



MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Ladysmith Seniors Centre
630 2nd Avenue

Council Members Present:

Mayor Deena Beeston
Councillor Gourlay
Councillor Jacobson

Councillor Mayor McKay
Councillor Paterson
Councillor Stevens

Council Members Absent:

Councillor Virtanen

Staff Present:

Allison McCarrick
Erin Anderson
Chris Barfoot
Jake Belobaba

Julia Dewijn
Mark Van Vliet
Sue Bouma
Hayley Young

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Beeston called this Special Meeting of Council to order at 6:28 p.m., recognizing with gratitude that it was taking place on the unceded territory of the Stz'uminus First Nation.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2025-195

By unanimous consent, Council approved the agenda for this Special Meeting of Council for August 5, 2025.

RECESS

CS 2025-196

By unanimous consent Council recessed at 6:30 p.m. to allow the delegation to join the meeting via Zoom.

Council reconvened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Allan Neilson, Local Government Consultant

Allan Neilson, Local Government Consultant, presented a summary of the Economic Development Cowichan (EDC) service review, including its purpose, current challenges, and preliminary findings. Council heard that EDC operates with budget and staffing limitations, serves a diverse region, and faces uncertainty about its role and priorities. Key functions such as information gathering, advocacy, coordination, and partnerships were identified as valuable, with sector-specific initiatives receiving stronger support than others.

Mr. Neilson sought Council's input on the value of EDC to Ladysmith and on priorities for future regional economic development activities. He responded to Council's questions.

4. ADJOURNMENT

CS 2025-197

That this Special Meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Motion Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor (D. Beeston)

Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)