



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

6:02 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 (*Via Zoom*)

Councillor Jeff Virtanen

Staff Present:

Allison McCarrick

Sue Bouma

Hayley Young

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Beeston called this Meeting of Council to order at 6:02 p.m., in order to retire immediately into Closed Session.

2. CLOSED SESSION

CS 2026-043

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

- (1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (1)(d) the security of the property of the municipality;
- (1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;
- (1)(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality;
- (1)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (1)(j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the [*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*](#);

- (1)(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; and
- (2)(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations
 - between the municipality and another local government or between another local government 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 7:00 p.m. Councillor Paterson delivered the land acknowledgement.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2026-044

That Council approve the agenda for this Regular Meeting of Council for March 17, 2026, as amended to:

1. Update the start time of Item 1, "Call to Order" to 6:00 p.m, and
2. Add Item 12.1, "Flag Half Masting" in honour of former CVRD Area Director Mary Marcotte, in accordance with Corporate Flag Protocol 01-0340-A, sponsored by Councillor Paterson.

Motion Carried

5. RISE AND REPORT - Items from Closed Session

Council rose from Closed Session at 6:21 p.m with report on routine closed resolutions for the period January to December 2025, as well as the following selected 2025 resolutions related to the business of Council:

- **CE 2025-002 (January 28, 2025)**

That Council:

1. Consider the draft resolution, provided as Attachment A, resulting from Councillor Stevens' contravention of the "Council Code of Conduct Policy 01-0530-B" in his January 24, 2025 social media post (Attachment B) related to candidacy for the March 1, 2025 by-election; and
2. Confirm their intention to proceed with a Sanction Hearing during which Councillor Stevens will have a reasonable opportunity to be heard by Council in a closed meeting.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Jacobson

- **CE 2025-011 (February 18, 2025)**

Whereas Council believes that Councillor Stevens has acted in a manner unbecoming a member of Town Council;

And Whereas Councillor Stevens has been afforded procedural fairness with respect to Council's consideration of this matter and was notified in advance:

- a. that Council would be considering the matter and was given a copy of this draft Resolution that may be considered by Council;
- b. that Council may consider sanctions including a motion of censure and public notification of any sanction;

Whereas Councillor Stevens was expressly informed of his right to retain legal counsel and for his legal counsel to be present at the Council meeting in which this Resolution would be discussed and voted on;

Whereas Councillor Stevens was given the opportunity to personally, or via his legal counsel, make submissions to the rest of Council regarding his conduct in this matter;

Whereas Council has considered the submissions made by Councillor Stevens and/or his legal counsel;

Whereas Council has attempted to reach a consensus as to the appropriate action;

Whereas Council has provided united or separate verbal or written reasons so that Councillor Stevens understands the basis for the decision to address his conduct.

Be it Resolved as Follows:

1. That Council shall address what it believes to be conduct unbecoming a member of Town Council by way of a motion of censure; and
2. That the Corporate Officer be directed to publish a media release containing the information concerning this matter that may be released in keeping with the Town's obligations pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, substantially with the content of the following: Council of the Town of Ladysmith has resolved that Councillor Stevens has contravened the Council Code of Conduct Policy 01-0530-B.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Jacobson

- **CE 2025-017 (March 4, 2025)**

That Council consider separately each recommendation item from the 2025 Arts and Heritage Proposed Building Lease Rates.

- **CE 2025-021 (March 4, 2025)**

That Council defer discussion of the Arts and Heritage Hub lease rates to a future meeting of Council and direct staff to prepare a report that incorporates additional options.

- **CE 2025-034 (May 6, 2025)**

By unanimous consent, Council agreed to consider separately Recommendation 3 under Item 5.1, "Fire Department Strategic Work Plan", which states, "That Council immediately action recommendation No. 8 to create and fill a Deputy Fire Chief-Training Officer full-time exempt position."

- **CE 2025-037 (May 6, 2025)**

That Council immediately action recommendation No. 8 of the Fire Department Strategic Work Plan, to create and fill a Deputy Fire Chief-Training Officer full-time exempt position.

