



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street
Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm

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

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

EXCUSED:

Media – 1
Public – 1

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday July 28, 2025 to order at 6:01 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

M/S Clement / Anstett

THAT, Item 3.1 Andrew Cumblidge delegation request to discuss Village Provided Services be deleted from the agenda and that the HomeZero Collective initiative be added to New Business.

CARRIED. Unanimously R-2025-116

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, June 23, 2025 M/S Anstett / Davenport <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, June 23, 2025, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-117
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3. DELEGATIONS

3.1	Via Zoom – Amandeep Singh – HomeZero Collective – Results of Home Energy Efficiency Pilot Project in Vernon – Request for letter	
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	<p>of support from Council to support the upcoming application to FCM's Community Efficiency Financing Program.</p> <p>Amandeep Singh presented the Vernon Solar Retrofit Pilot Project, which focused on retrofitting 11 homes with solar panels, heat pumps, and energy-efficient systems. Key outcomes included a 46% reduction in energy consumption and an 88% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Project Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated in Vernon, BC as part of their climate action plan ("Home Zero"). • Funded through FCM's Community Efficiency Financing Program, BC Hydro, and homeowner contributions. • Pilot demonstrated cost-effective, whole-house retrofits that could be scaled regionally. • Retrofits aimed to remain within homeowners' existing utility cost structure; significant cost savings occur after loan repayment. • Provided housing stock analysis and considered a whole-house, community-scale approach. • Assistance offered with financing applications to streamline homeowner participation. • Diverse project team assembled to provide all necessary skills. • FCM Capital Project Grant: \$5M, including a \$2M loan loss reserve. • A for-profit entity was created to attract additional capital. • Seeking support from municipalities across the region, including Ashcroft. <p>Benefits to Residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in energy bills for participating homeowners. • Program is practical, scalable, and supports climate targets. <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing costs within homeowners' monthly budgets. • Engaging communities at a neighbourhood level to build support. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion planned from neighbourhood-level pilots to over 500 homes with additional private investment. • Outreach to municipalities in the region for support and participation. <p>Q&A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor asked whether the expansion would target one community; response: project would begin at the neighbourhood level. 	
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	Action Item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item is time sensitive as such Council will consider raising the matter under New Business tonight. 	
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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.

There were no comments or questions received from the public.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	N/A	
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6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p>CAO Report – Council Member Virtual Attendance and Consideration of By-Election</p> <p>Purpose: To seek Council direction regarding a member of Council who has relocated outside the Village of Ashcroft and is no longer able to attend meetings in person. The Council member has expressed a willingness to continue participating virtually or to resign, depending on Council's preferred approach. This report outlines the legislative work, legal considerations, and options available for Council's review.</p> <p>M/S Roden / Clement <i>THAT, Council accepts Councillor Lambert's resignation and direct staff to initiate the process for a by-election; AND FURTHER THAT, no amendments be made to Council Procedure Bylaw No. 834, 2020 to expand eligibility for electronic participation at this time. Councillor Lambert will continue to attend meetings virtually until the position is filled.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Mayor Roden noted the motion is not at all a reflection on Councillor Lambert, but believes a by-election is the best way forward. It will enable another community member to step up and try their hand at local government. Council thanked Councillor Lambert for everything she did for the village, her commitment and dedication to the community will be</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-118</p>

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	<p>missed by many residents and organizations in the community especially the seniors.</p> <p>Councillor Davenport echoed the above statement.</p> <p>Councillor Lambert noted she will miss working with Council and staff and advocating for the community.</p>	
6.2	<p>CAO Report - Next Steps – By-Election Planning and Appointment of Election Officials</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>This report outlines the required next steps for conducting a municipal by-election following Council's decision to proceed with filling a Council vacancy, including the appointment of elections officials and an overview of legislated timelines under the <i>Local Government Act</i>.</p> <p>M/S Clement / Anstett</p> <p><i>THAT, Council appoints Daniela Dyck as Chief Election Officer and Kristine Hardy as Deputy Chief Election Officer for the upcoming municipal by-election, in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Act effective July 30, 2025.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-119</p>
FOR INFORMATION		
6.3	<p>CAO Report – Verbal Report</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>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>Verbal Report Items:</p> <p>FireSmart – Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program is gaining momentum and community awareness • Hosted an info session in partnership with Interior Savings Insurance last Friday • Several complaints received at the office in regard to properties posing a fire risk to the community – these mostly fall under our unsightly bylaw – however, clean up is not as quick as one hopes as we must follow our due process and provide correspondence and timelines prior to remedial action. • This year we are unable to complete private property assessments as we must complete a CWRP first • CWRP is in progress • Critical infrastructure assessments are permitted in the first year and they are ongoing • We will be able to complete home assessments after the second round of funding is approved. 	

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	<p>EOC Training – Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training is ongoing and will likely require two to three more office closures. • EOC kits are received and includes 7 laptops including hardware to connect, printer, carrying cases for easy deployability and all the required equipment. – covered by UBCM grant • The Emergency Response Plan is also under review under a separate grant funding stream and will include FN engagement • Training will conclude with a tabletop exercise including stakeholder tentatively scheduled for August 28th • Establish an ongoing education plan through JIBC and other training opportunities to fully train all critical positions • Current training provides basic knowledge of EOC operations and how to use the EOC Assist Tool <p>Kloutchville Creek Fire – K21041</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire reported July 22nd • Caused by lightning up on Carson Mtn. • Grew to 0.5 he. • 9 firefighters supported by 2 helicopters • Classified as out July 24, 2025 	
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7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	<p>Charting the Course UBCM 2025 – Small Talk Forum at the 2025 UBCM Annual Convention – Requesting Submissions of Challenges, Success Stories, or other Discussion Topics – Deadline for submissions is Friday, August 15, 2025</p> <p>No Motion</p> <p>Mayor Roden noted that if a Council member has a suggestion before the deadline to bring it to the CAO.</p>	
7.2	<p>Rail Safety Week 2025 Across Canada September 15-21, 2025 – Request to Adopt attached Resolution</p> <p>M/S Roden / Clement</p> <p><i>THAT, Council adopts the attached Rail Safety Week resolution proclaiming Rail Safety Week 2025 in Ashcroft from September 15-21, 2025.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-120</p>
7.3	<p>Stacey Biekx – Courageous K9 Sponsorship Request</p> <p>M/S Anstett / Lambert</p> <p><i>THAT, Council supports the Courageous K9 request for sponsorship in the amount of \$319</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-121</p>

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	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Councillor Anstett noted it is an honour to support veterans and first responders through the challenges they face.</p> <p>Mayor Roden noted the request is in alignment with Council's support for the Honour Ranch.</p>	
7.4	<p>MP Frank Caputo – Ashcroft Pre-Budget Consultation – Request for Detailed Suggestions on Pre-Budget</p> <p>M/S Roden / Davenport</p> <p><i>Direction to staff: THAT, staff prepare a memo to MP Caputo discussing the need for increased and ongoing infrastructure funding for small communities highlighting the North Ashcroft Reservoir Twinning project and the Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades.</i></p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>Councillor Clement requested that support for the not-for-profit sector be included in the infrastructure needs memo to MP Caputo.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p> <p>Unanimously</p> <p>R-2025-122</p>
FOR INFORMATION		
7.5	TNRD Board Highlights – June 26, 2025	
7.6	TNRD – Local Email Lists Sign Up	
7.7	TNRD Receives “Innovate Idea Award” for Streamlined GIS Data Management	
7.8	Minister of Health, Josie Osborne – Thank you for letter regarding the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program (FMNCP)	
7.9	IH – Important Public Health Notification – Measles Awareness and Prevention for Summer	
7.10	BC Hydro – Updated Distribution Extension Policy Launches July 5	
7.11	HAWC – Thank you card	
7.12	Summer ESS Newsletter – June 2025	
7.13	IH – Construction to starts on new BC Cancer Centre in Kamloops	

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	<p>Task Manager</p> <p>Comment – It is appropriate to forward the letter to Susan Brown now.</p>	
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9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1	<p>HomeZero Collective – Request for Letter of Support</p> <p>M/S Clement /Anstett</p> <p><i>THAT, Council provides a letter of support to the HomeZero Collective for their funding application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED</p> <p>Unanimously</p> <p>R-2025-123</p>
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10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS

10.1	N/A	
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11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden Attended an informal dinner meeting last week with the Minister of Health. Also in attendance were Mayor Ranta and Director Thorpe. Mayor Roden noted that the meeting enabled a good discussion in regard to health issues in the area.	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Lambert Attended the seniors meeting in June.	

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, July 28, 2025, at 6:44 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of
the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council
held Monday, July 28, 2025.

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Barbara Roden,
Mayor