of reference
- Regarding watershed advisory boards, the intent was to replace the application review process currently undertaken by such boards with one Policy Advisory Board; however, that recommendation would be coming back to Council for review

Councillor Watts stated, for the record, that the Committees she had been part of for the past two years had functioned well and had completed in-depth work on HRM's behalf. She noted that she particularly appreciated the work of Committees that included members of the public. She advised that part of her hesitancy over voting for the reform was that she had not experienced any negative situations or inefficiencies with the current structure. In closing, Councillor Watts inquired about the list of existing non active committees to date.

Ms. Mellett stated that the list referred to non operational committees which could be dealt with administratively. She advised that the reform was an opportunity for Council to focus strategically on the five or six areas identified as priorities and to work with staff more effectively on advancing those priorities on a more strategic level.

Mayor Kelly advised that the timeline for the new structure to be adopted would begin this fall and staff would continue to come forward with recommendations.

Mayor Kelly also noted that Councillors would still be permitted to serve on subcommittees.

A vote was taken on the motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The meeting recessed at 4:53 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 5:06 p.m.

4. DRINKING WATER, HRM CORPORATE OPERATIONS

A report dated August 23, 2010 was before Council.
A presentation was before Council.

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, provided a presentation, Drinking Water, to Council.

Councillor Watts expressed disappointment that vending machines are not included as part of the strategy. She advised that the issue is clean, accessible water for all HRM buildings and she added that there should be a requirement for water fountains in HRM facilities. She advised that Council needs to take the lead on sustainable options such as the support of this resolution.

Councillor Blumenthal stated that HRM Board and Committees need to have access to water not only juice and pop when attending meetings. He suggested that water be provided in pitchers for committee members.

In response to a question by Councillor Karsten, Mr. MacLellan advised that vending machines, which contain water, pop, and juice for purchase, will be staying in place in HRM. However, HRM will not be providing bottled water.

Councillor Mosher advised Council that HRM needs to be a leader in the community on this issue. She added that water needs to be offered, noting that the only other alternative to those persons using HRM facilities is pop or juice. She suggested that taps can be installed providing access to water. She expressed her appreciation for the inclusion of recreation centres in this proposal.

Councillor Dalrymple reminded Council that not all facilities or communities in HRM have access to safe piped water.

Councillor Lund expressed concern regarding those properties in rural areas that are not on HRM water. Staff advised that there is a rural water testing program with standards meeting the Canadian Drinking Water Standards.

Deputy Mayor Johns advised that a lot of HRM sporting facilities do not have water fountains. The Deputy Mayor provided clarification that any drinks supplied to HRM committees are not paid by the taxpayer.

Councillor Sloane suggested that water fountains need to be installed at every HRM venue.

Councillor Watts urged Mayor Kelly to work with Council and staff to ensure a successful transition at City Hall.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Halifax Regional Council approve that:

- 1. All HRM administrative and operational facilities with access to clean drinking water, where possible, phase out the purchase and sale of bottled water, including bottled coolers, excluding:**
 - Community operated and recreation facilities, and**
 - Emergency Services and Operational staff requiring bottled water for occupational health and safety reasons.**

- 2. Staff to reduce the amount of bottled water required for operational and emergency staff by ensuring that canteens and filling stations are available as possible and practical in buildings.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett
Municipal Clerk