

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

DATE: Tuesday, April 7, 2026
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Memorial Hall
290 Esplanade Avenue, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Fred Talen
Councillor Leo Facio
Councillor Allan Jackson
Councillor Michie Vidal

COUNCIL ABSENT: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Chief Financial Officer/Deputy CAO, Scott Schultz
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson
Planning Consultant, Ken Cossey
Corporate Clerk, Tyler Kafi

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Talen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Talen acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. PUBLIC HEARING (If required)

None.

4. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- Additional Notice of Motion from Councillor Schweinbenz regarding Public Art Policy.

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the additional Notice of Motion from Councillor Schweinbenz regarding the Public Art Policy be added as item 18(c) to the agenda.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-01

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-02

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- (a) Councillor Vidal declared a conflict of interest regarding item 10(e) – Letter dated March 30, 2026 from Marlene Reimer, Terry Fox Run Organizing Committee Re: Event Fee Waiver for 2026 Terry Fox Run due to personal connections to the organizing committee members.

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (a) Special Pre-Closed Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026
(b) Regular Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026
(c) Special Pre-Closed Council Meeting Minutes of March 31, 2026

Moved by Councillor Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT all minutes be adopted.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-03

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

9. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS

None.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated March 13, 2026 from Bramblebank Cottages
Re: Public Access to Hot Springs During Closure of Public Pool
(b) Letter dated March 18, 2026 from the Town of View Royal
Re: Judicial Review Coalition Update – Provincial Housing Legislation

- (c) Letter dated March 18, 2026 from Tania Hart, Doug Hart, John Duffus and Judy Duffus
Re: Concept Plan for Elementary School
- (d) Letter dated March 5, 2026 from Government Finance Officers Association
Re: CAnFR Award for 2024
- (e) Letter dated March 30, 2026 from Marlene Reimer, Terry Fox Run Organizing Committee
Re: Event Fee Waiver for 2026 Terry Fox Run

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT all correspondence be received.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-04

11. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Vidal recused herself from the meeting and exited Council Chambers at 5:33 p.m. due to her earlier declared conflict of interest.

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the event fees be waived for the 2026 Terry Fox Run event.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-05

Councillor Vidal returned to Council Chambers at 5:35 p.m.

12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Vidal

- Corrections Canada Citizen's Advisory Committee – No Report
- Agassiz-Harrison Healthy Communities
 - Attended a meeting on March 19, 2026
- Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program Committee – No Report
- Attended a LMLGA Executive Meeting on March 31, 2026
- Attended a Lets'emot Community 2 Community Forum on April 1, 2026

Councillor Facio

- Fraser Valley Regional District Board (Municipal Director)
 - Attended a Regional and Corporate Services Committee meeting on April 2, 2026
- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board (Alternate Municipal Director) – No Report

Councillor Jackson

- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board – No Report
- Tourism Harrison – No Report
- Reported on the Communities in Bloom Committee activities and attended a meeting on March 25, 2026
- Attended the March 31, 2026 Closed Council Meeting

13. REPORTS FROM MAYOR

- Attended a Lets'emot Community 2 Community Forum on April 1, 2026
- Attended a Resort Community Collaborative Mayors meeting on April 2, 2026

14. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- (a) Communities in Bloom Committee Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2026
- (b) Age-Friendly Committee Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2026

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT all committee minutes be received.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-06

15. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- (a) Report of Chief Financial Officer dated April 7, 2026
Re: CAO 2026 First Quarter Update

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer's report dated April 7, 2026 regarding the 2026 First Quarter Update be received for information.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-07

16. BYLAWS

- (a) Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1242, 2026

Moved by Councillor Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1242, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-08

- (b) Report of Planning Consultant dated April 7, 2026
Re: Amenity Cost Charges Program

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT Council accept the attached ACC Background Report; and

THAT staff be authorized to set up a community meeting to discuss the ACC program and information generated to date.

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Mayor Talen

THAT the matter be deferred to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-09

- (c) Report of Planning Consultant dated April 7, 2026
Re: Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1243, 2026 - 469 Naismith Ave

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1243, 2026 be introduced and be given first reading.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-10

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1243, 2026 be given second reading.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-11

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1243, 2026 be given third reading.

CARRIED
OPPOSED BY COUNCILLOR VIDAL
RC-2026-04-12

17. NEW BUSINESS

None.

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) Notice of Motion from Mayor Talen
Re: Civic Recognition

WHEREAS the Village does not currently have any established policies for recognizing and awarding members of the public for their contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS establishing such a policy would provide for a clear and consistent awarding process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to draft a Civic Recognition Policy that outlines eligibility criteria, a nomination process, selection method, and process by which public spaces may be named after an individual, for Council's consideration.

- (b) Notice of Motion from Councillor Schweinbenz
Re: Community Forest Engagement

WHEREAS the Village of Harrison Hot Springs is situated within a low-lying valley surrounded by steep terrain and predominantly second-growth forests, many of which were historically managed for timber production using practices such as monoculture species selection, suppression of deciduous vegetation through mechanical and chemical means, and subsequent clear-cut harvesting; and

WHEREAS the geographic setting of the Village makes it vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including flooding from the Miami River, landslides and debris flows from surrounding slopes, wildfire risk within the wildland–urban interface, siltation of salmon-bearing streams, and reduced air quality due to limited atmospheric circulation within the valley; and

WHEREAS a growing body of British Columbia–based research highlights potential cumulative impacts associated with large-scale clear-cutting, including altered local microclimates, increased surface runoff and sediment transport, changes in slope stability, impacts to ecosystems and wildlife habitat, potential effects on archaeological and cultural values, and reduced opportunities for low-impact recreational use in areas adjacent to communities; and

WHEREAS climate change is contributing to more frequent and intense precipitation and heat events, increasing pressures on infrastructure, emergency management capacity, public finances, and the overall safety and well-being of residents; and

WHEREAS the Village of Harrison Hot Springs recognizes the importance of the forestry sector to local and regional employment and to the provincial economy, and further recognizes that evolving ecosystem-based forest management approaches can support both long-term economic viability and broader social, cultural, and environmental values;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to engage with relevant provincial agencies, departments, BC Timber Sales – Chilliwack Forest District, Indigenous governments, and neighbouring communities to share the following perspectives as a basis for dialogue and collaborative planning:

1. Council's significant concern regarding the continuation of large-scale clear-cut harvesting on slopes and forested areas surrounding the community, including Mount Woodside, Mount Agassiz, Green Mountain, Bear Mountain, and Mount Sollicum, given their proximity to residential areas and critical watersheds; and
2. Council's strong interest in exploring and supporting lower-impact, selective harvesting and other ecosystem-based forest management practices that recognize forest values beyond timber supply, while maintaining long-term economic returns from sustainably managed forests; and
3. Council's support for community-based forest stewardship principles, including meaningful opportunities for residents of Harrison Hot Springs and surrounding communities to provide input into forest management decisions and policies affecting the local landscape; and
4. Council's interest in working collaboratively with provincial partners to reconsider the routine mechanical and chemical suppression of native deciduous species within the Harrison Lake watershed and surrounding areas, in order to encourage forest conditions that may enhance wildfire resistance, slope stability, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

- (c) Notice of Motion from Councillor Schweinbenz
Re: Public Art Policy

WHEREAS the Village of Harrison Hot Springs has an established and evolving history of public art and a community that values creative expression; and

WHEREAS public art contributes to the cultural character and shared spaces of the Village and may offer benefits to both residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS there is interest within the artistic community regarding potential opportunities related to public art;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to undertake a review of the current *Public Art Policy (Policy 1.37)* and provide observations and considerations related to its alignment with community and artistic interests; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff explore and report on possible approaches for the consideration of public art opportunities, including the potential role of an advisory panel.

19. QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO THE AGENDA

Questions from the public were entertained.

20. ADJOURNMENT


Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

CARRIED
RC-2026-04-13



Fred Talen
Mayor



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer