VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
Regular Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, August 10, 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 Mark Schweinbenz
Councillor Michie Vidal

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens
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 Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-01

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2026

(b) Special Pre-Closed Council Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2026

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT the minutes be adopted.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-02

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

9. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS

None.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter dated July 7, 2026 from the Town of Lake Cowichan
Re: Request for Letter of Support – Elect Respect

(b) Letter dated July 8, 2026 from the City of Merritt to Thompson-Nicola Regional District
Re: City of Merritt Animal Control Bylaw Amendment – Pigeon Release Restrictions

(c) Letter dated July 14, 2026 from the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solution
Re: Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) Funding Letter Response

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT all correspondence be received.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-03

11. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT staff be directed to respond Lake Cowichan endorsing their resolution regarding Elect Respect.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-04

12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Facio

- Fraser Valley Regional District Board (Municipal Director) – No Report
- 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 – No Report
- Attended the Small Community forum hosted by the UBCM Small Communities representative on July 14, 2026
- Attended a UBCM meeting as an observer with LGLMA executive board on July 17, 2026

Councillor Jackson

- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board – No Report
- Tourism Harrison – No Report
- Reported on the Communities in Bloom garden tour and garden of the week

Councillor Schweinbenz

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

13. REPORTS FROM MAYOR

- Participated in the Harrison Dragonboat Regatta in July
- Reported on the Agassiz-Harrison Community Services Annual General Meeting in July

14. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

None.

15. REPORTS FROM STAFF

(a) Report of Director of Operations dated August 10, 2026
Re: Memorial Hall Heating and Cooling System Upgrades

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT Council approve the expenditure of up to $40,000 from the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) grant funding to replace the heating and cooling system at Memorial Hall.

Prior to the above motion being voted on, Councillor Schweinbenz moved the following:

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT staff report back to Council about the financial impact and possibility of putting a generator in at Memorial Hall in a timely fashion.

WITHDRAWN

Mayor Talen called the question on the main motion.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-05

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT staff report back to Council in a timely fashion regarding a permanent, capable, gas-fired generator for Memorial Hall.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-06

(b) Report of Community Services Manager dated August 10, 2026
Re: UBCM Grant Approval – CEPF: Emergency Operations Centre

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Council authorize up to $30,000 in expenditures to support the Village's 2026 Emergency Operations Centre grant project, to be funded through an approved grant source.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-07

(c) Report of Community Services Manager dated August 10, 2026
Re: Geese Management Update

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Council write to the Minister of Environment and Minister of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship enclosing a copy of the 2026 Canada Goose Nesting Survey - Harrison Hot Springs Results Summary and outline concerns regarding water quality due to goose populations in crown areas up the lake and requesting that the province address this issue in crown land areas or partner with the Village to address it.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-08

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT staff request a meeting with these ministry staff at UBCM about this issue.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-09

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT staff coordinate with the Environmental Advisory Committee and local environmental organizations to recruit volunteers to learn about the permit application and egg addling process in a facilitated workshop provided by EBB Environmental Consulting.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-10

(d) Report of Community Services Manager dated August 10, 2026
Re: Splash Pad Update

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT staff host an engagement event in Spring Park to highlight the footprint of the Splash Pad and seek feedback from families on features they would like to see included through this event and the Village's 'Get Into It Harrison' engagement platform.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-11

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Council allocate an additional $400,000 of RMI funding to the Splash Pad project and authorize the expenditure in 2026.

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Mayor Talen

THAT this item be deferred until after the Village receives feedback from residents.

CARRIED
OPPOSED BY COUNCILLOR JACKSON
RC-2026-08-12

(e) Report of Community Services Manager dated August 10, 2026
Re: Cenotaph Update

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT staff report back with specific options and cost estimates for a community memorial cenotaph with a commemorative plaque and a Veterans crosswalk at Esplanade Avenue and Maple Street for consideration in the 2027 financial plan.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-13

16. BYLAWS

(a) Report of Planning Consultant dated August 10, 2026
Re: Board of Variance Bylaw No. 1247, 2026

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT Board of Variance Bylaw No. 1247, 2026 be introduced and given first reading.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-14

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Board of Variance Bylaw No. 1247, 2026 be given second reading.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-15

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Board of Variance Bylaw No.1247, 2026 be given third reading.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-16

(b) Report of Planning Consultant dated August 10, 2026
Re: Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1246, 2026

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1246, 2026 be introduced and given first reading.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-17

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1246, 2026 be given second reading.

Amendment moved by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT Council adopt the low estimate ($19,500) for the parking charges for developments.

Upon further discussion, Councillor Schweinbenz altered the wording of the above motion to:

Amendment moved by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT staff be directed to report back to Council with more reasonable parking cash-in-lieu rates.

MOTION FAILED
LACK OF SECONDER

Council voted on the original motion.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-18

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT staff be directed to proceed with a Public Hearing.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-19

17. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Notice of Motion from Mayor Talen
Re: Civic Campus Memorandum of Understanding

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT staff be directed to engage staff from School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) and jointly prepare a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), for Council and the School Board's consideration, regarding a Civic Campus proposal that:

- Clearly outlines the purpose of the MOU as an exploratory, without prejudice document, the intent of which is to formally discuss a potential land exchange of land between the School Board and the Village;
- Incorporates clear language stating the Village's requirement to preserve the values and features of the forested areas and mature trees to the greatest extent possible;
- Incorporates a provision that both parties will explore options to enhance the use of forested areas;
- Confirms that any exchange of land contained in Fire Hall Park will require the approval of the electors either through an Alternative Approval Process or Assent Voting; and
- Allows for consideration of other possible configurations of the school and other buildings on the land being considered in this process.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-20

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) New Business from Councillor Schweinbenz
Re: Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre (LRRAC)

Recommendation:

WHEREAS the Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre (LRRAC) is due to open at the end of August and will provide users of all ages with exceptional physical fitness, social, cultural and general wellness opportunities for many decades, the benefits of which align with the Village's strategic goal of a Healthy Livable Community and Age Friendly community principles; and

WHEREAS a regional partnership between the District of Kent and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs whereby the residents of Harrison Hot Springs would contribute to the capital and operating costs of the LRRAC through taxation is still to be determined and subject to future approval of the electors; and

WHEREAS the District of Kent has proposed a two-tier rate structure for the use of the LRRAC by residents of Harrison Hot Springs, which reflects a 71% (in some cases) premium to use the facility compared to our neighbours in the District of Kent and Seabird Island; and

WHEREAS the Village should reduce barriers to access recreational opportunities where possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to investigate and report back to Council with ideas, should a Regional Partnership not be established, to address the proposed cost difference in user fees for residents and non-residents of the District of Kent in order to reduce economic barriers to access the LRRAC.

19. QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO THE AGENDA

Questions from the public were entertained.

20. ADJOURNMENT

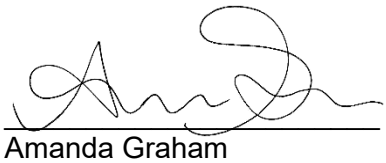
Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

CARRIED
RC-2026-08-21



Fred Talen
Mayor



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer