

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council held meetings on November 10th and 24th. Here are some highlights of these meetings:

- ⇒ Caroline Slade, Quality Manager for Dawson Road Maintenance introduced herself to Council
- ⇒ Good Neighbour Bylaw No. 479, 2025 was adopted
- ⇒ Council approved purchasing a colour business card ad for the 21st edition Military Service Recognition Book
- ⇒ Council approved a number of new policies brought forward from the Policy Review Committee
- ⇒ CAO Dyck gave a verbal report regarding the TNRD Regional FireSmart Committee Meeting; TNRD Regional Fire Fighter Remuneration; Ashcroft Terminal winter road conditions and commercial truck traffic
- ⇒ CFO Bhalla gave a verbal report regarding Water Meter Project Updates.

Village of Ashcroft

Mayor and Council:

Mayor:

Barbara Roden

Councillors:

Jonah Anstett

Jessica Clement

Nadine Davenport

Cam Tedford

As a reminder, Council meeting agendas and minutes are available for detailed review on the Village website at www.ashcroftbc.ca.

COUNCIL UPDATE: STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS & 2026 BUDGET PLANNING

In late 2023, Council created a Strategic Plan to guide decisions and priorities through the end of this Council term. The 2024–2026 Plan set out clear goals for improvements in services, infrastructure, planning, and community well-being. Each year, staff review progress with Council and consider these priorities as part of budget planning. Many projects are now complete or very close to completion, and we are on track to finish the full plan by 2026.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 24, the CAO and CFO provided Council with an update on the status of the Strategic Plan. This review helped frame the discussion before Council began looking at preliminary budget information for 2026.

Strategic Plan Highlights

Goal 1 – Governance & Engagement

Updates to the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw are almost done. One more public meeting will be held before these documents go to Council for adoption. The Village's branding project is complete, and the Policy Review Committee has fully reviewed all Village policies.

Goal 2 – Parks, Recreation, Arts & Culture

The Village continues to pursue funding for Heritage Park's revitalization. Funds have been approved to replace the Mesa Park playground in 2026, and we continue to seek grant funding to develop a new accessible walking trail in the downtown area.

Goal 3 – Safety & Protection

A community safety assessment and survey have been completed. A public meeting will be scheduled to discuss a potential community-wide speed limit. The FireSmart program is active, and public education is ongoing. A draft Community Wildfire Resilience Plan is expected in early 2026.

Goal 4 – Infrastructure & Asset Management

The land purchase for the North Ashcroft reservoir is complete, and applications for design and construction have been submitted.

Goal 5 – Community Planning & Environment

A native species plant list has been developed. The Good Neighbour Bylaw now prohibits cedar planting due to fire risk, and FireSmart principles are included in the Good Neighbour Bylaw, the OCP, and the Zoning Bylaw.

Goal 6 – Fiscal Responsibility & Transparency

Council and staff continue to maintain open, transparent, and responsible financial practices.

Goal 7 – Service Excellence

Providing high-quality, reliable service remains a priority across all departments, supported by ongoing training and teamwork.

2026 Budget Overview

Council also received an early look at the 2026 budget. Rising labour and utility costs, along with increases to regional service levies, will have an impact on next year's tax rate. The Village expects a similar increase to last year's 3.5%. Water and sewer rates will also require small adjustments after remaining unchanged for several years. To help manage costs, the Village may leave one upcoming staff position vacant.

Looking Ahead

The strong progress made this year provides a solid foundation as Council finalizes the 2026 budget and completes the final phase of the Strategic Plan. The Village remains committed to responsible planning and to supporting a safe, sustainable, and well-served community.

WATER METER PROJECT UPDATE

The Village's water meter project continues to move forward, with an important milestone recently reached: a contractor has now been selected. Working with our engineers at Urban Systems, the Village pre-qualified contractors before inviting them to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. This step ensured that only companies with proven experience and success in water meter installation were considered. Our goal has been to select a high-caliber contractor known for completing quality work with precision and efficiency.

We are pleased to share that **Neptune** is the successful proponent, and we are currently in contract negotiations. Once the agreement is finalized and the specific water meters are selected, the Village will host a community meeting to share details about the installation schedule, rollout process, and to give residents the opportunity to see the meters in person.

We recognize that this project has generated strong interest and some debate. Throughout the process, the Village remains committed to being transparent and keeping residents informed as we meet our obligations to the Province. A public meeting will be scheduled in early 2026 to ensure the community has the opportunity to ask questions and learn more before installation begins.

2025
Upcoming Council
Meetings
Dec. 8: 6 pm

SANTA PARADE

Friday, December 5
6:00 pm
Downtown Ashcroft



DESIGN OUR CHALLENGE COIN!

Help the Ashcroft RCMP detachment design its very first challenge coin! We're looking for creative designs that show what makes Ashcroft special and how you think the RCMP should be represented in your community.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE JANUARY 5, 2026

- NATURE
- LANDMARKS
- LOCAL SYMBOLS



**LET YOUR
IMAGINATION
SHINE AND SHOW US
YOUR VISION!**

POSTERS AND SUBMISSION FORMS WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE
COMMUNITY AND AT LOCAL SCHOOLS!

Shop Local - Support Local



Shop Local and Win!



**Spend \$50 or more at your favourite
Ashcroft shops on Friday, December 5, and
you could WIN this fabulous gift package!**



**This prize package was made possible
through the generosity of our local
businesses and the Village of Ashcroft**

**Help keep our community strong by
Shopping and Supporting Local**

TO ENTER:
Simply bring your valid receipt(s) to the
Village Office the following week.

***** ONE ENTRY PER PERSON *****

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

If you have sidewalks in front of your home or business, please ensure they are cleared of snow by 10:00 AM on the day following a snowfall.

Thank you for helping keep our sidewalks safe and accessible for everyone!



**HERITAGE PARK IS
ALL LIT UP FOR THE
HOLIDAY SEASON!**