



## 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

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*\*as per  
Council  
Resolution  
CS 2025-353*

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 \*traditional 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**

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Mayor (D. Beeston)

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Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)