



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

6:45 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. Vacated the meeting at 7:02 p.m.; Returned at 7:08 p.m.*)
Councillor Jeff Virtanen

Staff Present:

Allison McCarrick
Chris Geiger
Sue Bouma

Mark Van Vliet
Andrew Wilson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Beeston called this Meeting of Council to order at 6:45 p.m., in order to retire immediately into Closed Session.

2. CLOSED SESSION

CS 2026-111

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) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations
 - (ii) 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. and delivered the land acknowledgement.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2026-112

That Council approve the agenda for this Regular Meeting of Council for June 2, 2026.

Motion Carried

5. RISE AND REPORT - Items from Closed Session

Council rose from Closed Session at 6:47 p.m. with report on the following item from the Closed Meeting of Council held February 4, 2025:

CE 2025-007

That Council:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Ladysmith and the CVRD regarding the supply of bulk water to the Saltair Water System; and
2. Authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the document.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held May 19, 2026

CS 2026-113

That Council approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held May 19, 2026.

Motion Carried

Councillor Stevens declared a conflict of interest regarding agenda item 7.1 due to prior discussions with the proponent and vacated the meeting at 7:02 pm.

7. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

7.1 Development Variance Permit – 131 Methuen Street

CS 2026-114

That Council issue Development Variance Permit 3090-26-01 for 131 Methuen Street (Lot A, District Lot 56, Oyster District, Plan 33303, PID: 000-238-597) to vary the maximum permitted gross floor area of a proposed coach house dwelling from 75 square metres to 105 square metres.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Paterson.

Councillor Stevens returned to the meeting at 7:08 pm.

8. CVRD UPDATE

Mayor Beeston provided an update on CVRD matters, including the Official Community Plan review and replacement, BC Transit funding, recognition of former director Mary Marcotte, and issues to be advanced at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Section 57 Notice on Title - 344 Morgan Road

The property owner was present via Zoom and spoke in relation to the proposed notice on title.

Mark Van Vliet, Building Inspector, provided an overview of the report and responded to Council's questions.

CS 2026-115

That Council, pursuant to section 57(3) of the *Community Charter*:

1. Provide an opportunity for the owner of LOT 2, PLAN VIP88126, DISTRICT LOT 42, OYSTER LAND DISTRICT, 344 Morgan Road to be heard regarding the Building Inspector's recommendation to place a notice on title as described in the Inspector's June 2, 2026 report to Council;
2. Provide an opportunity for the Building Inspector to be heard, regarding the Building Inspector's recommendation to place a notice on title as described in the Inspector's June 2, 2026 report to Council;
3. Confirm the recommendations of the Building Inspector as outlined in the Inspector's June 2, 2026 report to Council, and
4. Direct the Corporate Officer to file a notice in the Land Title Office for the property legally described as LOT 2, PLAN VIP88126, DISTRICT LOT 42, OYSTER LAND DISTRICT, in accordance with subsections 57(3)(a) and (b) of the *Community Charter*.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Virtanen.

9.2 Abandoned Encampments Cleanup

CS 2026-116

That Council receive the June 2, 2026 report from the Protective Services Department regarding abandoned encampments on Town property and direct staff to:

1. Initiate the cleanup of the two vacated encampment sites, with funding of up to \$5,000 to come from previous year's surplus;
2. Develop an Encampment Remediation Protocol Policy for Council's review and consideration; and
3. Include a budget item in the 2027 Financial Plan to support ongoing vacant encampment remediation.

CS 2026-117

AMENDMENT

That Council insert the following as item 4 of Resolution CS 2026-116:

4. Invoice the Province for the cost of cleanup of vacated encampments.

Amendment Carried

OPPOSED: Councillors Gourlay, Jacobson and Stevens.

By unanimous consent Council agreed to consider separately each item regarding the abandoned encampments cleanup.

CS 2026-118

That Council direct staff to initiate the cleanup of the two vacated encampment sites, with funding of up to \$5,000 to come from previous year's surplus.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-119

That Council direct staff to develop an Encampment Remediation Protocol Policy for Council's review and consideration.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-120

That Council direct staff to include a budget item in the 2027 Financial Plan to support ongoing vacant encampment remediation.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Paterson.

Resolution CS 2026-116, as amended, reads:

That Council receive the June 2, 2026 report from the Protective Services Department regarding abandoned encampments on Town property and direct staff to:

1. Initiate the cleanup of the two vacated encampment sites, with funding of up to \$5,000 to come from previous year's surplus;
2. Develop an Encampment Remediation Protocol Policy for Council's review and consideration;
3. Include a budget item in the 2027 Financial Plan to support ongoing vacant encampment remediation; and
4. Invoice the Province for the cost of cleanup of vacated encampments.

By majority consent, Main Motion, as Amended, Carried.

9.3 Fire Department Hose and Nozzle Replacement Plan

CS 2026-121

That Council direct staff to amend the 2026-2030 Financial Plan to include \$75,000, with the funds to come from allocated surplus, to replace the Fire Department hose, nozzles and fittings.

Motion Carried

10. BYLAWS

10.1 Bylaw Status Sheet

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 Request for Stakeholder Meeting – Downtown Public Safety

CS 2026-122

That Council:

1. Direct staff to reply to the Chamber of Commerce's letter dated May 21, 2026, requesting that a Town organization facilitate the stakeholder meeting identified in the correspondence, with the meeting to occur after June 16; and
2. Appoint two Council members, plus appropriate staff, to attend the meeting.

CS 2026-123

AMENDMENT

That recommendation 1 of resolution CS 2026-122 be amended to read as follows:

That Council:

1. Direct staff to advise the Chamber of Commerce that consideration of a response to their May 21, 2026 letter regarding a stakeholder meeting will occur after the LRCA's presentation at the June 16, 2026 Council meeting.

Amendment Carried

OPPOSED: Councillors Paterson and Virtanen

CS 2026-124

AMENDMENT

That recommendation 2 of resolution CS 2026-122 be amended to include the words "should it occur."

Amendment Carried

OPPOSED: Councillors Gourlay, Jacobson, and Stevens.

Resolution CS 2026-122, as amended, reads:

That Council:

1. Direct staff to advise the Chamber of Commerce that a response to their May 21, 2026 letter regarding a stakeholder meeting will occur after the LRCA's presentation at the June 16, 2026 Council meeting.
2. Appoint two Council members, plus appropriate staff, to attend the meeting, should it occur.

By majority consent, Main Motion, as Amended, Carried.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

A member of the public asked whether the Town will consider allocating funds toward security for the Ladysmith Museum and the downtown core on weekends.

Another member of the public asked whether public complaints in the downtown core have increased since encampments on Town-owned property were evacuated, and whether there is a policy for responding to questions raised during Question Period at Council meetings.

A third member of the public asked what the Town's plan is for safety in the downtown core when Bylaw and the RCMP are unavailable.

A fourth member of the public asked what immediate actions the Town could take to improve safety in the downtown core, and whether the shelter could be relocated out of the downtown area.

A fifth member of the public asked what role or actions merchants may have in addressing safety concerns in the downtown core.

13. ADJOURNMENT

CS 2026-125

That this Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Motion Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor (D. Beeston)

Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)