

Regular Meeting Minutes of Council September 2, 2025

Regular Meeting Minutes of the City of Castlegar Council held by Zoom live meeting and available to the public for live streaming in Council Chambers at the Community Forum, 445 13th Avenue, Castlegar, B.C., commenced at 3:00 p.m. for Committee of the Whole, immediately followed by a Closed Meeting of Council and reconvened at 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council proceedings.

Members Present	Mayor Maria McFaddin Councillor Darcy Bell Councillor Sandy Bojecho – Via Zoom Councillor Shirley Falstead
Absent	Councillor Sue Heaton-Sherstobitoff Councillor Cheryl MacLeod Councillor Brian Bogle
Staff Present	Chris Barlow, Chief Administrative Officer Bree Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services Steffan Klassen, Director of Finance & Technology Chris Hallam, Director of Municipal Services Nick Ahlefeld, Acting Fire Chief David Bristow, IT Manager Jennifer Chamberlain, Executive Assistant Meeri Durand, Acting Director of Community Safety & Development Alexandra Hadfield, Manager of Human Resources Deanna Hooper, Acting Operations Manager Monty Taylor, RCMP Sergeant Nikki Zimmerman, Office Assistant

Other Public and Media

1 CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McFaddin called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

R177-25 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of September 2, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED.

3 RESOLUTION TO RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

R178-25 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED: THAT Council now resolve itself into Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED.

4 DELEGATION:

(a) Stephen Hill, on behalf of Grandview Park & Playground Association, provided Council with a presentation about the park and playground plan for Grandview. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Thank you to the staff at the City.
- Park and Playground options.
- Millennium Park is lovely, but a bit far away for the families.

- Discussion surrounding property options and private property owners.
- Petitioned the community.
- Letter of support from 47 members in the Strata Council.
- Donations from Marwest to do the landscaping.
- Three park benches in Grandview, but none in the shade.
- Castlegar Rotary is interested in participating in the project.
- Possibilities to link Grandview to Emerald Green.
- Change in name from the Grandview Park & Playground Association to the Grandview and Emerald Green Park & Playground Association.
- Looking for support for their park project.
- Grandview was originally a senior's subdivision.
- Next steps: put everything in writing outlining all the pieces including requests from the City, commitments, financial contributions, and specifics such as what kind of playground they are looking for.

(b) Herb Alex, on behalf of Sinixt Confederacy, provided Council with an update on the Chinook Study. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Herb is the Senior Policy Advisor for the Sinixt Confederacy in Nelson, BC.
- The Chinook reintroduction study started two years ago.
- Columbia River starts in Canal Flats and goes down to Long Beach.
- Fish passages at dams.
- Moving the Chinook up to Northport Washington, as there is no fish barrier at the US/Canada border.
- Chinook are a keystone ecological indicator and provide a lot of nutrients.
- Chinook are culturally and spiritually important to all First Nations in the area.
- 259 adult fish were introduced last year; approximately 80% came up.
- This year, 800 were put in at Northport.
- 4,000 have been put in at the blocked area above the Grand Coulee Dam. Expectation is 80% will come up.
- Last year the Chinook were acoustically tagged and monitored. This year they were spaghetti tagged.
- Truck and transport methods.
- Working on monitoring and evaluation this year.
- Angler notifications have gone out.
- Adult fish can't get past the barriers at the dams, but the little ones can.
- Stephen is the contact person if people encounter Chinook.

5 COMMUNITY WELLNESS, SAFETY & DEVELOPMENT (Councillor Bell, Chair)

(a) COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON VERBAL UPDATE

- Nil.

(b) FIRE DEPARTMENT VERBAL UPDATE

- Call volume 695 this year compared to 592 last year.
- Castlegar Fire Department has responded to three industrial fires in the last month.
- 10 calls yesterday.
- Assisted the RDCK Fire Departments with the Verigin's Tomb fire.
- Two Assistant Fire Chiefs have started.

(c) Emergency Services Monthly Report – July 2025

COW074-25

RECOMMENDATION: Council consider and resolve to receive for information:

- Emergency Services Monthly Report – July 2025

CARRIED.

(d) **RCMP DETACHMENT VERBAL UPDATE**

- 15 of 16 officers in the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment.
- One position that was frozen has re-opened.
- Waiting for security clearance for the RCMP Court Liaison Clerk position.
- With school back in, RCMP will be patrolling the school zones more.

(e) **WEST KOOTENAY REGIONAL AIRPORT VERBAL UPDATE**

- No cancellations since the last Council Meeting.

(f) **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT VERBAL UPDATE.**

- Nil.

(g) **Building Permit and Business Licence Reports – July 2025**

COW075-25

RECOMMENDATION: Council consider and resolve to receive for information:

- Building Permit Report – July 2025
- Business Licence Report – July 2025

CARRIED.

6 CULTURAL & CIVIC PRIDE (Mayor McFaddin, Deputy Chair)

(a) **COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON VERBAL UPDATE**

- Nil.

7 FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (Councillor Falstead, Deputy Chair)

(a) **Finance and Corporate Services Community Liaison Verbal Update**

- Nil.

(b) **Corporate Services Verbal Update**

- Recruitment updates.
- New Accountant, Ryan Reid started last Monday.
- Climate Readiness Coordinator position will be re-posted.
- Review of current postings and re-postings.
- Review of closed postings.

(c) **Finance Department Verbal Update**

- New Accountant started.
- Working on financial projects.

(d) **January – June 2025 Supplier List (Report No. 25-65)**

Report from the Director of Finance to present Council with the January – June 2025 Supplier List.

COW076-25

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT the January – June 2025 Supplier List be received for information.

CARRIED.

(e) **IT Department Verbal Update**

- Committee of the Whole had 51 views and Regular had 27 views.
- 23 projects ongoing.
- August 18 and 19 Sarah, Customer Success Manager from Sea to Sky came to the City to review the staff and organizational needs.
- Attending a conference next week.

8 MUNICIPAL SERVICES (Councillor Bell, Deputy Chair)

(a) **Municipal Services Department Verbal Update**

- Civic Works – Summer students and weekend staff are finished.
- Parks – preparing to close the ponds.
- Plans to pick up a chipper to manage alleys and roadways with tree trimming.
- Preparing for leaf pick up and fall operations.
- Roads – applying for permits to run heavy equipment for winter operations, and ditch grading on Arrow Lakes Drive.
- Utilities – repairs at the lagoon with the aeration system.
- Working to repair water leaks and install new services around the City.
- Fleet – continued work with the fire department to help meet their regulations and services requirements.

9 QUESTION PERIOD: Nil.

10 RESOLUTION TO RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

R179-25

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED: THAT Council rise from Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED.

11 RESOLUTION TO RECESS THE PUBLIC MEETING UNTIL 7:00 P.M.

R180-25

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT pursuant to Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, the public be excluded from this portion of the meeting as the subject matter being considered relates to the following:

- ***Community Charter Section 90(1)(L)***
Discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report].

AND FURTHER;

THAT the public portion of the meeting be recessed until 7:00 p.m.,

AND FURTHER;

THAT Council immediately resolve into the closed portion of their meeting.

CARRIED.

The meeting recessed at 3:50p.m.

12 RECONVENE: Mayor McFaddin reconvened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present	Mayor Maria McFaddin Councillor Darcy Bell Councillor Sandy Bojecho – Via Zoom. Councillor Shirley Falstead
Absent	Councillor Sue Heaton-Sherstobitoff Councillor Cherryl MacLeod Councillor Brian Bogle
Staff Present	Chris Barlow, Chief Administrative Officer Bree Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services Steffan Klassen, Director of Finance & Technology Chris Hallam, Director of Municipal Services Meeri Durand, Acting Director of Community Safety & Development David Bristow, IT Manager Jennifer Chamberlain, Executive Assistant
Other	Public and Media

13 DELEGATION: Grant Thornton Auditors to Present the City of Castlegar 2024 Audited Financial Statements. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Financial position for City of Castlegar and its results of operations, net financial assets and cash flows are in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards.
- Schedules 1-3 have not been audited and are not a critical part to the Financial Statements.

14 FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES:

(a) 2024 Audited Financial Statements (Report No. 25-66)

Report from the Director of Finance to provide Council with the key findings and results of the audit of the City's 2024 Financial Statements and to obtain approval of the 2024 Audited Financial Statements.

R181-25 Moved, and seconded and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council approve the 2024 Audited Financial Statements as presented in Attachment "A" of Report 25-66.

CARRIED.

15 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

R182-25 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT the following Minutes be adopted as presented:

- Regular Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2025

CARRIED.

16 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

The following resolutions were recommended at the August 11, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting and are presented for consideration of adoption by Council:

R183-25

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council receive for information Report #25-62 titled "2025 Council Strategic Plan Implementation Report – Quarter 2 Update",

AND FURTHER;

THAT Council direct staff to prepare an amendment to the 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Plan to reflect the deferral of projects identified in Report #25-62.

CARRIED.

17 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY (RDCK) MEETING MINUTES:

R184-25

Moved, and seconded and
RESOLVED:

THAT the following minutes be received for information:

- Regular Board Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2025

CARRIED.

18 CORRESPONDENCE:

R185-25

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council approve the request from Fatima Ali, on behalf of Mito Canada to change the Kinnaird Overpass lights to green on September 20, 2025 in recognition of World Mitochondrial Disease Week,

AND FURTHER;

THAT Council approve the request from James Brotherhood on behalf of PacificSport Columbia Basin to change the Kinnaird Overpass lights to red the week of September 15-21, 2025 in recognition of National Coaches Week, with the exception of September 20, 2025.

CARRIED.

R186-25

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council provide a letter of support to the Castlegar Queen Committee in support of their attendance at the Oliver Youth Ambassador Pageant on September 19, 2025.

CARRIED.

19 REPORTS OTHER:

(a) Recreation Commission Member Verbal Update

- Bylaws for Rec Centre brought forward for review and prepare for a new Bylaw for a new build for recreational.
- Recommendation approved for grant funding.

20 MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The Kootenay Gallery of Arts Community Engagement attendance.
- Disc Golf public engagement.

21 NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

22 BYLAWS FOR CONSIDERATION: Nil

23 NEXT MEETING(S):

September 15, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. for Committee of the Whole Meeting followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom live meeting and available to the public for live streaming in Council Chambers at the Community Forum, 445 13th Avenue, Castlegar, B.C.

24 NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

25 QUESTION PERIOD: Nil

26 ADJOURNMENT:

R187-25

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED: THAT the Regular meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Bree Seabrook
Director of Corporate Services



Maria McFaddin
Mayor

