



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 2, 2025
6:00 P.M.
Ladysmith Seniors Centre
630 2nd Avenue

Council Members Present:

Mayor Deena Beeston	Councillor Duck Paterson
Councillor Ray Gourlay	Councillor Marsh Stevens
Councillor Amanda Jacobson	Councillor Jeff Virtanen
Councillor Tricia McKay	

Staff Present:

Allison McCarrick	Chris Geiger
Erin Anderson	Sue Bouma
Chris Barfoot	Nick Pescod
Jake Belobaba	Hayley Young
Tim Tanton	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Beeston called this Meeting of Council to order at 6:00 p.m., in order to retire immediately into Closed Session.

2. CLOSED SESSION

CS 2025-316

That, in accordance with section 90(2) of the *Community Charter*, Council retire into closed session in order to consider items related to the following:

- (b) (i) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government, or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government, or both, and a third party.

Motion Carried

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

Mayor Beeston called this Regular Meeting of Council to order at 7:03 p.m., recognizing with gratitude that it was taking place on the traditional territory of the Stz'uminus First Nation.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2025-317

That Council approve the agenda for this Regular Meeting of Council for December 2, 2025.

Motion Carried

5. RISE AND REPORT- Items from Closed Session

Council rose from Closed Session at 6:59 p.m. without report.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held November 18, 2025

CS 2025-318

That Council approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held November 18, 2025.

Motion Carried

6.2 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held November 25, 2025

CS 2025-319

That Council approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held November 25, 2025.

Motion Carried

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Electric Kick Scooters

CS 2025-320

That Council receive the correspondence and associated information regarding Electric Kick Scooters and the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor McKay.

8. DELEGATIONS

8.1 Beverley Joy, Ladysmith Resident, Defend the North Coast Tanker Ban Initiative

Beverley Joy, Ladysmith Resident, spoke to the Defend the North Coast Tanker Ban Initiative, urging Council to advocate for maintaining the 2019 North Coast tanker ban, reaffirming opposition to new northern oil pipelines and associated tanker traffic, and encouraging investment in renewable energy and clean technologies to protect the coast and climate while supporting B.C.'s economy and jobs.

Council thanked Ms. Joy for her presentation.

9. COMMITTEE MINUTES

9.1 Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee - October 15, 2025

CS 2025-321

That Council receive the amended minutes of the **Community Planning Advisory Committee** meeting held October 15, 2025.

Councillor Virtanen advised that the item name and recommendation contained an incorrect reference to the "Community Planning and Advisory Committee".

CS 2025-322

AMENDMENT

That Council amend resolution CS 2025-321 by replacing the committee name "Community Planning and Advisory Committee" with "Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee" to correct an administrative error.

Motion Carried

Resolution CS 2025-321, as amended, reads:

That Council receive the amended minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee meeting held October 15, 2025.

Main Motion, as Amended, Carried

9.2 Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee - November 19, 2025
CS 2025-323

That Council receive the minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee meeting for November 19, 2025.

Motion Carried

10. 2026-2030 FINANCIAL PLAN DISCUSSIONS - INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS

10.1 Presentation and Council Discussion

The Director of Financial Services gave a presentation that reviewed details of the general capital projects for 2026 and responded to Council's questions.

10.2 Public Input and Questions

Several members of the public provided comments on the Financial Plan presentation.

One speaker requested that accessibility upgrades to the downtown public washroom be elevated to a higher budget priority. He also proposed installing pedestrian-activated crosswalk signals at both 1st Avenue & High Street and 1st Avenue & Roberts Street. The same speaker later requested additional information on the subdivision tree budget items and questioned classifying public engagement costs for a potential new City Hall as a "capital project".

Another speaker commented on the crosswalks and expressed a preference for additional four-way stops rather than pedestrian-activated lights.

A third speaker inquired about the police taxation figure, asked when the forthcoming discussion on the potential loss of industry would come to Council and whether estimated taxation impacts were available. She also sought clarification on the solid waste budget.

A fourth speaker asked whether a community-based tree planting program could be implemented.

10.3 2026 Budget Deliberations – General Capital and General Operations Update

CS 2025-324

That Council direct staff to include the projects presented in the report dated December 2, 2025 from the Director of Financial Services for inclusion in the 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan.

Motion Carried

11. REPORTS

11.1 Arts and Heritage Hub Site Remediation

CS 2025-325

That Council increase the Heart of the Hub (Machine Shop) project budget by \$86,000 to fund the additional site remediation work required, with the funds to come from prior year surplus, and that the 2025-2029 Financial Plan be amended accordingly.

