



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street
Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor, Barbara Roden
Councillor, Jonah Anstett
Councillor, Jessica Clement
Councillor, Nadine Davenport

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

EXCUSED: N/A

Media – 1
Public – 2

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday September 8, 2025 to order at 6:03 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

Davenport / Anstett as amended

THAT, the Regular Council Meeting Agenda for Monday September 8, 2025 be amended to include the following items:

- *3.1 Delegation – Terry Hadwin TNFC,*
- *5.1 Rise and Report from the COTW meeting – suggested edits for the Good Neighbour Bylaw*
- *6.1 CFO Report – Growing Communities Report Midterm Report and Forecast; and*
- *7.8 Village of Cache Creek Maternity Care Services at RIH; and*
- *10.1 GIA allocation as per COTW recommendation.*

CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-131

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, August 25 , 2025 M/S Clement / Anstett <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, August 25, 2025, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-132
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3. DELEGATIONS

3.1	Terry Hadwin, Thompson Nicola Film Commission - Update	
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	<p>Terry thanked Council for the opportunity to present, noting she will also be providing updates to neighbouring communities in the coming weeks. She explained that today's presentation would focus on giving a brief overview of the role and work of the Film Commission.</p> <p>Purpose & Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of seven Film Commissions in BC, TNFC exists to welcome and support film production in the region. • Acts as the ambassador for the film industry, helping connect communities, property owners, and filmmakers. • Provides information to residents and businesses interested in becoming film locations. <p>Economic Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023, the region saw an estimated \$9.75M in direct film industry spending. • Activity slowed due to global strikes, but the Commission continues to attract interest. <p>Notable Productions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sugarcane</i> (Oscar-nominated) was partly filmed in the area. • <i>An Unfinished Life</i> which was filmed in Ashcroft, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. • Other films and shows have highlighted the region, though productions are often confidential until they are ready to announce. <p>Recognition & Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNFC has been recognized three years in a row as a Top 10 place to live as a filmmaker. • The region's "Movie Map" is among the Top 10 most-visited attractions. • Attended the American Film Market in Las Vegas to promote the region. • Hosts monthly networking events for industry professionals and learning opportunities about film-making. <p>Recent Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in quieter "whisper" generators to address noise concerns from past productions (e.g., <i>Twilight Zone</i> filming complaints). • Comment was made that Ashcroft did receive several noise complaints due to generator noise during the filming of the <i>Twilight Zone</i> <p>Policy & Community Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was raised about whether film producers prefer communities with clear bylaws or policies in place. Film 	
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	<p>makers actually prefer communities that have policies as this makes areas “film-ready.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was raised about whether the TNRD could develop a blanket film policy or standardized bylaw across the region. This is being looked at. 	
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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.

Cam Tedford

Discussion – Good Neighbour Bylaw, Section 10.2

Provided the following feedback as a licensed pesticide applicator:

- Clarification provided that herbicides are considered pesticides.
- Distinction noted between broadleaf herbicides and insecticides (e.g., diazinon, carbaryl).
- Emphasis on the need to differentiate between runoff (irrigation) and drift (wind).
- Recommended wording changes:
 - Specify that only licensed applicators may apply pesticides.
 - Use the term “chemical pesticides.”
 - Amend “No person shall...” to “No unlicensed individual shall...”.
- It was also noted there is a grey area when pesticide use may be beneficial for pest control in public spaces.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	<p>Good Neighbour Bylaw No. 879, 2025 – Third Reading M/S Clement / Anstett <i>THAT, Council gives third reading to “Good Neighbour Bylaw No. 879, 2025” amended as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>3.5 b) RVs may not be parked, stored, or left standing on Village rights-of-way, boulevards, or other public property, except in accordance with the Village’s Traffic Bylaw. Despite the Traffic Bylaw, the seasonal storage of RVs on boulevards, rights-of-way, or other public property is prohibited during the off-season, being the period from October 15 to April 15 each year.</i> • <i>3.5 d) add – For greater certainty, the preparation of an RV for travel (loading, unloading, or servicing) on a boulevard or right-of-way must not exceed forty-eight (48) hours.</i> • <i>3.6 update section to include FireSmart guidelines in regards to the storage of firewood.</i> 	CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-133
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.7 g) add – or fencing to the end of the clause. • 3.8 a) remove items i and ii and replace with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Following Overnight Events: No later than 10:00 a.m. on the day following any snowfall or freezing event occurring overnight.</i> ii. <i>During the Day: As soon as reasonably possible after the start of any snowfall or freezing event occurring during the day, and on an ongoing basis throughout the day as conditions require, to ensure the sidewalk remains clear and safe for use.</i> iii. <i>For clarity, snow and ice removal must be performed often enough to prevent the accumulation of hazardous conditions, including compacted snow or ice.</i> iv. <i>The use of coarse rock salt on concrete sidewalks is prohibited. Only eco-friendly de-icing materials or commercially available ice-melt products specifically formulated for use on concrete such as "Ice Blaster" or equivalent are permitted.</i> • 5.1 add reference to the Outdoor Burning Bylaw - All outdoor burning within the Village of Ashcroft must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Village of Ashcroft Outdoor Burning Bylaw No. 849, as amended from time to time. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing: • 5.1 b) remove: yard debris (where burning is permitted under Provincial or Village fire restrictions) • 7.4 remove item iv: <i>No person participating in a Bird Sporting Event shall trespass on private property in search of released birds or operate drones, radios, or other devices in a manner that causes nuisance or disturbance.</i> • 10.2 Remove "No person shall" and replace with "No unlicensed individual" remove "pesticides and herbicides" and replace with "chemical pesticides" 	
5.2	Notice of Enforcement Bylaw No. 880, 2025 – Third Reading M/S Clement / Anstett <i>THAT, Council gives third reading to "Notice of Enforcement Bylaw No. 880, 2025".</i>	CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-134

6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	CFO Report Growing Communities Fund Midterm Report and Forecast M/S Clement / Anstett	

	<p><i>THAT, Council:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Endorse the proposed allocation of Growing Communities Fund revenues, including \$350,000 for parks and the balance toward Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades; and</i> 2. <i>Direct staff to proceed with phased implementation of the STP project, including early equipment purchases to mitigate tariff escalation risks.</i> <p>CFO Bhalla noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Village retained the funding, generating approximately \$200,000 in interest earnings. • The Province has directed communities that these funds must now be utilized. • Staff recommendation remains as outlined in the motion. 	<p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-135</p>
FOR INFORMATION		
6.2	N/A	

7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	<p>Deep Dhillon on behalf of the Pigeon Racing and Hobby Community – Request that the Village of Ashcroft not move forward with banning pigeon racing M/S Roden / Clements</p> <p><i>THAT, Council send a response thanking Mr. Dhillon for the letter and advising that the Village will be proceeding with the section of the Good Neighbour Bylaw addressing bird sporting activities.</i></p> <p>Discussion: Regardless of how respectfully the request is made, it still involves seeking access to private property. The primary community concern remains that birds are being left behind and starving. The economic benefit mentioned in the letter does not address or resolve the concerns raised by residents.</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-136</p>
7.2	<p>Michelle Haller-Antoine, Student Support Worker, DSCS – Truth and Reconciliation Walk September 29th through the Village of Ashcroft M/S Anstett / Clement</p> <p><i>THAT, Council supports the request from Desert Sands Community School for a Truth and Reconciliation Walk along Railway Avenue on September 29, 2025, and direct staff to coordinate a rolling roadblock, consistent with the request.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-137</p>

FOR INFORMATION		
7.3	TNRD – Regional Grant in Aid Program Fall 2025 Intake to Open on September 1 Mayor Roden asked that the grant in aid opportunity be shared to local community groups	
7.4	TNRD – Clearwater Library Set to Reopen on September 9, Following Renovations	
7.5	Charting the Court UBCM 2025 Bulletin #3	
7.6	City of Prince George – 2025 UBCM Resolutions	
7.7	SILGA – Regional District Legislative Reform Update	
7.8	Cache Creek – Maternity Care Services at Royal Inland Hospital	

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager CFO Bhalla promised at the last Council meeting to provide reservoir cost estimate once it is received from the Engineers. The estimated cost is \$4,814,000	
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9. NEW BUSINESS

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

10.1	<p>COTW – Grant in Aid Fall Intake Applications M/S Roden /Clement <i>THAT, Council approves the second intake Grant in Aid allocation as determined by Council at the Committee of the Whole Meeting held Monday, September 8, 2025, as follows:</i> <i>Ashcroft & District Fall Fair - \$500</i> <i>Equality Project - \$500</i> <i>Ashcroft & Area Community Resources Society - \$500</i></p> <p>Councillor Clement recused herself at 6:40 citing a conflict of interest as the Executive Director for the HUB</p> <p>M/S Roden / Anstett <i>and further THAT, Council approves the second intake Grant in Aid allocation as determined by Council at the Committee of the Whole Meeting held Monday, September 8, 2025, as follows:</i> <i>Ashcroft HUB - \$500</i></p> <p>Councillor Clement was invited to return to the meeting at 6:41pm.</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-138</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-139</p>
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Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm

11. COUNCIL REPORTS

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

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 an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1 (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality and Community Charter Section 90.1(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for the purpose.</i>	CARRIED Unanimously R-2025-140
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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 September 8, 2025, at 6:50 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of
the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council
held Monday, September 8, 2025.

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Barbara Roden
Mayor