

A F T E R N O O N   S E S S I O N  
S P E C I A L   M E E T I N G

Council Chamber,  
City Hall,  
Halifax, N. S.,  
July 26/1945,  
4:30 P. M.

A meeting of the City Council was held this date.

After the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, and before considering the regular order of business, the members of Council attending, led by the City Clerk joined in repeating the Lord's Prayer.

At the above named hour there were present His Worship the Mayor, Chairman; Aldermen Batson, Coffin, Adams, DeWolf, Walker, Burgess and Ahern.

The meeting was called specially to consider the following items:

1. Resolution re Explosions.
2. Report Finance and Executive Committee re V-E Day Riots.
3. Tenders for Improvements to building at City Field.
4. Resolution re Borrowing "Water Supply."

EXPLOSION NAVAL ARMAMENT DEPOT

Read report and resolution as follows:

Halifax, N. S.,  
July 23/1945.

To His Worship the Mayor and  
Members of the City Council.

Gentlemen:

At a meeting of representative citizens of Halifax, called by the Aldermen of Ward #6, and held in the Council Chamber on the above date, the matter of the explosion which occurred on July 18 and 19/1945, was considered.

It was unanimously agreed that the resolution as attached hereto be submitted to the City Council with the request that same be approved and copies forwarded to the Nova Scotia Government and the two Federal Members

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for Halifax County in order that appropriate action may be taken by responsible parties immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. Publicover,  
CITY CLERK.

The considered and definite opinion of this meeting of representative citizens of Halifax, is:-

1. THAT any and all efforts made by the Mayor to have the City represented at the enquiry presently being conducted by the Naval Authorities concerning the cause and origin of the explosions that occurred at the Naval Armament Depot on the eastern shore of Bedford Basin on July 18 and 19/1945, be endorsed.
2. THAT immediate steps be taken by the proper authorities to abate the menace caused by the existing location of the Naval Armament Depot by removing the said Depot to a safe distance from the City of Halifax and that the citizens be informed and assured that such action will be promptly taken.
3. THAT a thorough appraisal be made of all damages arising as a result of the said explosions be conducted without any delay.
4. THAT full and adequate compensation be paid by the Dominion Government to all claimants for all damages sustained in consequence of the said explosions, irrespective of the amount and value involved; and
5. THAT demands be made and continued to be made until such time as satisfactory action is taken by the

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proper authorities in respect of the preceding matters.

Moved by Alderman Ahern, seconded by Alderman Burgess that the report and resolution as submitted be approved.

His Worship the Mayor stated that he had received definite information from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Affairs that full disclosure of facts and findings of the enquiry now being held will be made public.

4:45 P. M. -

Alderman Moriarty arrives and takes his seat in Council.

After considerable discussion on the matter, it was moved in amendment by Alderman Coffin, seconded by Alderman Batson:

THAT the matter of the disposition of the Naval Armament Depot be deferred until such time as the findings of the official court of enquiry are released and that this Council request the Dominion Government to make full and adequate compensation to all claimants for all damages sustained in consequence of the explosions that occurred at the Naval Armament Depot on the eastern shore of Bedford Basin on July 18 and 19/1945.

Amendment put and passed, six voting for the same and two against as follows:

FOR THE AMENDMENT:

Alderman Batson  
Moriarty  
Coffin  
Adams  
DeWolf  
Walker  
- 6 -

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

Alderman Burgess  
Ahern

- 2 -

August 6/1945.

Alderman Adams stated that it should be brought up at the Safety Committee and they would send a report to Council. This was agreed to.

Alderman DeWolf suggested that the Public Health and Welfare Committee should consider the advisability of using that location for a City Dump.

PROTEST MEETING RE EXPLOSIONS

His Worship the Mayor stated that a meeting was being held at the Lou Goddard Memorial Park on Tuesday August 7, 1945, at 8.00 P. M. to deal with the claims arising from the recent explosions at the Magazine at Bedford. He stated that Council should send official delegates to this meeting.

Moved by Alderman Coffin, seconded by Alderman Adams that Alderman Burgess, Deputy Mayor Ahern and His Worship the Mayor be named as Special delegates from this Council to attend the meeting. Motion passed.

LETTER RE FORT NEEDHAM PROPERTY

Read letter from Burchell, Smith, Parker and Fogo as follows:

August 4, 1945.

Mr. Allan M. Butler,  
Mayor, City of Halifax,  
City Hall,  
Halifax, N. S.

Re: Fort Needham Property

Dear Sir:

Further to the letter dated July 30th, 1945, from Mr. Gray, the General Manager of Wartime Housing Limited, and further to our conversation of August 4th, we

August 16/1945.

Yours very truly,

R. H. Stoddard,  
Deputy City Clerk.

Moved by Alderman Walker seconded by Alderman Breen that the report be approved. Motion passed.

Alderman Breen wanted to know what the balance was in the appropriation of the Recreation Committee.

His Worship the Mayor stated that he would have this information mailed to Alderman Breen.

**RESOLUTION TOWN OF DARTMOUTH RE EXPLOSIONS**

W H E R E A S on the night of July 18th and the early morning of July 19th, 1945, explosions took place in the Magazine at Burnside as a result of which damages were caused to properties in the Town of Dartmouth, the City of Halifax and surrounding territory; and within the said Town of Dartmouth practically no building escaped being damaged.

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Finance has announced that the policy of the Dominion Government is that these damages will be paid as if they were damages under The War Risk Insurance Act; with the additional proposal that small claims which would not ordinarily be paid under that Act will be paid from other Government funds if they are otherwise qualified;

AND WHEREAS the result of this will be that many persons will have to bear their own loss;

August 16/1945.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Town Council of the Town of Dartmouth places itself on record as describing this entire proposal as discriminatory and unjust;
2. In the opinion of this Town Council the matter is not one for adjustment under the War Risk Insurance Act; but the damages caused by these explosions are the clear and distinct responsibility, both moral and legal, of the Government of the Dominion of Canada;
3. This Town Council therefore requests the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, under whom the Magazine was operated, to make immediate arrangement for payment in full of all loss and damage caused by the said explosions;
4. This Town Council further requests that it be advised without undue delay, what attitude the Minister proposes to take upon this request.

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RESOLVED:

That this Town Council petition the responsible authorities to remove the explosives magazine from its present site at Burnside to some location so far distant from Dartmouth as to eliminate danger to the town in the event of an explosion.

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This matter was ordered filed and the City Clerk was directed to write the Town Clerk of Dartmouth advising that the City has decided to await the report from the Naval Enquiry before taking final action.

August 28/1945.

Moved by Alderman Ahern, seconded by Alderman Breen that the report be approved. Motion passed unanimously, the Aldermen listed as being present at this meeting were in their seats and voted.

**REPAIRS CITY PRISON**

Halifax, N. S.,  
August 14/1945.

To His Worship the Mayor and  
Members of the City Council.

Gentlemen:

At a meeting of the Finance and Executive Committee held on the above date, a report from the Public Health and Welfare Committee respecting the damage caused to the roof and windows at the City Prison during the recent **explosions** was considered.

It is estimated that it would cost approximately \$400.00 to effect these repairs and as it is essential that these repairs be effected without delay, your Committee recommends that Governor Grant be authorized to proceed with same and that the funds required for this purpose be obtained under the provisions of Section 332A of the City Charter and submits herewith a resolution for Council's approval.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. Publicover,  
CITY CLERK.

W H E R E A S the City requires money for the purpose of effecting repairs to the roof and windows of the City Prison which were damaged in the recent explosions and no funds have been provided in the estimates for the aforesaid purpose;

AND WHEREAS Section 332A of the City Charter as enacted in Chapter 53 of the Acts of 1932, authorizes the City to borrow for such a purpose;

August 28/1945.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT an amount not exceeding \$400.00 be borrowed from any bank or fund available, under the provisions of the said enactment, the money so borrowed with interest thereon to be included in the estimates for the civic year 1946.

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Moved by Alderman Ahern, seconded by Alderman Breen that the report and resolution as submitted be approved. Motion passed unanimously, the Aldermen listed as being present at this meeting were in their seats and voted.

PROGRESS PAYMENTS T.B.HOSPITAL

Halifax, N. S.,  
August 14/1945.

To His Worship the Mayor and  
Members of the City Council.

Gentlemen:

At a meeting of the Finance and Executive Committee held on the above date, a report from the Public Health and Welfare Committee recommending for payment the following accounts, was considered:-

C. A. Fowler and Company, Supervision and  
Inspection....\$ 421.63  
Foundation Maritime Ltd., Progress Payment No.2 17,567.80

Your Committee concurs in this report and recommends that the funds be provided as authorized by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. Publicover,  
CITY CLERK.

Moved by Alderman Ahern, seconded by Alderman Breen that the report be approved. Motion passed unanimously, the Aldermen listed as being present at this meeting were in their seats and voted.