- **CE 2025-038 (May 6, 2025)**

That Council:

1. Direct staff to enter into a nine-month agreement, commencing April 1, 2025, with E-Comm Emergency Communications for British Columbia Incorporated; and
2. Rise and report on Recommendation No. 1 once the agreement is signed.

- **CE 2025-049 (June 17, 2025)**

That Council receive the e-mail from A. Plamondon of MIABC dated June 12, 2025, the MIABC Risk Management Guidelines, and a sample of the MIABC recommended indemnification and hold harmless clause.

- **CE 2025-097 (December 16, 2025)**

That Council:

1. Direct staff to prepare a contract with GFL Environmental Inc for residential curbside waste collection services based on Option 1, as outlined in the December 16, 2025 report from the Infrastructure Services Department, including an alternative for Option 2, and with the understanding that both parties will endeavour to negotiate Option 3 for years 2027-2030; and
2. Not rise and report on item 1 until the contract has been executed.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Stevens.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 3, 2026

CS 2026-045

That Council approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 3, 2026.

Motion Carried

7. PROCLAMATIONS

7.1 World Down Syndrome Day

Mayor Beeston proclaimed March 21, 2026 as "World Down Syndrome Day" in the Town of Ladysmith.

7.2 Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness

Mayor Beeston has proclaimed March 26, 2026 as "Purple Day" in the Town of Ladysmith.

8. COMMITTEE MINUTES

8.1 Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee - February 18, 2026

CS 2026-046

That Council receive the minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee meeting held February 18, 2026.

Motion Carried

8.2 Committee of the Whole - March 10, 2026

By unanimous consent, Council agreed to consider the identified Committee of the Whole recommendations separately.

CS 2026-047

That Council:

1. Direct staff to re-open Stuart Walkway for public use;
2. Direct staff to prepare amendments to Themed Lighting Policy 01-0320-B to:
 - a. Include provisions for processing proclamation requests; and
 - b. Specify that both themed lighting and proclamation requests will only be accepted from local chapters or organizations with representation within Ladysmith, or those with provincial or national significance.

3. Approve a pilot program for On-Demand Surety Bonds as an accepted form of security deposit as presented in the March 10, 2026 staff report to the Committee.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-048

That Council direct staff to conduct a review of Council remuneration including benefits coverage, based on comparable communities and report its recommendations to Council prior to September 30, 2026.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillors Jacobson and Stevens.

CS 2026-049

That Council direct staff to explore adding cat control to the Animal Control bylaw and bring forward a report and draft bylaw amendments to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Stevens.

CS 2026-050

That Council direct staff, in their future review of the Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaws & DCC Reduction Bylaws, to bring forward a report that includes the advantages, disadvantages, as well as potential options related to "Town of Ladysmith Revitalization Tax Exemption – Economic Revitalization Bylaw 2012, No. 1807".

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Stevens and Virtanen.

9. CVRD UPDATE

There was no meeting; therefore, no report was provided.

10. BYLAWS

10.1 Bylaw Status Sheet

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 Request for Endorsement - "Forestry is a Solution" Initiative

CS 2026-051

That Council endorse the "Forestry is a Solution" campaign and direct staff to share information about the campaign through the Town's official communication channels.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Jacobson and Stevens.

11.2 Request for Endorsement - Diagnostic Imaging Access in BC

CS 2026-052

That Council direct staff to:

1. Prepare and submit written feedback to the Province of British Columbia in support of the proposed modernization of the physiotherapy scope of practice, including granting physiotherapists the authority to order diagnostic imaging; and
2. Send an email of support to the Executive Director, Professional Regulation and Oversight, prior to the March 31, 2026 consultation deadline.

Motion Carried

11.3 17th Annual Chamber of Commerce Charity Golf Tournament

CS 2026-053

That Council allocate \$250.00 to sponsor a hole at the 17th Annual Chamber of Commerce Charity Golf Tournament on June 12, 2026 as requested in the correspondence received March 10, 2026, with funding to come from the Council public relations budget.

Motion Carried

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Flag Half Masting

CS 2026-054

That Council, in alignment with the CVRD observance, lower the flags to half mast in recognition of the service of former CVRD Director Mary Marcotte.

Motion Carried

13. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

14. ADJOURNMENT

CS 2026-055

That this Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Motion Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor (D. Beeston)

Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)