



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street
 Monday March 10, 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, March 10, 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

Mayor Roden noted that the Motion to Rise and Report from the Committee of the Whole Meeting is to be discussed under New Business Item 9.1.

M/S Roden / Clement

THAT, the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 10, 2025 be adopted as amended to include the item 9.1 Grant In Aid Applications – 2025 First Intake to be discussed under New Business.

CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-51

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, February 24, 2025. M/S Clement / Lambert <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, February 24, 2025, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-52
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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 questions or comments were received from the public.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1		
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6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p>Development Variance Permit for 710 Elm Street</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of this report is to present Council with a request for a development variance permit (DVP) for 710 Elm Street to accommodate a 29-unit seniors housing development by Thompson View Manor Society (TVMS) which reduces the required 51 off street parking stalls to 36.</p> <p>M/S Clement / Davenport <i>THAT, Council approve Development Variance Permit No. DVP-2025-01 for 710 Elm Street, allowing a reduction in the required off-street parking from 51 stalls to 36 stalls, including 1 parking stall per unit and 7 visitor parking stalls, as proposed by Thompson View Manor Society. AND FURTHER, THAT the approval be granted recognizing the alignment of the project with the Housing Needs Assessment, which addresses the necessity of additional seniors housing within the Village.</i></p> <p>Discussion: The CAO introduced Council to Naomi Hori and Graham Richardson from CanZea Developments who were present in the gallery to answer any questions that may arise during the DVP discussion. Additionally, the CAO provided the following information to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief review of all comments, questions and concerns received from the residents that were mailed the notification letter. She noted that all comments were summarized and included in the attached CAO report and for transparency purposes all correspondence was provided to Council including staff responses. • Concerns regarding on street parking on Elm Street, and 	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-53</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding the DVP restriction limiting potential residents to one vehicle per household. <p>Council discussed the parking DVP as proposed and considered the concerns and asked if all possible solutions had been exhausted in regard to parking stall development and invited CanZea to address the issues.</p> <p>Graham confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lot area and location of property has been maxed out for parking as proposed in the DVP The design incorporates the 15 existing +3 staff parking stalls at the Manor and the proposed 29 resident +7 visitor parking stalls The proposed DVP effectively maxes out parking space without going underground (which would be unaffordable) <p>Other comments and questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On street parking concerns can be addressed in the traffic and parking bylaw which is to be updated. Query asking if there are stats available for residents that may move into the 2-bedroom units. How many have more than one car? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No stats available, but some residents may not have any cars. Parking and resident vehicles comes down to a management issue for the Society. It was noted that the building is equipped with motorized scooter parking/charging and some suites are also equipped with in-unit scooter parking. Noting most scooter users generally do not have a car. Parking impact reviews could be completed as part of the Traffic and Parking bylaw update. Existing parking between the manor and the new building, are the stalls near the BCEHS building also available parking? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lodge parking stalls are not considered in the design. It was noted that the parking area is paved with painted parking stall lines and is generally used by Lodge staff. Lodge parking is not managed by TVMS it is managed by IHA Comment in favour of the DVP noting the development is very much needed and not all residents will have 1 or even 2 cars. 	
<p>6.2</p>	<p>Southern Interior Local Government Association – Gift Basket Request</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of this Council Report is to seek Council's direction regarding the gift basket donation in support of the 2025 SILGA Convention and determine a budget allocation</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-54</p>

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Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street

Monday March 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm

	<p>M/S Roden / Lambert</p> <p><i>THAT, Council direct staff to prepare a gift basket showcasing Ashcroft's new brand "Heart of the True Desert" not to exceed \$125.00 of Ashcroft swag and that local businesses be approached and asked if they could donate an appropriate item for the 2025 SILGA Convention.</i></p> <p>Discussion: Council suggested that the Village donate 1 jacket, 2 cups, 1 water bottle, 1 pen set, 1 knife</p> <p>Question : Will the Village be purchasing T-shirts, noting T-shirts are more affordable and with warmer weather coming soon these may be a popular choice.</p>	
FOR INFORMATION		
<p>6.3</p>	<p>CAO Report – Verbal Report</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of this report and future reports is to provide information to the Council that may not come up during regular meetings or Committee of the Whole. Topics will include operational updates, or other areas of interest to the village.</p> <p>FireSmart Coordinator FireSmart Committee</p> <p>CAO Dyck advised Council that the Village will be interviewing for the Fire Smart Coordinator position later this week, noting an experienced LFR has applied for the position.</p> <p>Additionally, CAO Dyck advised Council that she will be attending the Regional FireSmart Committee meeting on Thursday which is being hosted by the TNRD and is facilitated by Mike Simpson formerly of Fraser Basin Council. Participating in a regional or community FireSmart Committee is a requirement of the funding.</p>	
<p>6.4</p>	<p>CFO Report – Verbal Report</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of this report and future reports is to provide information to the Council that may not come up during regular meetings or Committee of the Whole. Topics will include operational updates, or other areas of interest to the village.</p> <p>CFO Bhalla's Economic and Financial Overview: Current Economic Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally, debt levels are in the lower percentile but remain concerning. • Canada has the third highest household debt globally, leaving consumers vulnerable. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer sentiment is critical, with 70% of the economy driven by consumer spending. • Inflation is on the rise, adding pressure to financial stability. <p>Financial Strategy & Municipal Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain steady and conservative financial management. • Reduce discretionary spending and adhere strictly to the budget. • Capital project funding is becoming scarce, impacting future investments. • The municipality is handling multiple priorities, making this a particularly busy year. • All municipal investments are in cash-based, conservative options (money market and bank deposits). <p>Economic Risks & Market Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stagflation concerns: a combination of recession and inflation. • The municipality remains debt-free, but investment revenue will decline compared to previous years. • Market volatility is increasing, with significant drops observed today. • Geopolitical instability (e.g., U.S. political uncertainty, trade wars, and fluctuating tariffs) is creating economic turbulence. • A full-blown recession is anticipated in the near future. <p>Housing & Employment Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising unemployment and declining job vacancies. • Lowest home sales in 30 years, with the condo market in a downturn. • Increase in foreclosures and delinquencies, as mortgage renewal rates rise from 1-2% to 4-5%. <p>CFO Bhalla noted this information is being presented to guide Council's financial decision-making in the current uncertain economic climate.</p>	
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7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	<p>BC Farmers' Market - Requesting Letter of Support for Continued and Expanded Funding for the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program - Draft Support Letter attached</p> <p>M/S Clement / Lambert</p> <p><i>THAT, Council directs staff to send the attached letter to Minister Osborne in support of the BC Farmers Market request.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-55</p>

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7.2	B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre – Request to use the Pool Park Saturday, August 2, 2025 to host their First Annual Back to School Backpack Giveaway M/S Roden / Clement <i>THAT, Council defers the B.O.S.S. Enrichment Center request to a future meeting and invite the organizers to come and make a presentation to Council in regard to their event in the near future.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-56
7.3	SCEF Society – 2025 Easter Hunt Request for a Donation of a Family Pool Pass Councillor Clement recused herself due to a conflict of interest as the HUB is collaborating on the event at 6:35 and returned at 6:36. M/S Lambert / Davenport <i>THAT, Council approves the annual request from the South Cariboo Elizabeth Fry Society and donates a Family Pool Pass to the Easter Egg Hunt.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-57
7.4	Cathy Peters, BC Anti-Human Trafficking Educator, Speaker, Advocate – Hard drug full decriminalization needs to be repealed in BC – this may stop Trump tariffs –receive for information	
FOR INFORMATION		
7.5	TNRD Newsletter – Application Period Now Open for Spring 2025 Regional Grant In Aid Program Intake Mayor Roden noted that approximately \$31,000 is available. The GIA is managed by an independent committee, and the extent of the applicant’s project impact across the region is a key factor in the decision-making process.	
7.6	School District 74 Board Bulletin March 2025	
7.7	City of Abbotsford – Support for Resolution at LGMA Convention in advance of UBCM Convention	

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager – Query – update in regarding Cannabis Retail – Cannabis Retail is being addressed in the Zoning Bylaw update.	
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9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1	Business Arising from the Committee of the Whole Meeting held March 10, 2025 at 5:30 pm. M/S Clement / Davenport <i>Move the Recommendation from the Committee of the Whole Meeting to disburse the spring intake Grant in Aid funding as follows:</i> <i>1. TOPS – 387.50</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-58
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	2. Royal Purple - \$422.50 3. South Cariboo Sportsmen Association - \$422.50 4. Ashcroft 4-H - \$422.50 5. Twisted Desert Music Society - \$422.50 6. South Cariboo Elizabeth Fry Society - \$422.50	
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10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS

10.1		
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11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Lambert	

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	M/S Roden / Clement <i>THAT, Council moves to a Closed Meeting to discuss items under the Community Charter Section 90.1(a) personnel (g) Litigation and (k) proposed provision of a municipal service.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-59
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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 March 10, 2025, at 7:20 pm

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 10, 2025.

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Barbara Roden,
Mayor