

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

**DATE:** Monday, April 20, 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  
Councillor Mark Schweinbenz

**COUNCIL ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch  
Chief Financial Officer/Deputy CAO, Scott Schultz  
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens  
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson  
Communications and Community Engagement  
Coordinator, Kalie Wiechmann  
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**

None.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by Councillor Facio**  
**Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz**

THAT the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-14

**6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- (a) Mayor Talen declared a non-pecuniary conflict regarding item 15(c) – Consideration of the Issuance of a DVP and DP (889 Hot Springs Road). Prior to being elected to office, he signed a letter of support regarding the proposed development at 889 Hot Springs Road. Mayor Talen advised that he would recuse himself from the meeting when the item comes before Council.

**7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- (a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2026

**Moved by Councillor Vidal**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

THAT the minutes be adopted.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-15

**8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

**9. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS**

- (a) Brian Szabo, BDO Canada  
Re: Audit Findings

Brian Szabo reported on the Village's 2025 Financial Audit findings.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**11. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

**Councillor Vidal**

- Corrections Canada Citizen's Advisory Committee – No Report
- Agassiz-Harrison Healthy Communities
  - Attended a meeting on April 16, 2026
- Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program Committee
  - Attended a meeting on April 15, 2026
- Attended LMLGA Executive Board meeting on April 9, 2026
- Attended the first Lunch and Learn event hosted by the Village on April 14, 2026

- Attended the Small Communities forum on April 20, 2026

**Councillor Facio**

- Fraser Valley Regional District Board (Municipal Director)
  - Attended a meeting on April 9, 2026
- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board (Alternate Municipal Director) – No Report

**Councillor Jackson**

- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board – No Report
- Tourism Harrison – No Report

**Councillor Schweinbenz**

- Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society – No Report
- Community Futures North Fraser Board of Directors – No Report
- Reminder that the Environmental Committee's Earth Day in May Event is taking place on May 2, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Memorial Hall

**13. REPORTS FROM MAYOR**

- Attended Miami River Streamkeepers Annual General Meeting on April 11, 2026
- Participated in the 104<sup>th</sup> annual Chilliwack plowing match on April 11, 2026
- Attended a Chamber of Commerce Meeting on April 14, 2026
- Attended the Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program Committee on April 15, 2026
- Attended the RCMP Officer in Charge awards ceremony on April 15, 2026
- Reported on the Age-Friendly Committee Meeting on April 16, 2026
- Reported on the Small Communities forum on April 20, 2026
- Reported on an art exhibit currently on display at the Ranger Station Art Gallery

**14. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

None.

**15. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

- (a) Report of Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator dated April 20, 2026

Re: Building Belonging I.D.E.A Framework and Action Plan

Kelli Paddon of Equiiti Strategic presented the I.D.E.A Framework and Action Plan.

**Moved by Councillor Vidal**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

THAT Council adopt the Building Belonging I.D.E.A Framework and Action Plan.

**Amendment moved by Councillor Schweinbenz**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

THAT the motion be amended to include a subsequent review of the implementation of the I.D.E.A. framework within 90 days.

**CARRIED**  
**OPPOSED BY COUNCILLOR FACIO**  
RC-2026-04-16

Council voted on original motion as amended.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-17

- (b) Report of Community Services Manager dated April 20, 2026  
Re: UBCM Fire Department Grant

**Moved by Councillor Vidal**  
**Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz**

THAT Council approves the expenditure of \$30,000 in capital equipment for the Fire Department, to be funded by the approved UBCM CEPF: 2025 Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training grant.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-18

Mayor Talen recused himself from the meeting due to the earlier stated conflict of interest at 6:44 p.m. Deputy Mayor Facio assumed the chair.

- (c) Report of Planning Consultant dated April 20, 2026  
Re: Consideration of the Issuance of a DVP and a DP (889 Hot Springs Road)

**Moved by Councillor Jackson**  
**Seconded by Councillor Vidal**

THAT Development Variance Permit 01/25 be issued to Woodside Smart Storage Ltd Inc BC1114734 for land legally described as Blk A (Reference Plan 6466) South East Quarter of Sec 12, Twp 4, Rge 29, W6M, New Westminster District located at 889 Hot Springs Road subject to:

- a. The placement of a save harmless flooding covenant on title.
- b. Entering into a Works and Services agreement that is acceptable to the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-19

**Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

THAT Development Permit 01/25 be issued to Woodside Smart Storage Ltd Inc BC1114734 for land legally described as Blk A (Reference Plan 6466) South East Quarter of Sec 12, Twp 4, Rge 29, W6M, New Westminster District located at 889 Hot Springs Road, (PID: 013-167-006) subject to:

- a. The placement of a save harmless flooding covenant on title.
- b. Entering into a Works and Services agreement that is acceptable to the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

**Amendment moved by Councillor Schweinbenz**

THAT staff be directed to ask the developer to come forward with considerations for a live roof or solar roof to come up with ideas to further mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

**FAILED**  
**LACK OF SECONDER**

Council voted on the original motion.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-20

Mayor Talen returned to Council chambers and resumed the role of chair at 7:12 pm.

- (d) Report of Chief Financial Officer dated April 20, 2026  
Re: 2025 Audited Financial Statements

**Moved by Councillor Facio**  
**Seconded by Councillor Vidal**

THAT the Independent Auditor's Report be received; and

THAT the 2025 Financial Statements of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs be approved;  
and

THAT the Independent Auditor's Report be attached to the approved Financial Statements of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-21

**16. BYLAWS**

- (a) Report of Chief Financial Officer dated April 20, 2026  
Re: 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1238, 2026

**Moved by Councillor Vidal**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

THAT Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1238, 2026 be introduced and given first reading.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-22

**Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

THAT Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1238, 2026 be given second reading.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-23

**Moved by Councillor Facio**  
**Seconded by Councillor Vidal**

THAT Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1238, 2026 be given third reading.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-24

**17. NEW BUSINESS**

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

**Moved by Mayor Talen**  
**Seconded by Councillor Facio**

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.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-25

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

**Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz**  
**Seconded by Councillor Facio**

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 Slollicum, 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.

**Moved by Mayor Talen**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

THAT this matter be referred to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**FAILED**  
**OPPOSED BY COUNCILLORS VIDAL, FACIO, SCHWEINBENZ**

Council voted on the original motion.

**FAILED**  
**OPPOSED BY MAYOR TALEN, COUNCILLORS VIDAL, FACIO, JACKSON**

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

**Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz**  
**Seconded by Councillor Facio**

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.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-26

## **18. NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

**19. QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO THE AGENDA**

Questions from the public were entertained.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

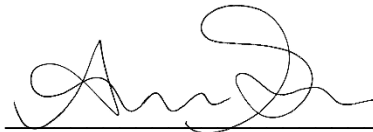
**Moved by Councillor Facio**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

**CARRIED**  
RC-2026-04-27



Fred Talen  
Mayor



Amanda Graham  
Corporate Officer