

VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Regular Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, May 19, 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
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson
Communications and Community Engagement
Coordinator, Kalie Wiechmann

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**

Moved by Mayor Talen

Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT the agenda be amended by providing an opportunity for public comments and questions following the presentation of item 9(a) – Waterfront Dike Upgrade Update.

CARRIED
OPPOSED BY COUNCILLOR JACKSON
RC-2026-05-15

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-16

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2026
- (b) Special Pre-Closed Council Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2026

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT the minutes be adopted.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-17

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

9. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS

- (a) Daniel Maldoff, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Ltd.
Re: Waterfront Dike Upgrade Update

Daniel Maldoff presented on the Waterfront Dike Upgrade project to date and the current proposed design which includes raised embankments, upgraded riprap, below-grade sheet piles to mitigate seepage and surface improvements to support a deployable dike. The next steps include proceeding with environmental permits, complete detailed design and proceed with tendering and construction.

The public was given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions regarding the project.

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT Council direct staff and Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Ltd. to submit all necessary environmental permit applications required for the Waterfront Dike Upgrade Project and complete detailed design with the intent to tender the project; and

THAT Council direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals for construction to take place outside of peak tourism season.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-18

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated April 27, 2026 from the Resort Community Collaborative to the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
Re: Look West Strategy and Tourism Action Plan
- (b) Email dated May 4, 2026 from Battered Women's Support Services
Re: Safe Mother's Day and Public Safety in Your Municipality
- (c) Email dated May 8, 2026 from City of Abbotsford to the Minister of Finance
Re: Provincial Sales Tax Expansion
- (d) Email dated May 12, 2026 from UBCM
Re: Update on UBCM's Advocacy on the Heritage Conservation Act

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT all correspondence be received.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-19

11. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT Council and staff not engage independently with the Province regarding proposed amendments to the *Heritage Conservation Act* and support UBCM's engagement to ensure coordinated local government response.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-20

12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Vidal

- Corrections Canada Citizen's Advisory Committee – No Report
- Agassiz-Harrison Healthy Communities – No Report
- Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program Committee – No Report
- Attended an Emergency Preparedness Lunch and Learn at the Village Office on May 12, 2026
- Attended the screening of a film called Trouble in the Headwaters at the Harrison Beach Hotel on May 13, 2026

Councillor Facio

- Fraser Valley Regional District Board (Municipal Director) – Attended a Regional and Corporate Services Committee Meeting on May 14, 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

13. REPORTS FROM MAYOR

- Attended capstone interviews at the Agassiz Elementary Secondary School on May 13, 2026
- Attended a Harrison-Agassiz Chamber of Commerce meeting on May 12, 2026
- Attended a Resort Community Collaborative Mayors' meeting on May 14, 2026

14. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

None.

15. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- (a) Report of Corporate Officer dated May 19, 2026
Re: 2026 UBCM Convention Provincial Appointments

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

Recommendations:

1. THAT staff be directed to request meetings with Cabinet Ministers at the 2026 UBCM Convention as follows:

- Minister of Citizen's Services regarding a funding stream for responding to FOI requests;
 - Minister of Forests regarding the BC Timber Sales Operating Plan consultation process and the importance of FireSmart funding;
 - Minister of Health regarding funding and recruiting for the Village Health Centre;
 - Minister of Infrastructure regarding funding and timeline for a new elementary school;
 - Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation regarding modern treaties;
 - Minister of Transportation and Transit regarding e-unicycle and e-hover board regulation and increased enforcement/education regarding the e-scooter pilot program; and
 - Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship regarding hot springs source oversight.
2. THAT staff be directed to request meetings with Ministry staff should the requested meetings with the Cabinet Ministers not be granted.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-21

16. BYLAWS

None.

17. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Notice of Motion from Councillor Vidal
Re: Cenotaph at Memorial Hall

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Facio

WHEREAS the permanent installation of a cenotaph provides a place of remembrance, reflection and gathering space to honor the service and sacrifice of members of the Canadian Armed Forces;

AND WHEREAS Memorial Hall is a central and historically significant location within our community which is well-suited to serve as a site of remembrance;

AND WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 32 plays a vital role in supporting veterans, their families and has a respected role in leading local commemorative services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to investigate the purchase and erecting of a cenotaph outside of Memorial Hall and engage with Royal Canadian Legion Branch 32 to seek input and guidance on appropriate design and protocols and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff report back to Council with recommendations including a proposed project budget and timeline.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-22

- (b) Notice of Motion from Mayor Talen
Re: Impact of Forestry Activities

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Councillor Facio

WHEREAS the April 20, 2026 Regular Council Meeting did not result in Council taking any action in relation to item 17 c);

AND WHEREAS the Village has interests that should be considered and protected arising from forestry activity near the Village and in the Harrison Lake watershed;

AND WHEREAS the Village wrote BC Timber Sales on April 27, 2026, seeking information on how forestry activities alter: wildfire risk, water quality in Harrison Lake, the risk of flooding in the Village, and asserting that the Village must have a role in maintaining and protecting the aesthetic view qualities from the Village;

AND WHEREAS the Village should take additional steps to advance these interests in future meetings with Provincial authorities;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT at a future Committee of the Whole Meeting:

1. Council discuss concerns that might arise from forestry activities near the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and how the Village should engage Provincial authorities on forestry activities near the Village that might affect:
 - a) Risks associated from wildfires;
 - b) The water quality of Harrison Lake;
 - c) The risk of flooding in the Village;
 - d) The view, and ascetic qualities of the forest and mountains as seen from the Village;
2. Council consider whether, and how to engage neighbouring communities, including the District of Kent and Sts'ailes, on these matters.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-23

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 Schweinbenz

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

CARRIED
RC-2026-05-24



Fred Talen
Mayor



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer