



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
September 26, 2023**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Sam Austin
Councillors: Cathy Deagle Gammon
David Hendsbee
Becky Kent
Trish Purdy
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Shawn Cleary
Kathryn Morse
Patty Cuttell
Iona Stoddard
Pam Lovelace
Lisa Blackburn
Paul Russell
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor Lindell Smith – Parental Accommodation

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
Martin Ward, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant
Annie Sherry, 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 meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. and recessed at 2:53 p.m. Council reconvened at 3:17 p.m. and recessed at 5:01 p.m. Council reconvened at 6:00 p.m. and moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 6:59 p.m. Council reconvened at 7:45 p.m. and adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Steven Pitt, Leader of Council, Portsmouth, United Kingdom

Mayor Savage recognized Steven Pitt, Leader of Council from the city of Portsmouth, United Kingdom, a sister city to Halifax. Mayor Savage invited Pitt to address Council. Pitt spoke on the importance of the sister-city agreement signed between Halifax and Portsmouth, the similarities between the two cities and the opportunities that will arise from the agreement.

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 12, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the minutes of September 12, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- Item 17.4 – Property Matter – Private and Confidential Report
- Item 18.1 – Housing Accelerator Fund Application Update
- Item 18.2 – Councillor Nominations to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
- Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: Personnel Matter

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 12 (5) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Russell requested that Information Item 5 –Annual Workforce Report 2022-23 be brought forward at the October 17, 2023 Regional Council Meeting.

As provided for in section 12 (5) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Hendsbee requested that Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: Item 1 – Intergovernmental Relations be brought forward at a future Regional Council Meeting.

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Deputy Mayor Austin requested that Item 18.1 be considered immediately after the mid-afternoon break.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

As provided for in section 41 (3) of Administrative Order One:

- Item 15.1.1 was removed from the consent agenda at the request of Councillor Hendsbee
- Item 15.1.2 was removed from the consent agenda at the request of Councillor Cleary

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve recommendations in the following agenda items:

- 15.1.3 – Fall 2023 Temporary Borrowing Resolution and Debenture;
- 15.2.1 – Volunteer Search and Rescue Grants Program - Fiscal Year 2023-24;
- 15.3.1 – 2023/24 Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve (MLSER) 2nd Intake Report; and
- 15.3.2 – Event Evaluation Criteria

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

7. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

8. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

9. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

10. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – September 12, 2023

10.1 Mill Cove Library

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated August 22, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct staff to plan and budget for 21,000 square feet of functional library space within the planned Mill Cove Ferry Terminal.

Crystal Nowlan, Director, Asset Management responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

Mayor Savage stepped down from the Chair and Deputy Mayor Austin assumed the Chair.

10.2 Funding for Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated September 8, 2023
- Correspondence from Tim Richter

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 2, the Audit and Finance Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order, requiring the Standing Committee to review and make recommendations on proposed changes in any operating or project budget items;**
- 2. Approve an unbudgeted reserve withdrawal from Reserve Q421;**
- 3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate up-to \$20,000 from the Options Reserve as sponsorship funding to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, taking place in Halifax this November 3rd to November 10th.**

Mayor Savage proposed to increase the allocation from \$20,000 to \$25,000 from the Options Reserve as sponsorship funding to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 2, the Audit and Finance Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order, requiring the Standing Committee to review and make recommendations on proposed changes in any operating or project budget items;**
- 2. Approve an unbudgeted reserve withdrawal from Reserve Q421;**
- 3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate up-to \$25,000 from the Options Reserve as sponsorship funding to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, taking place in Halifax this November 3rd to November 10th.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

Mayor Savage resumed the Chair.

10.3 Councillor Lovelace - Emergency preparedness for CSAP and HRCE schools in HRM

The following was before Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report and return to Council with details on and recommendations for emergency preparedness for CSAP and HRCE schools in HRM including:

- 1. Emergency evacuation plans or timeline to deliver evacuation plans for each school;**

2. **Roles, responsibilities, and resources expected of HRM to implement and support those plans;**
3. **Timeline for tabletop exercises and Command Post/Full Scale exercises and training for evacuation involving students and staff leaving school property and relocating; and,**
4. **School community communications plans.**

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to add, “after cooperation is established and funding is agreed upon with HRCE, CSAP, and/or the provincial government” immediately following, “direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report.”

Cathie O’Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (5 in favour, 11 against)

In favour: Councillors Purdy, Mancini, Cleary, Morse, Russell

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Mason, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Not present: Councillor Smith

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report and return to Council with details on and recommendations for emergency preparedness for CSAP and HRCE schools in HRM including:

1. **Emergency evacuation plans or timeline to deliver evacuation plans for each school;**
2. **Roles, responsibilities, and resources expected of HRM to implement and support those plans;**
3. **Timeline for tabletop exercises and Command Post/Full Scale exercises and training for evacuation involving students and staff leaving school property and relocating; and,**
4. **School community communications plans.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillor Kent, Russell

Not present: Councillor Smith

10.4 Councillor Lovelace – Transfer of provincial PIDs within HRM’s Municipal Road Boundary

The following was before Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Waive section 17 of Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of the Council, requiring a staff report from the Chief Administrative Officer; and**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer write to the Province of Nova Scotia to request that they provide:**
 - a. a plan for identification and transfer of provincial road reserves, parkland via subdivision, and stormwater infrastructure such as drainage corridors that should have been transferred to the municipality resulting from past provincial property transfers in 2006 and 2022; and,**
 - b. a description of their maintenance standards and planned activities to maintain/upgrade provincial stormwater infrastructure, including drainage corridors outside of and within the municipal service boundary, that fall under provincial authority in the Halifax Regional Municipality.**

Councillor Lovelace proposed that section 2 of the motion direct the Chief Administrative Officer provide a staff report rather than write a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Waive section 17 of Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of the Council, requiring a staff report from the Chief Administrative Officer; and**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer provide a staff report on:**
 - a. a plan for identification and transfer of provincial road reserves, parkland via subdivision, and stormwater infrastructure such as drainage corridors that should have been transferred to the municipality resulting from past provincial property transfers in 2006 and 2022; and,**
 - b. a description of their maintenance standards and planned activities to maintain/upgrade provincial stormwater infrastructure, including drainage corridors outside of and within the municipal service boundary, that fall under provincial authority in the Halifax Regional Municipality.**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

11. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:00 P.M.

12.1 Cases 21946-A and 21946-B: Amendments to the Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy and associated development agreements for lands at the intersections of Southgate Drive and Bedford Highway and Glenmont Avenue and Bedford Highway, Bedford (Joint Meeting with North West Community Council)

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated July 13, 2023
- Extract from the August 22, 2023 Regional Council minutes
- Correspondence from Gale Dempsey, Daniel Jollimore and Charmaine McDonald
- Staff presentation dated September 26, 2023
- Applicant presentation dated September 26, 2023

Megan Backos, Planner III gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Council.

The hearing opened at 6:18 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Austin invited the applicant to come forward and address Council.

Anne Winters and Michael Christian, WSP Canada Inc., on behalf of the Applicant gave a presentation and responded to questions from Council.

Deputy Mayor Austin reviewed the rules of procedure for public hearings. Deputy Mayor Austin noted there were no registered speakers and called three times for any other members of the public wishing to speak.

Bruce Stevens, District 16 spoke to their concerns with the development resulting in increased traffic congestion on the Bedford Highway, the small amount of visitor parking spaces being proposed, and the dangerous nature of the placement of the driveway due to oncoming traffic. Stevens responded to questions of clarification from Council.

Deputy Mayor Austin invited the applicant to respond to questions raised by the public. The applicant chose not to respond.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the hearing be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The hearing closed at 6:39 p.m.

Megan Backos, Planner III responded to questions of clarification from Council regarding requirements for visitor parking spaces and noted that the proposed location of the surface lot driveway adhered to traffic engineering standards.

The Deputy Mayor advised that where this was a joint meeting with North West Community Council, section of the motion 1 needed to be considered by Regional Council prior to sections 2-5. Consideration of sections 2-5 would be considered by North West Community Council members only and the vote would be done by show of hands.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Adopt the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy for Bedford, as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated July 13, 2023.**

Martin Ward, Acting Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Council and noted that an amendment on the amount of parking spaces would be considered a substantive amendment and require a new Public Hearing.

Thea Langille, Manager, Planning Applications responded to questions of clarification from Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Kent, Smith

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT North West Community Council:

1. **Provisionally approve the proposed development agreement for a six-storey multi-unit dwelling, which shall be substantially of the same form as contained in Attachment B of the staff report dated July 13, 2023;**
2. **Require the development agreement contained in Attachment B of the staff report dated July 13, 2023 be signed by the property owner within 120 days, or any extension thereof granted by Council on request of the property owner, from the date of final approval by Council and any other bodies as necessary, including applicable appeal periods, whichever is later, otherwise this approval will be void and obligations arising hereunder shall be at an end;**
3. **Provisionally approve the proposed development agreement for one 16,000 square foot commercial building and five single unit dwellings, which shall be substantially of the same form as contained in Attachment C of the staff report dated July 13, 2023; and**
4. **Require the development agreement contained in Attachment C of the staff report dated July 13, 2023 be signed by the property owner within 120 days, or any extension thereof granted by Council on request of the property owner, from the date of final approval by Council and any other bodies as necessary, including applicable appeal periods, whichever is later, otherwise this approval will be void and obligations arising hereunder shall be at an end.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

13.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 10.2, 12.1 and 18.1.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

13.2 Petitions

13.2.1 Councillor Outhit

Councillor Outhit submitted a petition from residents of Southgate Drive regarding the proposed condo/retail development at the corner of Southgate Drive and Bedford Highway with approximately 50 signatures regarding the traffic congestion that will be created by the development.

14. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

15. REPORTS

15.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

15.1.1 First Reading Proposed By-law S-452, an Amendment to By-law S-400, Respecting Charges for Street Improvements

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated August 14, 2023
- Extract from the September 12, 2023 Regional Council draft minutes

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the motion be deferred to a future meeting of Regional Council and that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to provide a supplementary report with direction to bill Lake Eagle Drive and Lake Mist Drive on a per lot basis and not a per foot rate.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

15.1.2 First Reading Proposed By-law V-201, an Amendment to By-law V-200, Respecting Immobilization of Vehicles on Private Property

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated September 19, 2023, revised September 25, 2023
- Extract from the September 12, 2023 Regional Council draft minutes

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council give First Reading to By-law V-201, amending By-law V-200, Respecting Immobilization of Vehicles on Private Property, as set out in revised Attachment B to the staff report dated September 19, 2023.

Steven Berkman, Supervisor, Parking Administration responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Lovelace

Not present: Councillor Smith

15.1.3 Fall 2023 Temporary Borrowing Resolution and Debenture

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated September 20, 2023

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve a Temporary Borrowing Resolution of \$191,823,182 for financing of current debt-funded projects in-progress from the 2023/24 and prior capital projects, per Attachment 1 of the staff report dated September 20, 2023;**
- 2. Approve a Temporary Borrowing Resolution of \$80,489,549 for financing of the debt-funded projects from previous capital budgets that have reached substantial completion and are eligible for Fall 2023 Debenture Issue application, per Attachment 2 of the staff report dated September 20, 2023; and**
- 3. Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to sign the Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance, subject to interest rate confirmation not to exceed 6.5%, to enable the Halifax Regional Municipality to issue a 10-year debenture of \$80,489,549, per attachment 3 of the staff report dated September 20, 2023.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

15.2 GRANTS COMMITTEE

15.2.1 Volunteer Search and Rescue Grants Program - Fiscal Year 2023-24

The following was before Council:

- Grants Committee report dated September 11, 2023 with attached staff report dated August 23, 2023
- Extract from the August 22, 2023 Regional Council minutes

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council amend the motion on the floor from the August 22, 2023, Regional Council meeting to:

- 1. Approve an additional \$25,212.55 in Operating Grants for the three (3) Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue Teams listed in Table 1 of the Discussion section of the staff report dated August 23, 2023,**
- 2. Approve a one-time operating grant to the Sheet Harbour and Area Ground Search and Rescue equivalent to an operating grant under Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM in the amount of \$33,352.23,**
- 3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a recommendation report with respect to the feasibility of repealing Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM Grants to Volunteer Search and Rescue/EMO Organizations and replacing the current policy with a Municipal Service Agreement model for each of those Ground Search and Rescue Teams recognized by Halifax Regional Municipality,**
- 4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a recommendation report with respect to the implementation of a Municipal Registry for Emergency Service Providers pursuant to Section 306 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, and**
- 5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include an increase in funding to volunteer emergency service providers for consideration in the fiscal 2024/25 budget process.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

15.2.2 Graham's Grove Building - Less than Market Value Leases

The following was before Council:

- Grants Committee report dated September 11, 2023 with attached staff report dated June 28, 2023

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Approve entering into a less than market value lease agreement with the Kiwanis Club of Dartmouth Charitable Foundation for a portion of the premises located at 45 Graham's Grove with key terms set out in Table 1 of the staff report dated June 28, 2023, and that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the less than market value lease agreement.**
2. **Approve entering into a less than market value lease agreement with the Dartmouth Dragon Boat Association for a portion of the premises located at 45 Graham's Grove with key terms set out in Table 2 of the staff report dated June 28, 2023, and that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the less than market value lease agreement.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

15.3 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15.3.1 2023/24 Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve (MLSER) 2nd Intake Report

The following was before Council:

- Special Events Advisory Committee report dated September 13, 2023 with attached staff report June 27, 2023

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council approve an event grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the 2023/24 Community and Events Reserve (Q621) to fund Soccer Nova Scotia to host the Canada Soccer Toyota National Championships.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

15.3.2 Event Evaluation Criteria

The following was before Council:

- Special Events Advisory Committee report dated September 13, 2023

The following motion was approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to coordinate with all relevant partners to review the processes and ways to analyze pre- and post-event evaluation of the events criteria and any improvements to the events granting process.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

15.4 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

15.4.1 Councillor Smith – Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Standing Committees

The following was before Council:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Smith

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council pass a resolution to endorse Councillor Lindell Smith a member of Council to continue serving on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Standing Committee on Anti Racism and Equity and Standing Committee on Municipal Finance, Infrastructure and Transportation, as a non-board member, for the period starting in May 2023 and ending June 2024, and that the council assumes all costs associated with attending FCM's Board of Directors meetings.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

16. MOTIONS

16.1 Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report regarding potential amendments to Administrative Order 1, Respecting the Procedures of the Council, the purpose of which is to consider expanding the use of the Consent Agenda to include other items not prevented by law including in camera reports.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

17. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Halifax Regional Council convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 17.2 - Contract Negotiations.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Kent, Smith

17.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – August 22 & September 12, 2023

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of August 22 & September 12, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Councillor Smith

17.2 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS - Private and Confidential Report – Deferred from September 12, 2023

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

The following was before Council:

- Private and Confidential staff report dated August 29, 2023

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Austin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Halifax Regional Council adopt the direction provided In Camera (In Private).

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Kent, Smith

17.3 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

The following was before Council:

- Private and Confidential staff report dated September 20, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated September 20, 2023; and**
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated September 20, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

17.4 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

The following was before Council:

- Private and Confidential report dated September 26, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated September 26, 2023; and**
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated September 26, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

18. ADDED ITEMS

18.1 Housing Accelerator Fund Application Update

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated September 25, 2023
- Correspondence from Bill Macgregor
- Staff presentation dated September 26, 2023

Kate Greene, Director, Regional and Community Planning gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Council.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer:**
 - a. To respond to the letter from the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, as included in Attachment A to the staff report dated September 25, 2023, to indicate HRM will include the initiatives as generally outlined, and further detailed in the staff report dated September 25, 2023, along with all additional required documentation to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as the Municipality's application under the Housing Accelerator Fund program to the extent the Municipality has the authority to do so;**
 - b. Expedite amendments to the Regional Plan and supporting secondary planning strategies and land use by-laws (following the closure of the Regional Plan Review Phase 4 Public Participation Program on October 27, 2023) to enable:**
 - i. a minimum of four units per lot in all residential zones across the municipality, and**
 - ii. increase to the maximum height in all Centre Plan Established Residential Zones from 11 metres to 12 metres;**
 - c. To create a public-facing affordable housing strategy, including a non-market component, as outlined in the staff report dated September 25, 2023 and to dedicate a Housing Accelerator Fund position to this work;**

- d. **To work with HRM post-secondary institutions to increase density and create opportunities for student housing within a walking distance from post-secondary institutions across HRM; and**
2. **Request the Mayor to write a letter to the Province requesting a legislative amendment to grant the Chief Administrative Officer the authority to discharge existing development agreements where the development agreement is more restrictive than the as-of-right zoning.**

Mayor Savage proposed that section 2 of the motion be amended to request the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a letter for the Mayor to the Province requesting a legislative amendment to grant the Chief Administrative Officer the authority to discharge existing development agreements where the development agreement is more restrictive than the as-of-right zoning. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer:**
 - a. **To respond to the letter from the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, as included in Attachment A to the staff report dated September 25, 2023, to indicate HRM will include the initiatives as generally outlined, and further detailed in the staff report dated September 25, 2023, along with all additional required documentation to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as the Municipality's application under the Housing Accelerator Fund program to the extent the Municipality has the authority to do so;**
 - b. **Expedite amendments to the Regional Plan and supporting secondary planning strategies and land use by-laws (following the closure of the Regional Plan Review Phase 4 Public Participation Program on October 27, 2023) to enable:**
 - i. **a minimum of four units per lot in all residential zones across the municipality, and**
 - ii. **increase to the maximum height in all Centre Plan Established Residential Zones from 11 metres to 12 metres;**
 - c. **To create a public-facing affordable housing strategy, including a non-market component, as outlined in the staff report dated September 25, 2023 and to dedicate a Housing Accelerator Fund position to this work;**
 - d. **To work with HRM post-secondary institutions to increase density and create opportunities for student housing within a walking distance from post-secondary institutions across HRM; and**
2. **Request the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a letter for the Mayor to the Province requesting a legislative amendment to grant the Chief Administrative Officer the authority to discharge existing development agreements where the development agreement is more restrictive than the as-of-right zoning.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the motion be amended in section 1 b. ii. to enable changes to the Regional Centre Secondary Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law that would enable more missing middle housing, with a particular focus on smaller, faster building form and construction, and wood frame construction, while ensuring water supply and wastewater capacity is considered and existing and proposed heritage conservation areas are exempted.

Mayor Savage stepped down from the Chair and Deputy Mayor Austin assumed the Chair.

Mayor Savage resumed the Chair.

Greene and Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Regional Council.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer:

- a. To respond to the letter from the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, as included in Attachment A to the staff report dated September 25, 2023, to indicate HRM will include the initiatives as generally outlined, and further detailed in the staff report dated September 25, 2023, along with all additional required documentation to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as the Municipality's application under the Housing Accelerator Fund program to the extent the Municipality has the authority to do so ;**
- b. Expedite amendments to the Regional Plan and supporting secondary planning strategies and land use by-laws (following the closure of the Regional Plan Review Phase 4 Public Participation Program on October 27, 2023) to enable:**
 - i. a minimum of four units per lot in all residential zones across the municipality, and**
 - ii. changes to the Regional Centre Secondary Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law that would enable more missing middle housing, with a particular focus on smaller, faster building form and construction, and wood frame construction, while ensuring water supply and wastewater capacity is considered and existing and proposed heritage conservation areas are exempted.**
- c. To create a public-facing affordable housing strategy, including a non-market component, as outlined in the staff report dated September 25, 2023 and to dedicate a Housing Accelerator Fund position to this work;**

- d. **To work with HRM post-secondary institutions to increase density and create opportunities for student housing within a walking distance from post-secondary institutions across HRM; and**
2. **Request the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a letter for the Mayor to the Province requesting a legislative amendment to grant the Chief Administrative Officer the authority to discharge existing development agreements where the development agreement is more restrictive than the as-of-right zoning.**

