



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street
 Monday March 9, 2026, at 6:00 pm

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

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

EXCUSED:

Public – 7
 Media – 1

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday March 9, 2026, 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

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, February 23, 2026. M/S Anstett / Clement <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, February 23, 2026, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-37
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3. DELEGATIONS

3.1	Representatives from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), Jamie Viera , General Manager of Operations, and Kevin Skrepnik , Manager of Community and Emergency Services, attended the meeting via Teams to present information on the TNRD Invasive Plant Program and the option for the Village of Ashcroft to join the service. Coleen Hougen , TNRD Invasive Plant Program	
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	<p>Coordinator, sent her regrets due to a recent injury and was unable to attend.</p> <p>Jamie Viera provided an overview of the regional Invasive Plant Service and explained that the program was originally established to coordinate invasive plant management across the region, recognizing that invasive species do not respect jurisdictional boundaries and that municipalities often do not have dedicated invasive plant control programs. The service focuses on coordination, education, outreach, and operational management to support property owners in addressing invasive plants on private lands. Municipal participation in the program was previously proposed in 2020 and has been brought forward again for member municipalities to reconsider.</p> <p>Kevin Skrepnik outlined the services provided through the program, which primarily support private landowners who pay taxes into the service area. Programs include treatment funding for high-priority invasive plants, a 50% cost-share rebate for eligible invasive plant control, a sprayer loan-out program, private land consultations delivered in partnership with Purity Feeds, and biological control programs using insects to manage invasive species. Treatment funding can cover up to 100% of costs for priority species, while the rebate program supports moderate-priority invasive plants on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>Kevin also provided information on invasive plant trends in the region and highlighted species of concern in Ashcroft, including Japanese knotweed, myrtle spurge, puncturevine (goathead), and tree of heaven. These species can damage infrastructure, pose risks to public safety, and displace native vegetation.</p> <p>Jamie Viera presented the financial overview of the service, noting that it is primarily funded through electoral area taxation, with municipalities contributing approximately \$43,000 collectively. Ashcroft’s estimated annual cost to participate would be approximately \$10,000, representing about 2.5% of the total service. If the Village were to opt into the service, the cost would be included as part of the TNRD tax requisition, meaning it would appear on the Village’s annual requisition from the TNRD rather than as a separate bill to the Village.</p>	
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	<p>If the Village wished to participate, Council would need to indicate its intent to opt into the service. The TNRD would then amend the service bylaw, with participation anticipated to begin in 2027.</p> <p>During the discussion, Council asked questions regarding pesticide licensing requirements, treatment of invasive plants on private property, potential alternatives to glyphosate for certain species, and the extent of invasive plant issues such as myrtle spurge in the community. TNRD staff noted that the program can assist with identification, treatment advice, and coordination with property owners where required.</p> <p>Council thanked the presenters for the information.</p>	
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Chris Schubert & Jessica Williams from Ashcroft Terminal (ATL) and Tyler Banick from CN Rail – ATL Operational Update</p> <p>Chris Schubert from Ashcroft Terminal (ATL) addressed Council and provided an operational update. Tyler Banick from Canadian National Railway (CN) sent his regrets and was unable to attend. Representatives from ATL and Highland Valley Copper (HVC) were also present to support the delegation.</p> <p>Mr. Schubert provided an overview of Ashcroft Terminal, describing the facility as a strategically located inland rail transload terminal that facilitates the movement of goods between trucks and rail. The terminal has direct access to both CN and CPKC mainlines and includes over 65,000 feet of internal track, approximately 730 railcar spots, and 320 acres of industrially zoned land, allowing goods to be staged outside the Lower Mainland and supporting supply chain resiliency and diversification.</p> <p>Mr. Schubert advised that ATL currently employs 99 staff, including 88 in Ashcroft and 11 in Vancouver, and highlighted the company’s strong safety culture, noting over 1,230 days without a lost-time injury, regular inspections by Transport Canada and Technical Safety BC, and ongoing employee training. Recent projects include an intermodal cross-dock facility completed in 2024, used by Canadian Tire to transload products for distribution across Western Canada, along with a multi-user fuel transloading and storage facility, an asphalt production and transload facility, and an export transload warehouse. Mr. Schubert also noted upcoming growth opportunities including a critical minerals hub supporting copper concentrate shipments and a laydown yard and storage facility under a multi-year agreement.</p>	

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	<p>The delegation also noted ongoing engagement with Bonaparte First Nation, continued discussions with federal and provincial representatives, and ATL’s community involvement through more than 20 initiatives annually, including free swim days, Skate with Santa, participation in the Santa Claus Parade—where ATL received first place in 2025—supporting Soups On, partnering with schools to provide rail safety education, and offering bursaries for graduating students pursuing careers in the trades.</p> <p>Mr. Schubert further advised that Hollis Road transload operations will be relocated to the ATL site, which is the direct result of negotiations between ATL, Highland Valley Copper, and CN Rail. As part of this transition, a new dome structure similar to the one currently located on Hollis Road will be constructed below the McAsphalt site, in close proximity to the CN track, to facilitate copper concentrate transloading operations. The relocation is expected to be operational by summer.</p> <p>Comments and Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council and the delegation discussed traffic and safety considerations along Evans Road, including maintaining cleanliness along the corridor and promoting safe driving. • Council also noted the importance of coordination between Village Public Works crews and ATL when municipal crews are working on Evans Road (such as mowing, snow clearing, or asphalt repairs) to improve awareness and enhance employee safety. • Council raised concerns regarding the tight turning movement from Highway 97C onto Evans Road, noting that relocation of Highland Valley Copper concentrate truck traffic to the ATL site will increase truck movements at this intersection. ATL advised they will raise this as a key issue during upcoming meetings with provincial MLAs and encouraged Council to do the same. • Council also asked about fuel truck traffic, and ATL advised that movements have gradually increased following the fuel facility expansion completed just over a year ago. <p>Council was also informed that a ribbon-cutting event is planned for July, and that community tours of the terminal will be reintroduced this summer. Council thanked the delegation for the update.</p>	
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	Mayor Roden thanked Mr. Schubert and the delegation for the presentation noting she is looking forward to the ribbon cutting and community tours.	
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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.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	N/A	
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6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p>CAO Report – Facility Use and Donation Requests</p> <p>Purpose: To present four community support requests for Council consideration and approval, and to seek direction regarding potential future amendments to the Grant in Aid Policy.</p> <p>M/S Clement / Anstett</p> <p><i>THAT Council approves the following requests as amended:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Approve the waiver of Community Hall rental and insurance fees for the Ashcroft & District Community Resource Society for December 15–19, 2026, with an estimated in-kind value of \$425;</i> 2. <i>Approve the waiver of Community Hall rental and insurance fees for the Ashcroft & District Health Care Auxiliary for November 11–14, 2026, with an estimated in-kind value of \$360;</i> 3. <i>Approve a donation to the Desert Sands Community School Travel Club in the form of one family pool pass and one family public skate pass;</i> 4. <i>Approve the request from the Ashcroft & District Lions Club to host their annual Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast in conjunction with the Ashcroft Market on May 10, 2026, including permission to park their trailer in the Ashcroft Pool parking lot and access water and electrical services as required;</i> 	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-39</p>

	M/S Roden / Anstett Propose amendment <i>THAT, Councils donation to DSCS travel club be in the form of one pool pass and one family public skate pass.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-38
	M/S Roden / Tedford <i>THAT, Policy C-05-2024 be referred to the Policy Review Committee for review and that recommendations clarifying the inclusion of In-kind contributions and donation requests within the Village's support framework be brought forward to Council at a future meeting.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-40
FOR INFORMATION		
6.2	CAO Memo – Public Meeting Notes	

7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	Forestry is a Solution – Request for Official Endorsement M/S Roden / Tedford Move the recommendation: <i>THAT, Council endorse the "Forestry is a Solution" initiative as outlined in the February 26, 2026 correspondence from the BC Council of Forest Industries;</i> <i>AND THAT, Council acknowledge forestry as a foundational industry in rural British Columbia that supports local employment, economic stability, wildfire risk reduction through active forest management, and resilient communities;</i> <i>AND THAT, the Village of Ashcroft advise the BC Council of Forest Industries of its support and share information about the initiative through the Village's regular communication channels.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-41
7.2	Frank Caputo, MP – Seeking Ashcroft's Primary Funding Concerns at the Federal Level M/S Roden / Clement <i>THAT, Council direct staff to send a letter in response to MP Caputo's request identifying the Village of Ashcroft's primary funding priority as the twinning of the North Ashcroft reservoir, emphasizing the project's importance in supporting future community growth, ensuring adequate water storage for fire protection in North Ashcroft, and addressing the increasing wildfire risk facing the community.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-42

	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Council noted in this time of budget cuts and reduced grant opportunities it was important to forward one priority item rather ask for several.</p> <p>Twinning the north Ashcroft reservoir is a priority for development, fire suppression and ensuring adequate flow during potential wildfire risk.</p>	
7.3	<p>City of Prince George – Seeking Support in Signing PG’s Petition to the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada. – Advocating for Stronger Public Safety Measures</p> <p>M/S Davenport / Clement</p> <p><i>THAT, Council support the public safety petition initiated by the City of Prince George advocating for stronger public safety measures and authorize staff to share information about the petition through the Village of Ashcroft’s regular communication channels.</i></p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Not anticipated to have a significant impact within the local area</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-43</p>
7.4	<p>UBCM – Invitation to Renew Annual Membership</p> <p>M/S Clement / Tedford</p> <p><i>THAT, Council approves the renewal of the Village of Ashcroft’s membership with UBCM in the amount of \$1,426.32.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-44</p>
FOR INFORMATION		
7.5	SILGA – Member Fees Amendment – Constitution Resolution	
7.6	UBCM – LGPS-12342 Ashcroft 2025 Volunteer Fire Department Application Review	
7.7	<p>Peachland – Seeking Support for Late Resolution to SILGA</p> <p>SILGA Resolution deadline was February 20, 2026. Late resolutions may only be introduced if received by the Resolutions Committee Chair at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the commencement of an Annual Meeting. Only emergent resolutions of a regional nature received after the deadline will be considered for acceptance by the resolution committee. Submissions must include the rationale as to why the resolution would be considered emergent.</p> <p>M/S Clement / Tedford</p> <p><i>THAT, Council endorse the District of Peachland’s resolution at SILGA in Revelstoke.</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Tedford asked about the cost differences and services provided at SILGA versus UBCM events, and clarification was provided on the different roles and offerings of each organization for local governments. 	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-45</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Clement asked CFO Bhalla whether the late resolution from the District of Peachland regarding the potential application of PST to consulting and professional services such as engineering could impact the Village financially. It was noted that if implemented by the Province, the change would increase costs for municipal projects, and supporting the resolution would be in the Village's interest. 	
7.8	Thomson Nicola Film Commission - Update	
7.9	BC 7-Day Streamflow Hazard Outlook	
7.10	BC Officially Ends Time Changes	
7.11	NDIT – Approval of Grant Writer Funding application	
7.12	City of Abbotsford – Request for Support – 2026 Proposed UBCM Resolution	

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager	
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9. NEW BUSINESS

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

10.1	Recommendations from Discussions held at the March 9, 2026 COTW Meeting M/S Clement / Davenport <i>THAT, Council endorses the recommendation from the COTW meeting as presented with the exception of the B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre request which is provisional pending receipt of the financials and budget information.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-46

11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden Attended the TNRD Board meeting last week Will be speaking with a reporter Thursday to discuss Ashcroft's rail history Ashcroft Art Show - April 18 19 WRAPS Play "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe" - April 16 - 18	
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	Noted the passing of Wayne Wawrenuik former member of South Cariboo Sportsmen Association. Wayne was a driving force to rebuild the firing range after the Elephant Hill Wildfire	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement Lions 75 th Anniversary is on the 18 th of April	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Tedford	

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 March 9, 2026, at 7:39 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 9, 2026.

 Daniela Dyck,
 Chief Administrative Officer

 Barbara Roden,
 Mayor