

# Special Open Meeting Minutes of Council January 23, 2025

Special Meeting Minutes of the City of Castlegar Council held in Council Chambers at the Community Forum, 445 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Castlegar, B.C. and via Zoom live meeting, commenced at 5:00 p.m. for Special Council proceedings.

Members Present Mayor Maria McFaddin  
Councillor Darcy Bell  
Councillor Brian Bogle  
Councillor Shirley Falstead  
Councillor Sue Heaton-Sherstobitoff  
Councillor Cheryl MacLeod

Absent Councillor Sandy Bojecko

Staff Present Chris Barlow, Chief Administrative Officer  
Bree Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services  
Chris Hallam, Director of Municipal Services  
Crystal Bazar, Assistant Operations Manager  
David Bristow, IT Manager  
Nicole Brown, Manager of Legislative Services  
Jennifer Chamberlain, Executive Assistant  
Meeri Durand, Manager of Planning, Development and Sustainability  
Deanna Hopper, Assistant Manager – Fleets and Facilities  
Sam Lattanzio, Director of Protective Services  
Ginger Lester, Communications Manager  
Ryan Niddery, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure  
Kelly Robertson, Acting Senior Financial Analyst  
Aimee Uhlenbrauck, Manager of Finance

Other Public and Media

## 1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McFaddin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

## 2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

**S005-25** Moved and seconded, and  
RESOLVED:

THAT the agenda for the Special Council Meeting of January 23, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED.

## 3 RESOLUTION TO RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

**S006-25** Moved and seconded, and  
RESOLVED: THAT Council now resolve itself into Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED.

## 4 FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES:

(a) **City of Castlegar 2025–2029 Draft Financial Plan – Operating Budget**

Presentation from the Manager of Finance to present the 2025 – 2029 Draft Financial Plan for Council consideration. Highlights of the operating budget presentation included:

- A recap of Day 1 Capital Budget Meeting on January 23, 2025.
- An overview of how the Operating Budget is prepared.
- General fund revenue and expense budget summaries, including a review of variance highlights for budget expenditures in 2025.
- A background on property taxes, average house prices, and property assessments.
- An overview of new or transferred responsibilities from the Federal or Provincial governments to Local governments.
- A review of deferred City positions within the staffing plan that have been deferred.
- A comparison of other municipalities tax increases for 2025.
- 1% taxation increase equals approximately \$108,000. The tax impact on the average house for 1% equals \$13.62.

**COW010–25**

Moved, and  
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council direct staff to fund the \$17,000 for Millennium Dog Park signage project from the Community Enhancement Fund in 2025.

CARRIED.

**COW011–25**

Moved, and  
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council direct staff to prepare the 2025–2029 Draft Financial Plan inclusive of the Committee of the Whole Recommendations passed by Council at the January 20 and 23, 2025 Special Budget Meetings,

AND FURTHER:

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with public consultation in accordance with *Community Charters*. 166, prior to presenting the 2025–2029 Financial Plan Bylaw for consideration of the required readings at the February 18, 2025, Council Meeting.

CARRIED.

**5 RESOLUTION TO RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

**S007–25**

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

CARRIED.

**6 NEXT MEETING(S):**

February 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the Regular Council Meeting held in Council Chambers at the Community Forum, 445 13th Avenue, Castlegar, B.C. and via Zoom live meeting.

February 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Public Budget Open House held in Council Chambers at the Community Forum, 445 13th Avenue, Castlegar, B.C. and via Zoom live meeting.

**7 QUESTION PERIOD:**

Marc Savoie commented on the requests from users of the dog park not being included in the 2025 budget. He inquired how they can assist in getting those in future budgets.

Florio Vassilakakis inquired about the following:

- The final year of the parcel tax and moving forward.
- Revenue changes from the yard waste facility, and the net savings.
- Location of Columbia Avenue Phase 3.
- The funding allocated for the cemetery in future years.
- The fairness of what taxes are placed on residents and businesses, and the impact on business owners. Encourage Council to undertake a comparison of other communities.

Richard Switzer commented on:

- Indigenous reconciliation, the dog park, the West Kootenay Regional Airport terminal upgrades, housing.
- Potential for a secondary road through Woodland Park.
- The money allocated to the Embetsu exchange and the SPCA Contract.
- Advocating to higher levels of government for crime prevention.
- Can the Pioneer Arena be declared a heritage building.
- Contracted services in the budget.

**8 ADJOURNMENT:**

**S008-25**

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

CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Bree Seabrook  
Director of Corporate Services



Maria McFaddin  
Mayor