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended in section 1bi. to a minimum of four units per lot in all residential zones within the urban service boundary.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer:**
 - a. **To respond to the letter from the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, as included in Attachment A to the staff report dated September 25, 2023, to indicate HRM will include the initiatives as generally outlined, and further detailed in the staff report dated September 25, 2023, along with all additional required documentation to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as the Municipality's application under the Housing Accelerator Fund program to the extent the Municipality has the authority to do so ;**
 - b. **Expedite amendments to the Regional Plan and supporting secondary planning strategies and land use by-laws (following the closure of the Regional Plan Review Phase 4 Public Participation Program on October 27, 2023) to enable:**
 - i. **a minimum of four units per lot in all residential zones within the urban service boundary; and**
 - ii. **changes to the Regional Centre Secondary Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law that would enable more missing middle housing, with a particular focus on smaller, faster building form and construction, and wood frame construction, while ensuring water supply and wastewater capacity is considered and existing and proposed heritage conservation areas are exempted.**
 - c. **To create a public-facing affordable housing strategy, including a non-market component, as outlined in the staff report dated September 25, 2023 and to dedicate a Housing Accelerator Fund position to this work;**
 - d. **To work with HRM post-secondary institutions to increase density and create opportunities for student housing within a walking distance from post-secondary**

institutions across HRM; and

2. **Request the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a letter for the Mayor to the Province requesting a legislative amendment to grant the Chief Administrative Officer the authority to discharge existing development agreements where the development agreement is more restrictive than the as-of-right zoning.**

Greene and O' Toole responded to questions of clarification from Council. O'Toole noted that their current authority is only to discharge development agreements once the terms of the development agreement are satisfied. Erin McIntyre, Director, Current Planning responded to questions of clarification from Council.

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer:**
 - a. **To respond to the letter from the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, as included in Attachment A to the staff report dated September 25, 2023, to indicate HRM will include the initiatives as generally outlined, and further detailed in the staff report dated September 25, 2023, along with all additional required documentation to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as the Municipality's application under the Housing Accelerator Fund program to the extent the Municipality has the authority to do so ;**
 - b. **Expedite amendments to the Regional Plan and supporting secondary planning strategies and land use by-laws (following the closure of the Regional Plan Review Phase 4 Public Participation Program on October 27, 2023) to enable:**
 - i. **a minimum of four units per lot in all residential zones within the urban service boundary; and**
 - ii. **changes to the Regional Centre Secondary Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law that would enable more missing middle housing, with a particular focus on smaller, faster building form and construction, and wood frame construction, while ensuring water supply and wastewater capacity is considered and existing and proposed heritage conservation areas are exempted.**
 - c. **To create a public-facing affordable housing strategy, including a non-market component, as outlined in the staff report dated September 25, 2023 and to dedicate a Housing Accelerator Fund position to this work;**
 - d. **To work with HRM post-secondary institutions to increase density and create opportunities for student housing within a walking distance from post-secondary institutions across HRM; and**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 2. Request the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a letter for the Mayor to the Province requesting a legislative amendment to grant the Chief Administrative Officer the authority to discharge existing development agreements where the development agreement is more restrictive than the as-of-right zoning.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillor Russell

Not present: Councillor Smith

18.2 Councillor Nominations to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)

The following was before Council:

- Staff report dated September 25, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Suspend the rules of procedures under Schedule 6 of Administrative Order One, Executive Standing Committee Terms of Reference, requiring the Executive Standing Committee to review the nominations outlined in this report and make a recommendation to Regional Council;**
- 2. Nominate one (1) Councillor, who is the successful candidate receiving the most votes, after a vote by secret ballot, as the Halifax Regional Municipality Representative to sit on the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board (NSFM) for a two-year term; and**
- 3. Nominate one (1) Councillor, who is the successful candidate receiving the second most votes, after a vote by secret ballot, as the Halifax Regional Municipality Representative to sit on the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board (NSFM) for a one-year term.**

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Halifax Regional Council nominate Deputy Mayor Austin to sit on the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board (NSFM) for a two-year term.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Halifax Regional Council nominate Councillor Russell to sit on the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board (NSFM) for a one-year term.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Smith

19. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk