



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Ladysmith Seniors Centre
630 2nd Avenue

Council Members Present:

Mayor Deena Beeston
Councillor Ray Gourlay
Councillor Amanda Jacobson
Councillor Tricia McKay

Councillor Duck Paterson
Councillor Marsh Stevens
Councillor Jeff Virtanen

Staff Present:

Allison McCarrick
Erin Anderson
Chris Barfoot
Jake Belobaba

Tim Tanton
Sue Bouma
Nick Pescod
Hayley Young

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Beeston called this Meeting of Council to order at 6:30 p.m., in order to retire immediately into Closed Session.

2. CLOSED SESSION

CS 2025-227

That, in accordance with section 90(1) of the *Community Charter*, Council retire into closed session in order to consider items related to the following:

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements; and
- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

Motion Carried

3. OPEN MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (7:00 P.M.)

Mayor Beeston called this Regular Meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m., recognizing with gratitude that it was taking place on the unceded territory of the Stz'uminus First Nation.

She also announced that the work on the Holland Creek trail had been completed, and that the trail would be open to the public on September 17, 2025.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2025-228

That Council approve the agenda for this Regular Meeting of Council for September 16, 2025, as amended to:

1. Remove Item 11.1, "Notice of Motion - Councillor Stevens" and renumber the agenda accordingly; and
2. Include a submission received after publication of the agenda pertaining to Item 9.1, "Permissive Tax Exemptions for the Tax Year 2026."

Motion Carried

5. RISE AND REPORT- Items from Closed Session

Council rose from Closed Session at 6:41 p.m. with report on the following:

CE 2025-061

That Council:

1. Appoint Jake Belobaba, acting as the Director of Development Services, to bid on any of the residential properties included in the annual Tax Sale;
3. Rise and report on Recommendation No. 1 immediately.

CE 2025-063

That Council:

1. Authorize the Town to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arts Council of Ladysmith & District to continue leasing the premises located at 610 Oyster Bay Drive (the Machine Shop) for a five-year term with the option to renew, in support of the organization's efforts to secure external funding; and
2. Rise and report on Recommendation No. 1 immediately.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held September 2, 2025

CS 2025-229

That Council approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held September 2, 2025.

Motion Carried

7. DELEGATIONS

7.1 David Slade, Vice-Chair of Friends of Rails to Trails Vancouver Island

David Slade, Vice Chair of Friends of Rails to Trails Vancouver Island, spoke in support of converting the E&N rail corridor into a multi-use trail. He outlined the organization's vision for an accessible active transportation network, highlighting economic, recreational, and commuting benefits. Mr. Slade cited examples of successful rail-to-trail projects, discussed cost and environmental advantages of building trails on existing rail beds, and noted funding opportunities through federal and provincial active transportation programs.

Mr. Slade responded to questions from Council, and Council thanked him for his comprehensive presentation.

8. COMMITTEE MINUTES

8.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee - May 28, 2025

CS 2025-230

That Council receive the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held May 28, 2025.

Motion Carried

8.2 Community Planning Advisory Committee - September 3, 2025

CS 2025-231

That Council receive the minutes of the Community Planning Advisory Committee meeting held September 3, 2025.

Motion Carried

8.3 Committee of the Whole - September 9, 2025

CS 2025-232

That Council direct staff to present a report at the November Committee of the Whole meeting detailing potential traffic calming measures for the downtown core and key park access locations.

Motion Carried

9. REPORTS

9.1 Permissive Tax Exemptions for the Tax Year 2026

Council agreed to consider separately the first recommendation for Item 9.1, "Permissive Tax Exemptions for the Tax Year 2026."

CS 2025-233

That Council direct staff to deny the requested exemption for the Ladysmith Senior Citizen Housing Society for the property at 117 Dogwood Drive.

Motion Defeated

OPPOSED: Mayor Beeston, Councillors Gourlay, Paterson and Virtanen.

CS 2025-234

That Council allow the requested exemption for the Ladysmith Senior Citizen Housing Society for the property at 117 Dogwood Drive for 2026 tax year.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillors Jacobson, McKay and Stevens.

CS 2025-235

That Council direct staff to:

1. Prepare a one-year Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw for tax year 2026 for all properties at the established level of exemption currently identified in "Town of Ladysmith 2025 Permissive Tax Exemptions Bylaw 2024, No. 2189"; and
2. Remove the fully exempt properties from the 2026 water parcel tax roll and the 2026 sewer parcel tax roll.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillors Jacobson and Stevens.

9.2 2026 Council Meeting Schedule

CS 2025-236

That Council confirm the schedule of regular Council and Committee of the Whole meetings for 2026, as attached to the September 16, 2025 staff report, and direct staff to advertise the schedule in accordance with Section 127 of the *Community Charter*.

Motion Carried

9.3 Solid Waste Collection Award

CS 2025-237

That Council award Contract 2025-IS-09, a five-year contract for Residential Curbside Waste Collection Services, to GFL Environmental Inc. in accordance with the RFP.

Motion Defeated

OPPOSED: All members of Council.

CS 2025-238

That Council:

1. Award Contract 2025-IS-09, a five-year contract for Residential Curbside Waste Collection Services, to GFL Environmental Inc.;
2. Direct staff to negotiate contract terms permitting the use of collection bins with a maximum volume of 125 litres and a maximum weight of 20 kg; and
3. Amend "Garbage, Recyclables and Organics Collection Bylaw 2005, No. 1588" to incorporate the updated bin size and weight limitations.

Motion Carried

10. BYLAWS

10.1 Bylaws for Adoption

10.1.1 "Council Procedure Bylaw 2009, No. 1666, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2218"

CS 2025-239

That Council adopt "Council Procedure Bylaw 2009, No. 1666, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2218".

Motion Carried

10.2 Bylaw Status Sheet

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Permissive Tax Exemptions - Ballot Question Proposal

CS 2025-240

That Council include applications received by the July 31, 2026 Permissive Tax Exemption deadline as the subject of ballot questions authorizing four-year Permissive Tax Exemptions during the 2026 municipal election.

Motion Defeated

OPPOSED: Councillors Gourlay, Jacobson, McKay, Paterson and Virtanen.

11.2 Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC) Annual General Meeting - Voting Delegates

CS 2025-241

That Council appoint Mayor Beeston as a voting delegate, and Councillors McKay and Paterson as alternate voting delegates, for the Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC) Annual General Meeting taking place on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, in conjunction with the Union of BC Municipalities Convention in Victoria.

Motion Carried

12. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

13. ADJOURNMENT

CS 2025-242

That this Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Motion Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor (D. Beeston)

Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)