



**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT  
REGULAR MINUTES**

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE  
VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024

**PRESENT:** Mayor, Barbara Roden  
Councillor, Jessica Clement  
Councillor, Nadine Davenport  
Councillor, Doreen Lambert

CAO, Daniela Dyck  
CFO, Yogi Bhalla  
DPW, Brian Bennewith

**EXCUSED:** Councillor, Jonah Anstett

Media – 1  
Public – 0

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Tuesday October 1, 2024, to order at 6:00 pm.

*“Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Niaka’pamux people.”*

**1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

N/A

**2. MINUTES**

2.1	<b>Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held Monday, September 9, 2024</b> M/S Davenport / Clement <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held Monday, September 9, 2024, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-143
2.2	<b>Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, September 9, 2024</b> M/S Clement / Davenport <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, September 9, 2024, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-144

**3. DELEGATIONS**

3.1		
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#### 4. PUBLIC INPUT

*All questions and comments will be addressed through the Chair and answered likewise. Please state your name and address prior to asking a question or commenting, no more than 2 minutes per question.*

No public input was received.

#### 5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	<p><b>Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 871, 2024</b> M/S Clement / Davenport <i>THAT, the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 871, 2024 be introduced and read a first time by title only.</i></p> <p>M/S Davenport / Clement <i>THAT, the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 871, 2024 be read a second time.</i></p> <p>M/S Clement / Lambert <i>THAT, the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 871, 2024 be read a third time.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-145</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-146</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-147</p>
5.2	<p><b>CAO Report – Council Remuneration and Grant In Aid Policy Updates</b> Purpose: The purpose of this report is to recommend updates to the Council Remuneration Policy and the Grant In Aid Policies. These revisions aim to ensure that Council’s travel expenses are aligned with current inflationary costs and to streamline the Grant in Aid process by consolidating two policies into single, cohesive document.</p> <p>M/S Clement / Davenport 1. <i>THAT, Council adopt the revised Council Remuneration Policy as presented.</i></p> <p>M/S Clement / Davenport 2. <i>THAT, Council adopts the Grants Policy # C-05-2024 as presented; and that Policy # C-06-2021 Annual Unconditional Grants and Policy # C-01-2022 Grants in Aid for Organizations / Individuals be repealed.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-148</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-149</p>

#### 6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p><b>CAO Report – Accessibility Plan</b> Purpose: The purpose of this report is to request Council’s approval for the adoption of the Accessibility Plan, which has been diligently developed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-150</p>



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	<p>M/S Clement / Lambert <i>THAT, Council approve the Accessibility Plan as presented and acknowledge that it will be amended as necessary over time to meet evolving needs and requirements.</i></p> <p>Comments: Council noted the report was very well done, is comprehensive and appreciates the committee's dedication to completing the plan. Minor corrections: Correct spelling for Hansen not Hanson Pg. 4 – knob of doors – change of to on Pg. 4 Including roadways where says were a path does not exist – change were to where.</p>	
6.2	<p><b>CAO Report – 2025 Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Funding Application</b></p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to support the submission of a grant application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Program – 2025 Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Fund. The application seeks up to \$40,000 in funding to enhance the equipment and training capabilities of Ashcroft Fire Rescue (AFR).</p> <p>M/S Lambert / Clement <i>THAT, Council for the Village of Ashcroft supports the submission of a grant application to UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Program – 2025 Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Fund up to \$40,000 and further that Council supports the program throughout its duration.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-151</p>
6.3	<p><b>CAO-CFO Report – HUB Society Permissive Tax Exemption</b></p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the necessary financial and legislative information to evaluate the inclusion of the HUB Society property under the Village's Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw. The report outlines the financial implications of the exemption, the potential reduction in tax revenue, and the community benefits provided by the property. Council is asked to consider whether the services offered by the HUB Society at the HUB warrant a tax exemption in accordance with the Community Charter and the Village's policies on permissive tax exemptions.</p> <p><b><i>Councillor Clement recused herself at 6:09 for items 6.3 and 6.4 citing a conflict of interest as she is the executor director of the HUB.</i></b></p> <p>M/S Davenport / Lambert <i>THAT, Council supports the inclusion of the HUB Society Property in the Village's Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw, recognizing the valuable community services provided by the HUB.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-152</p>



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6.4	<p><b>CAO-DPW Report – HUB Lawn Maintenance and Snow Removal Request</b></p> <p>Purpose: This report outlines considerations and options for the Village in relation to providing maintenance and operational support for the HUB, specifically concerning lawn maintenance, irrigation, and snow removal. The discussion will explore the Village’s capacity to manage these tasks and the potential impact on public works.</p> <p><b><i>Councillor Clement returned to the meeting at 6:17pm.</i></b> M/S Davenport / Lambert <i>THAT, Council establishes a Conditional Grant in Aid up to \$5,000 per year to assist with lawn maintenance, irrigation and snow removal expenses at the HUB, and further that the Village will incur a one-time capital expense and purchase a ride on mower and trimmer to be donated to the HUB not to exceed \$10,000.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-153
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>		
6.5	<p><b>CFO Verbal Report – Quarterly Financial Update</b></p> <p>CFO Bhalla updated Council on the Village’s financial position. The presentation included the new interface he developed similar to the BI report used previously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interface includes a breakdown of all expense and revenue accounts highlighting variances which are colour coded - green is balanced or has a credit variance and any colours trending towards red showing a deficit.</li> <li>• CFO Bhalla touched on several variances and drilled down into the interface to explain the variances, specifically: arena, transit and administration, noting administration variance is tied to Legislative increases.</li> <li>• Water and sewer operating funds have a slight variance in the negative, but the variance is considered minimal for the size of our budget.</li> <li>• Grants and transfers are slightly varied as we await grant funding to be received; anticipate balanced fund at the end of the year.</li> </ul> <p>CFO Bhalla also wanted to discuss Treasury and Risk Management Concerns – unemployment is on the increase, which is likely to trigger a recession. Government is trying to mitigate a hard recession and is predicting a “soft landing”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National GDP reading is positive.</li> <li>• Housing is less stressed as the Fed. Gov’t continues to provide market incentives.</li> <li>• Real estate impacts our revenue sources through property taxation</li> <li>• Next year could be challenging, CFO Bhalla anticipates our return on investments will not be as lucrative as this year and cautioned Council to invest conservatively encouraging safer short-term investments and to avoid bonds.</li> </ul>	





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7.8	<b>School District No. 74 September 2024 Board Bulletin</b>	
7.9	<b>ESS September 2024 Newsletter</b>	
7.10	<b>Letter from Mayor Goetz, City of Merritt – Burden of Delinquent Taxes</b>	
7.11	<b>BC Building Trades Partnership Guide</b> ( <i>information at Council stations</i> )	

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8.1	<b>Task Manager</b>	
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**9. NEW BUSINESS**

9.1		
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**10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS**

10.1	<b>Enhancing Parks, Recreation &amp; Culture WG Meeting Notes – September 11, 2024</b> <b>Question if the boardwalk at heritage park was being considered for replacement – included in the park grant application</b>	
10.2	<b>Economic Development &amp; Tourism WG Meeting Notes – September 25</b>	
10.3	<b>Policy Review Committee Meeting Notes – September 26, 2024</b>	

**11. COUNCIL REPORTS**

11.1	Mayor Roden - UBCM UBCM was very busy with many meetings and session but was an excellent conference. Ashcroft was invited to be a presenter at the Small Community Forum - great opportunity to showcase Ashcroft's Pocket Guide. Mayor Roden noted we were invited to present because the Guide had won an award.	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Lambert Seniors Meeting - September 19 <sup>th</sup> no emergent issues to report other than the Seniors need a Bingo caller – if they don't get a caller they will have to cancel bingo. Please share with anyone that may be interested.	

**12. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING**

*Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1*

12.1		
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**13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING**

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**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Roden adjourned the Regular Meeting of Council for Tuesday October 1, 2024, at 6:45 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of  
the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
Council held Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

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Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

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Barbara Roden,  
Mayor