Motion Carried

11.2 Mobile Devices for Computer-Aided Dispatch

CS 2025-326

That Council waive the Purchasing Policy #5-1790-D and approve the sole-source purchase and installation to Sigma Safety Corp for NG911-compatible Mobile Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) agents (mobile data terminals) in Fire Department vehicles as presented in the grant application to UBCM.

Motion Carried

12. BYLAWS

12.1 Bylaws for Introduction

12.1.1 "Garbage, Recyclables and Organics Bylaw 2005, No. 1588, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2225"

CS 2025-327

That Council give first, second and third readings to "Garbage, Recyclables and Organics Bylaw 2005, No. 1588, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2225".

OPPOSED: Councillor Stevens.

Motion Carried

12.1.2 "Sanitary Sewer Rate Bylaw 1999, No. 1299, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2227"

CS 2025-328

That Council give first, second and third readings to "Sanitary Sewer Rate Bylaw 1999, No. 1299, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2227".

Motion Carried

12.1.3 "Waterworks Regulations Bylaw 1999, No. 1298, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2228"

CS 2025-329

That Council give first, second and third readings to "Waterworks Regulations Bylaw 1999, No. 1298, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2228".

Motion Carried

12.1.4 "2026 Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw 2025, No. 2229"

CS 2025-330

That Council give first, second and third readings to "2026 Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw 2025, No. 2229".

Motion Carried

12.1.5 "Town of Ladysmith Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw 2025 No. 2230"

CS 2025-331

That Council give first, second and third readings to "Town of Ladysmith Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw 2025 No. 2230".

Motion Carried

12.2 Bylaw Status Sheet

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.1 Notice of Motion – Servicing Agreements – Councillor Virtanen

CS 2025-332

That Council direct staff to:

1. Remove the following three (3) organizations from the Grant in Aid program and create a 4-year servicing agreement with:

- a. Festival of Lights;
- b. Arts Council of Ladysmith & District;
- c. Ladysmith Celebrations Society;

2. Set the servicing agreements at \$10,000 per year for each organization, with a 2% increase per year; and
3. Amend the Grant in Aid Policy to reduce the overall Grant in Aid budget from 0.8% to 0.5%.

CS 2025-333

AMENDMENT

That resolution CS 2025-332 be amended by reducing the servicing agreement term from 4 years to 2 years.

Amendment Carried

OPPOSED: Councillors Jacobson, Stevens and Virtanen.

Resolution CS 2025-332, as amended, reads:

That Council direct staff to:

1. Remove the following three (3) organizations from the Grant in Aid program and create a 2-year servicing agreement with:
 - a. Festival of Lights;
 - b. Arts Council of Ladysmith & District;
 - c. Ladysmith Celebrations Society;
2. Set the servicing agreements at \$10,000 per year for each organization, with a 2% increase per year; and
3. Amend the Grant in Aid Policy to reduce the overall Grant in Aid budget from 0.8% to 0.5%.

Main Motion, As Amended, Carried

OPPOSED: Councillors Jacobson and Stevens.

13.2 Defend the North Coast Tanker Ban Initiative

Councillor Gourlay requested that Council consider the following recommendation in response to Item 8.1.

Recommendation moved:

That Council direct staff to write a letter on behalf of Council to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of British Columbia, the BC Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, the BC Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources:

- Urging the federal government to stand by the 2019 North Coast tanker ban and reject any proposals that would undermine it;
- Urging the provincial and federal governments publicly reaffirm their opposition to new northern oil pipelines and associated tanker traffic on the North Coast;
- Encouraging the prioritization of investment in renewable energy and clean technologies that strengthen B.C.'s economy, create good jobs, and protect the coast and climate for current and future generations.

Consideration deferred. See resolution CS 2025-334.

CS 2025-334

MOTION TO TABLE

That Council defer consideration of the following recommendation to a future meeting:

"That Council direct staff to write a letter on behalf of Council to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of British Columbia, the BC Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, the BC Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources:

- Urging the federal government to stand by the 2019 North Coast tanker ban and reject any proposals that would undermine it;
- Urging the provincial and federal governments publicly reaffirm their opposition to new northern oil pipelines and associated tanker traffic on the North Coast;
- Encouraging the prioritization of investment in renewable energy and clean technologies that strengthen B.C.'s economy, create good jobs, and protect the coast and climate for current and future generations."

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Gourlay.

14. QUESTION PERIOD

A member of the public asked about the proposed sale of Queen's park in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee minutes, and also inquired about the ratio of income from water rates to related expenses.

Another member of the public asked whether staff could identify themselves during Council meetings.

A third member of the public asked about the status of the Tree Protection Bylaw, whether Council or administration would consider engaging affected neighbourhoods in developing a plan, and whether the Town has the authority to offer monthly property tax payments and any potential benefits of doing so.

15. ADJOURNMENT

CS 2025-335

That this Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Motion Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor (D. Beeston)

Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)