



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 28, 2020**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn
Councillors: Steve Streach
David Hendsbee
Bill Karsten
Lorelei Nicoll
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Richard Zurawski
Matt Whitman
Paul Russell
Tim Outhit

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer
Denise Schofield, Director, Parks and Recreation
Brad Anguish, Director, Transportation and Public Works
Kelly Denty, Director, Planning and Development
Beverley Audet, Manager, Road Operations and Construction
Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit
Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Sherryl Murphy, A/Municipal Clerk
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The special meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m., recessed at 12:36 p.m. and reconvened at 1:06 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Proposed 2020/21 Budget Recast for COVID-19 Impacts (Continuation from May 26)

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 1, 2020
- A staff presentation entitled '2020/21 Recast Budget Discussion'
- A briefing note – response to request for information in relation to Customer Service Centre and 311 – hours of operation including After Hours dated May 22, 2020
- Correspondence from Marla MacLeod

The following motion from the May 12, 2020 meeting of the Budget Committee reads:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to revise the 2020/21 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets, as voted on by Regional Council's Committee of the Whole on Budget at their February 12, 2020 meeting, using the revisions proposed in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 as summarized in Table 3, supported by attachment C and D.

i) Supplementary Information Report – Revised

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A revised supplementary information report dated May 25, 2020

This matter was deferred to a special Budget Committee meeting on May 29, 2020.

ii) Supplementary Recommendation Report – Corporate Accommodations – CB190011

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A supplementary staff report dated May 21, 2020

This matter was deferred to a special Budget Committee meeting on May 29, 2020.

4. 2020/21 Budget Adjustment List (Post COVID) for Consideration

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 21, 2020
- A revised briefing note – CCV02301 – CCV02316 District Capital
- A briefing note – CB000046 Corporate Accommodations Alderney
- A briefing note – CT190001 Streetscaping
- A briefing note – NACTO and Other Memberships
- A memorandum – Updated Budget Adjustment List dated May 27, 2020
- Correspondence from David Paterson, Susan Leblanc, Robin Metcalfe

Budget Committee considered the new Budget Adjustment List reflecting decisions made by the Budget Committee May 26, 2020, as outlined in the staff memorandum dated May 27, 2020.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide the adoption of the Barrington Street Heritage Tax Grant in the amount of \$245,000.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 4 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Adams, Zurawski, Outhit

Against: Councillors Karsten, Walker, Whitman, Russell

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide that vacancy management in the amount listed in Budget Adjustment List be reduced by half in the amount of \$5,632,675.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 6 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors, Karsten, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Zurawski

Against: Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Adams, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide that other compensation in the amount of 3,495,450 be included in the 2020/21 Budget.

Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer clarified that other compensation was for costs outside regular Full Time Employees, such as seasonal workers, overtime, sick time, shift differentials and court time. Fraser confirmed that funds were set aside under the Halifax Regional Police Budget for Crossing Guard positions when schools reconvene in September.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder the **MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.**

Budget Committee discussed allocating funds for seasonal workers to complete enhanced maintenance in the municipal core.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide that \$315,000 be reinstated to other compensation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 6 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Hendsbee, Karsten, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Zurawski, Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Nicoll, Adams, Whitman, Russell

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide that community events in the amount of \$37,100 be included in the 2020/21 Budget.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer explained that the funds would be used for the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Levy events.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder the **MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.**

Budget Committee discussed funding needed to support Spring/Summer modified programming and facilities as restrictions are lifted by the Province, with staff responding to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide the reinstatement of \$500,000 (Net) to the Spring/Summer Programs and Facility Closures for the 2020/21 Budget.

Discussion was held with staff responding to questions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to not defer the \$750,000 to District Capital for the 2020/21 Budget.

Budget Committee discussed the motion with staff providing clarification on deferring funds versus cutting them from the 2020/21 Budget.

With the agreement of the mover and the seconder, the **MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN** to bring forward a new motion.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to cut the \$750,000 to the District Capital for the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (9 in favour, 8 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors, Karsten, Austin, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Against: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Mancini, Walker, Adams, Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide that \$250,000 be reinstated in Tree planting/pruning in the 2020/21 Budget.

The mover and seconder agreed to a friendly amendment to include the removal of stumps.

The motion before Budget Committee now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide that \$250,000 be reinstated in Tree planting/pruning, including the removal of stumps in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED. (7 in favour, 8 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Nicoll, Austin, Mason, Cleary, Zurawski, Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Mancini, Smith, Walker, Whitman, Russell

Not present: Councillors Karsten and Adams

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$150,000 to Community Grants for the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten and Adams

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$110,000 to Museum Grants for the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten and Adams

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$290,000 to Integrated Mobility Plan studies for the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (10 in favour, 5 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Zurawski, Outhit

Against: Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Walker, Whitman, Russell

Not present: Councillors Karsten and Adams

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Russell

That the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$290,000 to Beach Water Testing and Weed Harvesting for the 2020/21 Budget.

Budget Committee discussed the motion with staff responding to questions. Staff clarified that \$210,000 was for weed harvesting and \$80,000 for beach water testing. A friendly amendment was proposed to focus on funding water testing and remove funding for weed harvesting this year.

The motion before Budget Committee now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Russell

That the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$80,000 to Beach Water Testing for the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Mancini and Adams

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$200,000 to Heritage Incentives in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Zurawski, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Mancini

Not present: Councillors Karsten and Adams

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the adoption of the Water Quality Monitor Program for \$150,000 in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Karsten and Adams

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee amend the motion to provide for the reinstatement of \$80,000 for a Heritage Planning in the 2020/21 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Zurawski, Whitman, Outhit

Against: Councillor Russell

Not present: Councillors Karsten and Adams

Budget Committee agreed to continue discussing the new Budget Adjustment List at a special Budget Committee meeting on May 29, 2020.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
A/Municipal Clerk