



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

7:00 P.M.

Ladysmith Seniors Centre

630 2nd Avenue

Council Members Present:

Mayor Deena Beeston

Councillor Ray Gourlay (*Vacated at 7:33 p.m. for the remainder of the meeting*)

Councillor Amanda Jacobson

Councillor Tricia McKay

Councillor Duck Paterson (*Via Zoom*)

Councillor Jeff Virtanen (*Vacated at 7:11 p.m.; Returned at 7:22 p.m.*)

Council Members Absent:

Councillor Marsh Stevens

Staff Present:

Allison McCarrick

Erin Anderson

Chris Barfoot

Iain Bourhill

Tim Tanton

Sue Bouma

Hayley Young

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Beeston called this Regular Meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and delivered the land acknowledgement.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2026-197

That Council approve the agenda for this Regular Meeting of Council for September 22, 2026.

Motion Carried

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held September 1, 2026

CS 2026-198

That Council approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held September 1, 2026.

Motion Carried

4. COMMITTEE MINUTES

4.1 Committee of the Whole - September 8, 2026

CS 2026-199

That Council:

1. Give first, second and third readings to "Animal Responsibility Bylaw 2026, No. 2238";
2. Direct staff to bring forward amendments to "Ticket Information Utilization Bylaw 2002, No. 1457", to incorporate additional fines associated with the inclusion of other animals under the bylaw; and
3. Direct staff to bring forward amendments to "Town of Ladysmith Fees and Charges Bylaw 2008, No. 1644" to reflect expanded impound fees.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-200

That Council:

1. Endorse the Rutti Park Implementation Plan as presented; and
2. Direct staff to include costing for Phase 1 of the Rutti Park Implementation Plan including the pathway and the children's play area from Phase 2 for consideration as part of the 2027 capital budget deliberations.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-201

That Council:

1. Receive the September 8, 2026 staff report from the Development Services Department regarding the proposed Tree Protection Bylaw; and
2. Provide direction to staff to proceed.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-202

That Council direct staff to explore remedies to increase safety at the intersection of 4th Avenue and Belaire Street and report back at a future meeting of Council.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-203

That Council direct staff to design, purchase, and install "Shop Local, Shop Ladysmith, Buy Canadian" signage at the two highway sign stations and Aggie Hall, provided that the project can be accommodated within the approved budget, and display the signage when those locations are not being used to advertise community events.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-204

That Council approve a \$250 Community Sponsorship for the 2026 Spirit of Ladysmith Business Awards.

Motion Carried

5. REPORTS**5.1 Regional Recreation Budget Approval 2027 – Frank Jameson Community Centre****CS 2026-205**

That Council:

1. Direct staff to submit to the Cowichan Valley Regional District the 2027 3.99% budget for the Frank Jameson Community Centre as presented in the staff report dated September 22, 2026; and
2. Support the Regional Recreation Enhancement Request for the Swim to Survive program as a regional function and allocate the required instruction hours as noted in the staff report dated September 22, 2026.

Motion Carried

5.2 Update to the On-Demand Surety Bonds**CS 2026-206**

That Council direct staff to amend the criteria for the pilot program for the acceptance of On-Demand Surety Bonds by lowering the threshold from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

Motion Carried

5.3 Council Remuneration Review

Councillor Virtanen declared a conflict of interest related to the Council Remuneration Review and vacated the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

CS 2026-207

That Council:

1. Receive the Council Remuneration Review dated September 22, 2026;
2. Maintain the current remuneration framework of applying the annual CPI adjustment to both Mayor and Councillor remuneration;
3. Effective January 1, 2027, adjust Councillor remuneration to the market median benchmark of \$20,657; and
4. Direct staff to prepare the necessary amendments to the "Council Remuneration Bylaw 2018, No. 1986" to reflect Council's decision.

CS 2026-208

AMENDMENT

That Council amend Resolution CS 2026-207 by deleting Item 3 and replacing it with the following:

"3. Effective January 1, 2027, adjust Councillor remuneration to 50% of the Mayor's remuneration."

Amendment Carried

Resolution CS 2026-207 as amended, reads:

That Council:

1. Receive the Council Remuneration Review dated September 22, 2026;
2. Maintain the current remuneration framework of applying the annual CPI adjustment to both Mayor and Councillor remuneration;
3. Effective January 1, 2027, adjust Councillor remuneration to 50% of the Mayor's remuneration; and
4. Direct staff to prepare the necessary amendments to the "Council Remuneration Bylaw 2018, No. 1986" to reflect Council's decision.

Main Motion, As Amended, Carried

Councillor Virtanen returned to the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

5.4 Street Trees

CS 2026-209

That Council direct staff to seek a legal opinion regarding the advisability of redirecting funds collected for street trees from specific developments to other areas in the municipality, and report back to Council.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Virtanen.

6. BYLAWS

6.1 Bylaws for Introduction

6.1.1 “2027 Permissive Tax Exemptions Bylaw 2026, No. 2246”

Councillor Gourlay declared a conflict of interest due to his association with the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association and vacated at 7:33 p.m. for the remainder of the meeting.

CS 2026-210

That Council direct staff to correct the bylaw year in Item 6.1.1, “2027 Permissive Tax Exemptions Bylaw 2025, No. 2246”, to “2027 Permissive Tax Exemptions Bylaw 2026, No. 2246”, and to make the corresponding correction in the recommendation and bylaw citation.

Motion Carried

CS 2026-211

That Council give first, second and third readings to “2027 Permissive Tax Exemptions Bylaw 2026, No. 2246”.

Motion Carried

6.2 Bylaws for Adoption

6.2.1 “Town of Ladysmith Zoning Bylaw 2014, No. 1860, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2197”

CS 2026-212

That Council adopt “Town of Ladysmith Zoning Bylaw 2014, No. 1860, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2197”.

Motion Carried

6.3 Bylaw Status Sheet

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Ladysmith Resources Centre Association - Request for Funds

CS 2026-213

That Council approve the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association's request to withdraw \$75,000 from funds held in trust by the Town in accordance with the current lease agreement between the Town of Ladysmith and the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association for the premises at 630 2nd Avenue.

Motion Defeated

OPPOSED: Councillors Jacobson, Paterson and Virtanen.

CS 2026-214

That Council direct staff to request that the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association come to a future meeting of Council to provide background information regarding the request to withdraw \$75,000 from funds held in trust by the Town in accordance with the current lease agreement between the Town of Ladysmith and the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association for the premises at 630 2nd Avenue.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor McKay.

7.2 Ladysmith Resources Centre Association - CVRD Funding

CS 2026-215

That Council:

1. Receive the correspondence from the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association requesting support for a regional funding contribution; and
2. Direct staff to forward a request to the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board for consideration of a \$50,000 contribution to the LRCA's regional service delivery capacity through the 2027 CVRD Budget process.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Virtanen.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

A member of the public asked for clarification regarding the rate determination used in the Council Remuneration Review and expressed appreciation for Councillor Paterson's service on Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT

CS 2026-216

That this Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Motion Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor (D. Beeston)

Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)