



TOWN OF COMOX
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,
held in Council Chambers on Wednesday February 18, 2026

Present: Mayor N. Minions
Councillors S. Blacklock, K. Grant, C. Haslett,
J. Kerr, J. Meilleur, M. Swift

Absent: Nil

Staff Present: J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer
E. Henley, Director of Finance
R. Houle, Director of Development Services (electronically)
G. Schreiner, Fire Chief
T. Hagmeier, Recreation Director

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. with 22 members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Minions acknowledged that the Town of Comox is standing on the unceded traditional territory of the K'omoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

1. INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS: NIL

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

a. Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

THAT the February 18, 2026, Regular Council Meeting agenda be Adopted.

(2026.046) -- CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS:

a. Glen Sanford, Executive Director (Comox Valley Art Gallery): 2026 Grant-in-Aid Submission Request

Comox Valley Art Gallery

Representatives of the Comox Valley Art Gallery highlighted its exhibitions, youth programming, reconciliation initiatives, and community impact, noting over 2,000 annual visits from Comox residents and leveraged senior government funding. The Gallery requested an increase to its annual \$5,000 Grant-in-Aid to approximately \$7,600 to reflect inflation and sustain programming.

b. Deborah Renz, General Manager (Sid Williams Theatre Society): 2026 Grant-in-Aid Submission Request

Sid Williams Theatre

Representatives of the Sid Williams Theatre Society outlined the theatre's 25th anniversary season, high community usage, and financial performance amid rising costs. The Society requested an increase to the Town's operational grant to maintain current service levels and facility standards.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

a. Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of Council, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, be Adopted.

(2026.047) -- CARRIED

b. Public Hearing Minutes

Public Hearing Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Public Hearing Meeting, held in d'Esterre Seniors Centre on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, be Adopted.

(2026.048) -- CARRIED

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS:

a. Nautical Days Committee Minutes (January 28, 2026)

Nautical Days Committee Minutes (January 28, 2026)

THAT the Minutes of the Nautical Days Festival Committee Meeting, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, be Received.

(2026.049) -- CARRIED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Nautical Days Committee Membership

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the following individuals be appointed as members of the Comox Nautical Days Festival Committee for a two-year term ending December 31, 2027:

- Councillor Kerr
- Councillor Haslett
- Jamie Dobbs
- James Schreier
- Louise Martin
- Roslyn Smith
- Anne Zambilowicz

(2026.050) -- CARRIED

b. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting (Feb 11, 2026)

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

THAT the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, be Received.

(2026.051) -- CARRIED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Tools and Options to Facilitate Development

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct Administration to prepare a report outlining all available tools and options to encourage and facilitate development in the Town, including both existing tools that could be amended and additional measures beyond and including adjusting the DCC and ACC project lists.

(2026.052) -- CARRIED

- (2) Scenario Budget with 5% municipal tax increase

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct Administration to prepare a scenario budget based on a 5 percent municipal tax increase, including a reduction to the Special Projects allocation from \$500,000 to \$350,000, and report back with the associated service level and long term financial impacts.

(2026.053) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillors JKerr JMeilleur]

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

THAT the Consent Agenda items as follows be received for information:

- 1. Corey Webber: Anderton and Guthrie Construction Issues
- 2. Will Cole-Hamilton, Chair (Comox Valley Regional District Board): Enhancement and Protection of Biological Carbon Sequestration
- 3. Sharon Pratt, Coordinator (Mobile Hubs CNIB BC/Yukon Division): Mobile Hub Invitation for Feb 24, 2026

Grant in Aid Applications (4)

- 4. Glen Sanford, Executive Director (Comox Valley Art Gallery): 2026 Grant in Aid Application
- 5. Matt Vandervoort, Docent/Manager (Comox Archives & Museum Society): 2026 Grant in Aid Application
- 6. Myrna Holman, Board President (d'Esterre Seniors' Centre Association): 2026 Grant in Aid Application
- 7. Richard Clarke, President (Sid Williams Theatre Society): 2026 Grant in Aid Application

(2026.054) -- CARRIED

That Item 6. (Myrna Holman, Board President (d'Esterre Seniors' Centre Association): 2026 Grant in Aid Application) be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

(2026.055) -- CARRIED

a. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

THAT Item 1. (Corey Webber: Anderton and Guthrie Construction Issues) be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

(2026.056) -- CARRIED

THAT Item 5. (Matt Vandervoort, Docent/Manager (Comox Archives & Museum Society): 2026 Grant in Aid Application) be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

(2026.057) -- CARRIED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. REMOVE Modular Pump Track

Modular Pump Track

Roch Massicotte, President (Comox Valley Marine Rescue Society): 5 Year Extension for Moorage and Hydro

Comox Valley Marine Rescue Society

THAT Council approve a five-year extension of free moorage and hydro at the Comox Marina for Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) Station 60 and its two vessels.

(2026.058) -- CARRIED

b. Tourism Service Delivery

Tourism Service Delivery

THAT the Town of Comox moves forward based on the Compromise Model as described in this report in relation to tourism service provision;

AND THAT the Town of Comox works with the Comox Business Improvement Association and regional partners to establish a local tourism advisory mechanism to provide Comox-specific input into regional priorities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Comox allocates the equivalent of the Visitor Centre mortgage contribution (approximately \$12,300 annually), starting in 2027 to the BIA for the creation of Comox-focused tourism initiatives in collaboration with the BIA.

(2026.059) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillors SBlacklock CHaslett KGrant]

8. SPECIAL REPORTS: NIL

9. BYLAW ADOPTIONS:

THE MEETING RECESSED AT 6:07 PM AND RECONVENED AT 6:12 PM

a. Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2054

Official Community Plan Bylaw

1. *THAT Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2054 be given third reading.*

(2026.060) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Mayor Minions, Councillors JKerr JMeilleur]

2. *THAT Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2054 be adopted.*

(2026.061) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Mayor Minions, Councillors JKerr JMeilleur]

a. Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2054

Official Community Plan Bylaw

- 3. *THAT Council direct Administration to establish a 90-day Design Task Force comprised of developers, architects, downtown business representatives, community members, and staff to develop clear, viable human-scale design guidelines for the downtown core;*

AND FURTHER THAT the Task Force report back to Council with recommendations, including any proposed amendments to the Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw, or Development Permit Area guidelines, for Council's consideration.

(2026.062) -- DEFEATED

[Opposed: Councillors SBlacklock CHaslett KGrant MSwift]

b. Zoning Bylaw No. 2056

Zoning Bylaw

- 1. *THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 2056 be given third reading.*

(2026.063) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillors JKerr JMeilleur]

- 2. *THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 2056 be adopted.*

(2026.064) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillors JKerr JMeilleur]

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Comox Golf Club Lease and Community Access

Golf Course Extension

THAT Council provides support to the Courtenay Golf Club Ltd. for a lease to the Comox Golf Club for a term of twenty-five (25) years from the date of execution, in order to provide the long-term tenure certainty required to enable the Comox Golf Club to secure financing for necessary repairs and upgrades to the golf course grounds and associated infrastructure;

AND FURTHER THAT, as a condition of the lease extension, staff be directed to seek agreement with the Comox Golf Club and Courtenay Golf Club Ltd. to make available for public use the areas identified in the Comox Golf Club delegation materials presented to Council on May 7, 2025 and as attached to the February 12, 2026 report from the CAO titled "Comox Golf Club Lease and Community Access", including potential space for a public town square, community garden and/or active-use park.

(2026.065) -- CARRIED

11. NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **Heather O'Hara, Executive Director & Wylie Bystedt, Chair (BC Association of Farmers' Markets): Request for Letter of Support**

BC Association of Farmers' Markets Support Letter

THAT the correspondence dated February 2, 2026, from Heather O'Hara, Executive Director, and Wylie Bystedt, Chair, BC Association of Farmers' Markets, requesting a letter of support for continued funding of the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program for the 2026 season and beyond, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve providing a letter of support for continued and expanded provincial funding of the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program, addressed to the Honourable Josie Osborne, BC Minister of Health, for the Mayor's signature.

(2026.066) -- CARRIED

13. LATE ITEMS: NIL

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. **Councillor Blacklock**

Councillor Blacklock reported attending the Community Justice Centre advisory circle focused on supporting racialized and systemically excluded residents.

- b. **Councillor Swift**

Councillor Swift reported attending the Justice Centre event, a tourism session at Filberg Lodge, and a Sewage Commission financial planning meeting where upcoming capital projects were discussed.

- c. **Councillor Haslett**

Councillor Haslett reported that the Nautical Days Committee is meeting next week and advised that the D'Esterre Centre is undertaking strategic planning and recruiting a new Executive Director.

- d. **Councillor Kerr**

Councillor Kerr reported attending CVRD budget meetings and a public hearing on a minor amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy.

- e. **Councillor Grant**

Councillor Grant reported attending the Regional Growth Strategy public hearing and noted upcoming discussions regarding Ryan Road upgrades related to CFB Comox expansion.

- f. **Councillor Meilleur**

Councillor Meilleur reported attending the Regional Parks and Trails Committee meeting where the annual financial plan was approved, as well as the Community Justice Centre anti-hate and anti-racism event at the Courtenay Museum. She also attended an opening at the Pearl Ellis Gallery and a performance by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet at the Sid Williams Theatre.

- g. **Mayor Minions**

Mayor Minions reported that Council received an invitation to meet with the Ministry of Transportation regarding Ryan Road improvements related to CFB Comox expansion. She also advised that she and CAO Wall toured an RCMP hub facility in North Cowichan and noted that the current local RCMP building is nearing end of life, with replacement identified as a regional priority requiring coordination and funding from all levels of government.

17. RESOLUTION TO GO IN-CAMERA: NIL

18. RISE AND REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA: NIL

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 6:57 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified correct pursuant to Section 97(1)(b) of the Community Charter.



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER