



MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street
Monday June 8, 2026, at 5:00 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 – 0
Media – 1

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Mayor Nadine Davenport called the Committee of the Whole meeting of Council for Monday June 8, 2026, to order at 5:00pm.

"Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux people."

2. **ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

N/A

3. **MINUTES**

All COTW Minutes are adopted at a Regular Meeting of Council.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

3.1	NONE	
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5. **BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION**

3.1	NONE	
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6. **STAFF REPORTS**

6.1	COUNCIL DISCUSSION - UBCM MINISTER MEETIGN REQUESTS 1. CAO Memo - Potential UBCM Advocacy Topic – Rural Capacity and Shared Accountability	
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	2. CAO Memo – Potential UBCM Advocacy Topic – Long-Term FireSmart Funding 3. COUNCIL – Potential UBCM Advocacy Topics Deputy Mayor Davenport invited discussion from Council and staff to determine UBCM advocacy topics with Minsters and MACC staff at UBCM. The following is a list of all discussion items brought forward by Council: • Ministry of Forests – Advocate for continued funding for the FireSmart funding. If need be prioritize high risk areas as per the Wildland Urban Interface or consider ongoing funding for the coordinator positions. • Ministry of Municipal Affairs – Advocate for increased rural capacity and shared accountability. Council discussed the growing number of provincially mandated responsibilities assigned to local governments and the limited staffing resources available in small communities to carry out this work in a meaningful way. Consider requesting regional provincial staff resources to assist with these responsibilities. • Ministry of Citizen Services – Advocate for improved cellular connectivity on arterial highways, specifically Highway 1 between Cache Creek and Kamloops, where numerous dead zones and intermittent service exist despite the area experiencing frequent motor vehicle incidents and fatalities. • Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions – Climate Solutions Division – request to amend Clean BC Guidelines. The current guidelines are based on gross income levels, many more residents would be eligible if it was based on net income. • Ministry of Environment Parks and Conservation – advocate for more last minute “walk in” booking sites for first come first served park users. Not every one is able to plan 3 or 4 months in advance of a camping trip. ○ Advocate for Crown land tenure to support future trail development above the Mesa area. • Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture – Advocate the development of local trail system • Ministry of Health – Services provided at the UPCC should be clearly and accurately listed on the website. Currently services that are listed are only provided on a limited capacity but this is not conveyed on the website. ○ Consider advocating for BCEHS to have a dedicated window to bring patients to the UPCC.	
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	○ Advocate for families with Neurodivergent children to provide services in rural areas as families are spending funding to travel to the service rather than accessing ongoing services. • Ministry of Arts Culture and Sport – Advocate for an increase in gaming grants. Gambling has increased significantly; however, gaming grants have not seen an increase in over 10 years. • Ministry of Transportation – Advocate for an assessment of the Evans Road and Highway 97C intersection, including turning movements, bridge access, and the impacts of increased commercial traffic. Study the intersection at Mesa Vista Dr and Hwy 97C for access, approach, turning angle and grade. Council also discussed the need for a secondary emergency egress route from Ashcroft Terminal. • Ministry of Water Lands and natural Resource Stewardship – Advocate for provincial support for our federal grant application to twin the north Ashcroft reservoirs. Twinning increases capacity, supports growth, public safety, and adds capacity to provide water to AIB. Mayor Roden cautioned that this is an extensive list and council should reduce it and prioritize the requests.	
	Priority List determined by Council: During the prioritization process some items were moved from a meeting request with Ministers to meeting requests with MACC staff and were bundled together where possible. 1. Minister of Forests – FireSmart Funding • Advocate for stable and predictable long-term FireSmart funding. • Emphasize the importance of retaining FireSmart Coordinator funding, even if broader program reductions become necessary. • Support continued risk- and science-based funding models, with priority given to high-risk Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities. 2. Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs – Rural Capacity • Discuss the increasing responsibilities being placed on small local governments and the limited administrative capacity available to meet provincial expectations. • Advocate for practical, collaborative solutions, including provincially staffed regional resources to assist with responsibilities such as Indigenous engagement and consultation.	

	- Emphasize that rural communities are committed to participating in meaningful engagement and providing local knowledge but often lack the staff, time, and specialized expertise required to coordinate these complex processes while continuing to deliver core municipal services. 3. Ministry of Transportation and Transit – Transportation Infrastructure - Discuss increased commercial traffic and safety concerns at the Evans Road and Highway 97C intersection and Mesa Vista Drive and Hwy 97C – advocate for study to be completed. - Raise concerns regarding railway crossing blockages, access challenges for commercial vehicles using the Highway 97C bridge, and the need to consider an alternate emergency egress route from Ashcroft Terminal. - Request provincial support to complete an infrastructure assessment to identify practical long-term solutions for all items noted. 4. Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship – North Ashcroft Reservoir - Seek provincial support for the Village of Ashcroft’s Strategic Priorities Fund application through UBCM for federal funding to twin the North Ashcroft Reservoir. The project is critical to increasing water capacity, improving emergency preparedness, and accommodating future residential and economic growth. 5. ICBC – Highway Safety and Cellular Connectivity - Discuss the public safety risks associated with limited cellular coverage along Highway 97 and Highway 1, particularly between Cache Creek and Kamloops. - Advocate for improved connectivity in these high-risk corridors and encourage ICBC to support or champion efforts to eliminate cellular dead zones that delay emergency response and place motorists at risk. Additional Council Direction - Prepare a letter to the Province outlining Council's concerns with the BC Parks reservation system. - Continue discussions with the Thompson-Nicola Regional District regarding opportunities to collaborate on trail development and Crown land access initiatives. - Schedule local meeting with Interior Health Authority – Rural Health Services - Discuss access to mental health services and supports for neurodivergent children and families.	
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	• Raise concerns regarding ambulance transport and access to appropriate care in rural communities. • Request that the Urgent and Primary Care Centre website be updated to accurately reflect the services that are available locally.	
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4. **CLOSED MEETING**

Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1

7.1	NONE	
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5. **TERMINATION**

Mayor Roden adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council for Monday June 8, 2026 at 6:04 PM

Certified to be a true and correct copy of
the Minutes of the COTW Meeting of Council
held Monday, June 8, 2026.

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Barbara Roden,
Mayor