

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2025
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Memorial Hall
290 Esplanade Avenue, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Fred Talen
Councillor Leo Facio
Councillor Allan Jackson
Councillor Mark Schweinbenz
Councillor Michie Vidal

Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Chief Financial Officer, Scott Schultz
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson
Communications & Community Engagement
Coordinator, Kalie Wiechmann
Planning Consultant, Ken Cossey
Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Jessica Ferguson

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Talen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Talen acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

Mayor Talen introduced Kalie Wiechmann as the Village's new Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-01

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4. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2025 be adopted.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-02

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT the Special Council Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025 be adopted.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-03

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the Special Council Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025 be adopted.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-04

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- iii. (a) Advisory Planning Commission Minutes of October 2, 2024

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT the consent agenda be approved.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-05

7. DELEGATIONS/PETITIONS

- (a) Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services & Skylar Gormley, Manager of Recreation/Culture and Projects – District of Kent
Re: Lets'emot Pool

Mr. Veenbaas and Mr. Gormley provided a PowerPoint presentation on recreation usership, the Lets'emot indoor pool facility current status, capital and operating budgets, two tier fee systems and regional partnership options.

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT staff be directed to report to Council with a recommendation regarding the Lets'emot Pool.

Amendment Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT the matter be referred to a Special Council Meeting.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-06

Council voted on the main motion as amended.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-07

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated January 8, 2025 from Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society
Re: Funding Increase Request
- (b) Letter dated January 10, 2025 from Girl Guides of Canada
Re: World Thinking Day
- (c) Letter dated January 14, 2025 from Lower Mainland Local Governments Association
Re: Call for Nominations
- (d) Letter dated January 21, 2025 from BC Timber Sales
Re: Operating Plan #643-9

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Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT all correspondence be received.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
RC-2025-02-08

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the request from the Agassiz Harrison Historical Society for an additional \$2,000 in annual funding for operating expenses be approved.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
RC-2025-02-09

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT on February 22, 2025, the lights at the plaza and on the digital bulletin boards be turned blue.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
RC-2025-02-10

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT staff be directed to thank BC Timber Sales for their correspondence and send them the following additional questions:

Please identify where all forestry logging operations are being contemplated in the area that is 60km from the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

Please identify the number of logging trucks on a weekly basis related to forestry vehicles that would be using Highway 9/Hot Springs Road associated with these contemplated forestry logging operations.

Please clarify who approves or rejects logging operations based on visual impact inventory polygons in the area 60km from the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and confirm what the role of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs is in that process.

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What actions will be taken to mitigate or ensure that the Village's only evacuation route to the south will not be impacted by wildfire conditions potentially being made worse?; and

THAT the matter be referred to the next Lets'emot C2C meeting.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-11

10. REPORTS OF COUNCILLORS, COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND COMMISSIONS

Councillor Facio

- Fraser Valley Regional District Board (Municipal Director)
 - Attended a Committee of the Whole meeting on January 23, 2025
- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board (Alternate Municipal Director)
 - No Report

Councillor Vidal

- Corrections Canada Citizen's Advisory Committee
 - No Report
- Agassiz-Harrison Healthy Communities
 - No Report
- Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program Committee
 - Attended a meeting on January 21, 2025
- Attended the Council orientation and strategic planning sessions on January 14-16, 2025
- Attended the Council to Council meeting with Sts'ailes on January 28, 2025
- Attended the Special Council meeting on January 29, 2025

Councillor Jackson

- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board (Municipal Director)
 - No Report
- Tourism Harrison
 - No Report
- Attended the Communities in Bloom Committee Meeting on January 30, 2025

Councillor Schweinbenz

- Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society
 - No Report
- Community Futures North Fraser Board of Directors
 - No Report

11. MAYOR'S REPORT

- Reported on Council orientation and strategic planning sessions on January 14-16, 2025

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- Attended the Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program Committee meeting on January 21, 2025
- Attended the Council to Council meeting with Sts'ailes on January 28, 2025

12. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- (a) Report of Bylaw Enforcement Officer dated February 3, 2025
Re: Bylaw Enforcement Annual Report

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT the Bylaw Enforcement Officer's 2024 Annual Report dated February 3, 2025 be received for information.

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT the recommendations in the Bylaw Enforcement Officer's report dated February 3, 2025 be referred to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-12

Council voted on the motion to receive the Bylaw Enforcement Officer's report.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-13

- (b) Report of Chief Administrative Officer dated February 3, 2025
Re: 2025-2026 Strategic Plan

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT Council adopt the 2025-2026 Strategic Plan.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-14

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- (c) Report of Director of Operations dated February 3, 2025
Re: Miami River Bridge Contract Awards

Moved by Councillor Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT the Director of Operations' report dated February 3, 2025 regarding the Miami River Bridge contract awards be received for information.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-15

- (d) Report of Director of Operations dated February 3, 2025
Re: SCADA System

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Council authorize staff to work with MPE Engineering to complete the second phase of the SCADA system installation at a cost of up to \$80,000.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-16

- (e) Report of Community Services Manager dated February 3, 2025
Re: Environmental Open House

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT the planning of an Environmental Open House be referred to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-17

- (f) Report of Corporate Officer dated February 3, 2025
Re: Age-Friendly Committee Membership

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT staff be directed to advertise for Age-Friendly Committee and Advisory Planning Commission member applications.

**CARRIED
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RC-2025-02-18

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13. BYLAWS

- (a) Report of Planning Consultant dated February 3, 2025
Re: Development Approval Information Bylaw No. 1210, 2024

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Development Approval Information Bylaw No. 1210, 2024 be given third reading.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-19

- (b) Report of Corporate Officer dated February 3, 2025
Re: Council Procedure Bylaw No. 1216, 2025

Moved by Councillor Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT discussion of Council Procedure Bylaw No. 1216, 2025 be referred to a Special Council Meeting.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-20

- (c) Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1215, 2024

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1215, 2024 be adopted.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-21

- (d) Noise Bylaw No. 1218, 2025

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT Noise Bylaw No. 1218, 2025 be adopted.

**CARRIED
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RC-2025-02-22

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- (e) Littering, Dumping and Snow Repeal Bylaw No. 1217, 2025

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Littering, Dumping and Snow Repeal Bylaw No. 1217, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
RC-2025-02-23

14. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) New Business from Mayor Talen
Re: Harrison Festival Society Liaison

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

WHEREAS the Harrison Festival Society has produced the Annual Harrison Festival of the Arts since the 1970s; and

WHEREAS the Harrison Festival Society also produces the Annual Performing Arts; and

WHEREAS the summer Festival of the Arts and the performances in Memorial Hall throughout the year contribute to Harrison Hot Springs vibrant cultural character for both residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS Mayor Talen was nominated to be a member of the Harrison Festival Society at a recent Annual General Meeting, therefore be it resolved

THAT The Village of Harrison Hot Springs Council acknowledges that Mayor Talen is Board Member of the Harrison Festival Society; and

Mayor Talen in his capacity as a Council member and Festival Society Board member may act as a liaison the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and the Festival Society; and

For greater certainty, the Mayor acting as a liaison is in addition to, and does not replace, existing administrative relationships between the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and the Festival Society.

CARRIED
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RC-2025-02-24

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- (b) New Business from Mayor Talen
Re: Rainbow Crosswalk

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

WHEREAS the Village is committed to establishing and maintaining an inclusive, equitable and welcoming environment for everyone; and

WHEREAS a crosswalk painted in rainbow colours is one method of recognizing and supporting the 2SLGBTQI+ community, therefore be it resolved

THAT staff be directed to research a suitable location and cost to install a rainbow crosswalk in the Village and report back to Council.

Amendment Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT staff be directed to also research other possible options to recognize and support the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-25

Council voted on the original motion as amended.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-26

- (c) New Business from Mayor Talen
Re: Surplus Policy

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

WHEREAS Disposal of Surplus Items and Equipment Policy 1.11 was amended in January of 2024 to require the Mayor to conduct a public auction; and

WHEREAS a public auction may prevent people from bidding if they cannot attend in person, therefore be it resolved

THAT staff be directed to draft changes to Policy 1.11 removing the public auction requirement and incorporating provisions for a sealed bidding process.

**CARRIED
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RC-2025-02-27

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- (d) New Business from Councillor Vidal
Re: LMLGA Resolution – Alertable Emergency Room Closure

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT Council endorse the following resolution to be forwarded to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association for consideration at the annual conference:

WHEREAS access to emergency medical services is critical for all British Columbians and hospital emergency department closures severely disrupt critical healthcare access, potentially endangering communities and lives by delaying urgent medical treatment;

AND WHEREAS reliable communication and immediate notification during hospital emergency department closures is essential to ensure the public is informed of alternate healthcare facilities, preventing unnecessary delays;

AND WHEREAS a reliable and immediate notification system to alert the public to emergency department closures and alternate care locations is not in place;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Provincial Government establish a standardized emergency notification system, utilizing platforms such as text alerts, mobile alert applications and local media to inform the public of temporary emergency department closures and directing residents to the nearest available healthcare facilities.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-28

15. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (pertaining to agenda items only)

Questions from the public were entertained.

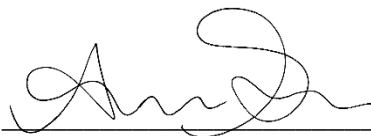
Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
RC-2025-02-29



Fred Talen
Mayor



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

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