



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street
 Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor, Barbara Roden
 Councillor, Jonah Anstett (Zoom)
 Councillor, Jessica Clement
 Councillor, Nadine Davenport
 Councillor, Doreen Lambert

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

EXCUSED: Media – 1
 Public – 2

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday February 24, 2025 to order at 6:00 pm.

"Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux people."

1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

N/A

2. MINUTES

2.1	<p>Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, February 10, 2025. M/S Davenport / Clement <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, February 10, 2025, be adopted as presented.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-43</p>
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3. DELEGATIONS

3.1	<p>Joris Ekering, President – Rotary Club of Ashcroft/Cache Creek – Rotary Spring Parade 2025 – April 19, 2025 –Request Support from Public Works for Barricades, etc. and Use of Heritage Park and the Gazebo</p> <p>Theresa Takacs made the presentation to Council on behalf of the Ashcroft-Cache Creek Rotary Club on behalf of Joris Ekering as he was unable to attend. Rotary is respectfully asking Council to support the Spring Parade by:</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approving the closure of Railway Ave. between 2nd and 8th Street on April 19, 2025 • Provide barricades that volunteers can set up along Railway Ave. to block traffic at designated locations between 2nd and 8th Street. • Free use of Heritage Park including the Gazebo where they plan to have live music and host the event. • Power to be turned on at the gazebo. <p>Mayor Roden thanked Ms. Takacs for her presentation and suggested that the request be discussed under New Business at tonight's meeting rather than wait for a staff report to be brought back for consideration at the next Council meeting.</p>	
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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 comments or questions were received from the public.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1		
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6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p>CAO Report – Delegation Summary Report</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of this report is to summarize the delegation presentation made by Mr. Tedford at the February 10, 2025, Council meeting regarding the availability of full burial plots within the Village of Ashcroft and its financial implications.</p> <p>M/S Roden / Clement <i>THAT, Council receives the Delegation Summary Report for information and refer it to the Parks and Recreation Working Group for discussion and direction.</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical information was requested in regard to expanding the cemetery to the vacant Village lot on Railway Ave. • Comment made in support of cemetery expansion 	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-44

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference to look at existing cemetery and consider ground penetrating radar to determine if there are any available spaces, which would also assist with accurate plotting of the cemetery. • Question regarding cost of ground penetrating radar. Unaware at this time, cost to be determined. • It was noted that the cemetery budget has been increased to consider additional columbaria installation in 2025 • Comment that the Parks and Recreation WG could discuss and research the issue and provide direction for next steps. 	
6.2	<p>CAO Report – Housing Needs Assessment Implementation Strategy Purpose: The purpose of this report is to present the draft Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) Implementation Strategy for Council’s consideration and approval. M/S Clement / Anstett <i>THAT, Council approves the Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) Implementation Strategy as presented and direct staff to proceed with its implementation in alignment with the identified short, medium, and long-term priorities.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-45
6.3	<p>CAO Report – UBCM Emergency Operations Grant Funding Purpose: The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to submit a funding application for the development of a portable Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as per Holistic Emergency Preparedness & Response (HEPR) proposal. The funding will support emergency management improvements, including equipment acquisition, training, and implementation. M/S Lambert / Clement <i>THAT, Council approves the submission of the funding application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Emergency Operations Centers Equipment and Training Fund for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Development Project in the amount of \$40,000 and authorize staff to proceed with the application process.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-46
FOR INFORMATION		
6.4	<p>CFO Report – Preliminary Budget Revision Update (Verbal) CFO Bhalla presented the most recent adjustments to the 2025 budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$95,000 TNRD Fire Protection Agreement being negotiated noting this includes the \$58,000 allocated for Tender replacement. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender replacement \$240,732 (partially covered by TNRD and remaining cost will come from operational savings). • 50,000 pump truck for the Mesa, dependant on volunteers forming a committee for design and construction. • Water meter grant first year \$1,010,000 includes legals costs • Ec Dev – Hotel attraction increase of \$25,000 • Columbarium budget increase of \$27,000 • Interest revenue increase of \$20,000 <p>CFO Bhalla noted the Village is in a good financial position and the budget is balanced on all three funds (Operating, Water, Sewer Funds)</p> <p>CFO Bhalla also noted the major projects for 2025 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Metering application – if approved begin implementation • REDIP Funding 688,000 grant, internal contribution \$200,000 for Heritage Park. • Land Purchase completed for North Ashcroft Reservoir. • Sewer treatment grant upgrade is also in the queue as a priority project. <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will twinning the reservoir cost? Looking at grant funding ranging from 4 – 6 million <p>Mayor Roden thanked CFO Bhalla for his budget update.</p>	
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7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	<p>The Ashcroft HUB – Request for a new Utility Rates (Water & Sewer Rates) Category specifically for community centres like the Ashcroft HUB</p> <p>Councillor Clement recused herself at 6:24 pm citing a conflict of interest as the executive Director of the Ashcroft HUB returning at 6:30 pm</p> <p>M/S Roden / Davenport</p> <p><i>THAT, Council directs staff to develop a new category for utility fees that is suitable for non-profit organizations such as the Ashcroft HUB.</i></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question asking what the utility fees are for the HUB property for 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ After discount approximately \$18,000 (includes 14 classrooms and 1 irrigation line valued at \$5,000). • Comment that it seems the categories in the utilities fee schedule do not seem to fit the HUB 	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-47</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that use has diminished significantly since the building is no longer operating as a school with 25 students in each classroom using washrooms and water daily. A new category should be established and staff to bring back a reasonable and fair utility rate to Council for consideration including an amendment bylaw. 	
7.2	<p>Qathet Museum and Archives Statement on Residential School Denialism M/S Roden / Davenport <i>THAT, the request from Qathet Museum be received for information and forwarded to Peter Konikow Ashcroft's Museum Curator for consideration.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-48
FOR INFORMATION		
7.3	CN and Operation Lifesaver Canada (OL Canada) Rail Safety Ambassador Certificate – Appreciation and acknowledgement of participation in Operation Lifesaver	
7.4	AIB – Prescribed Burn Notice	
7.5	Equality Project Bulletin – Rebuilding Resilience – Understanding Impact on Environmental Trauma Discussion February 26, 2025	
7.6	School District No. 74 – Board Bulletin February 2025	
7.7	TNRD – Promotional Campaign Encourages Economic Development in Blue River	
7.8	<p>TNRD – Hospital Budget 2025 Mayor Roden noted that the Ashcroft UPCC is budgeted to receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bariatric bed - \$24,100 Bladder scanner - \$21,600 Vaccine refrigerator - \$12,300 And an emergency generator upgrade - \$1,590,000 <p>In addition, the Clinton Health and Wellness Centre will receive a stretcher for transport \$13,100. TRHD taxpayers will pay 37 per cent of the costs listed above.</p>	
7.9	<p>TNFC – 2025 Learn About Film for Emerging Filmmakers Mayor Roden encouraged everyone to watch the Blue River video it is an excellent example of a marketing tool.</p>	
7.10	Town of Oliver – Support for Resolution at 2025 SILGA Convention	

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager	
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9. NEW BUSINESS

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<p>9.1</p>	<p>Rotary Club of Ashcroft/Cache Creek – Rotary Spring Parade 2025 – April 19, 2025 –Request Support M/S Roden / Clement <i>THAT, Council approves the Rotary request in support of the Spring Parade by approving the closure of Railway Ave on April 19, 2025, and that barricades will be set out for volunteers to erect, and that free facility use be approved for Heritage Park and the Gazebo including power to be turned on.</i> Discussion: Question seeking clarification that insurance is required for the event.</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-49</p>
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10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS

<p>10.1</p>	<p>Street Safety WG Notes – February 11, 2025 M/S Davenport / Clement <i>THAT, Council directs staff to include discussion of the speed survey results indicating the community is in favour of reducing the speed limits to 30 km/h throughout the community at the next Town Hall Meeting.</i> Discussion: 15 minute parking signs on 3rd Ave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern raised that residents do not seem to be aware of the signs and continue to park there for longer periods of time. • Suggestion to print generic “have you noticed the new parking signs” letter to tuck under wipers. • Consider adding something to bring attention to the signs. • Continue to build community awareness. • Noted that the signs were included in our last newsletter. 	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-50</p>
<p>10.2</p>	<p>Joint Para-Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2025</p>	

11. COUNCIL REPORTS

<p>11.1</p>	<p>Mayor Roden</p>	
<p>11.2</p>	<p>Councillor Anstett</p>	
<p>11.3</p>	<p>Councillor Clement HAWK is working on a follow up survey to the one completed in 2022. This will focus on the UPCC and its use as well as people’s perceptions of it.</p>	
<p>11.4</p>	<p>Councillor Davenport</p>	
<p>11.5</p>	<p>Councillor Lambert – Verbal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Seniors meeting on Thursday, Feb 20th 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More seniors in attendance but Councillor Lambert encouraged Council to keep inviting seniors in the community to join the seniors. • Strawberry Tea has been tentatively scheduled for May 10th • Next meetings March 21, 2025, at the Seniors Centre beginning at 11:00 am. Councillor Lambert is unable to attend and asked a Council member to attend in her place. 	
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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	N/A	
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13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1	N/A	
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14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Roden adjourned the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday February 24, 2025, at 6:45 PM.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of
 the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
 Council held Monday, February 24, 2025.

 Daniela Dyck,
 Chief Administrative Officer

 Barbara Roden,
 Mayor