

Regular Meeting Minutes of Council February 17, 2026

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 Brian Bogle
Councillor Sandy Bojchko
Councillor Shirley Falstead
Councillor Sue Heaton-Sherstobitoff
Councillor Cheryl MacLeod

Absent Nil

Staff Present Bree Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services
Steffan Klassen, Director of Finance & Technology
Alex Hadfield, Manager of Human Resources
Nicole Brown, Manager of Legislative Services
Jennifer Chamberlain, Executive Assistant
Danny Clarke, Airport Manager
Meeri Durand, Director of Community Safety & Development
Ryan Niddery, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure
Peter Maria, Sea to Sky
Monty Taylor, RCMP Sergeant

Other Public and Media

1 **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor McFaddin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

R028-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of February 17, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

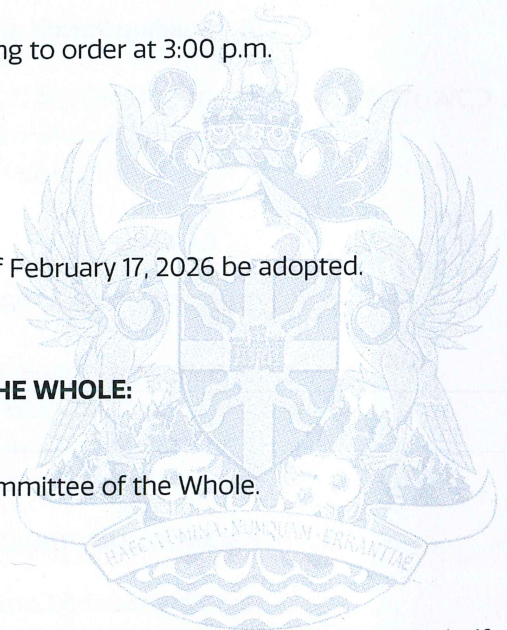
R029-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED: THAT Council now resolve itself into Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED.

4 **DELEGATION:**

Tom Dool on behalf of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, and Daynika White on behalf of BC Transit presented to Council regarding proposed transit service changes for Castlegar. Highlights of the discussion include:

- #32 Columbia rail crossing at 32nd stop being reviewed due to safety concerns of parking too close to the rail tracks.
- History of the #98 Columbia Connector – Blueberry Highway stop and past solutions required to cut costs and timing.
- Bus currently stops there nine times a day, generally has 3-4 riders a day.



- Looking at options: reverse routing this requires moving a number of stops and shelters.
- Proposed solution is to provide an extended #32 to Blueberry three times a day and the #98 continuing straight from Trail to Castlegar.
- Rerouting the #32 will make it easier for Blueberry riders, address safety concerns, and potentially enhance services to other Southend riders. The cost would be approximately \$9,500 annually, that is worked into the contingency budget.
- Council inquired if there was a way to incorporate Grandview into this new route.

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

(a) COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON VERBAL UPDATE

- Doukhor Discovery Centre Director is moving on to a new position. Council wishes him the best.

(b) FIRE DEPARTMENT VERBAL UPDATE

- Sam Lattanzio covering for the Fire Chief while he is away.

(c) RCMP DETACHMENT VERBAL UPDATE

- Currently have 15 of 17 officers. Two members are transferring, expecting two transfers to Castlegar in recent months.
- Victim services worker from Castlegar is providing assistance in Tumbler Ridge.

(d) WEST KOOTENAY REGIONAL AIRPORT VERBAL UPDATE

- Six cancellations with bus operations this month.

(e) COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT VERBAL UPDATE.

- Update on business licence renewals and new permits.

(f) Building Permit and Business Licence Reports – January 2026

COW017-26

RECOMMENDATION: Council consider and resolve to receive for information:

- Building Permit Report – January 2026
- Business Licence Report – January 2026

CARRIED.

6 CULTURAL & CIVIC PRIDE (Councillor Heaton-Sherstobitoff, Chair)

(a) COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON VERBAL UPDATE

- Castlegar and District Foundation Board Meeting. They are working on a community project, more details soon.
- Update of the Castlegar Together Committee meetings.

7 FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (Councillor Bogle, Chair)

(a) Finance and Corporate Services Community Liaison Verbal Update

- Nil

(b) Corporate Services Verbal Update

- Working on revitalizing the Adopt-a-Road program.
- Update on some of the BC Winter Games events happening in Castlegar.
- Flood Plain Mapping Open House and Engagement Session happening in March, more information can be found on the City's website.



(c) **2026 Local Government Election Appointments and Compensation (Report No. 26-11)**

Report from the Manager of Legislative Services to seek Council appointment of a Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer for the purpose of conducting the 2026 Local Government Election and to establish the compensation to be paid to election staff.

COW018-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Nicole Brown be appointed Chief Election Officer for the 2026 Local Government Election with power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of the 2026 Local Government Election,

AND FURTHER;

THAT Nikki Zimmerman be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 Local Government Election.

CARRIED.

COW019-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT the 2026 Election officials shall be compensated as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| a) Chief Election Officer | \$1,900 per election |
| b) Deputy Chief Election Officer | \$1,450 per election |
| c) Presiding Election Official | \$500 per voting day |
| d) Poll Clerk | \$325 per voting day |

AND FURTHER;

THAT the City provide meals for all election staff in attendance at the voting place.

CARRIED.

COW020-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer be compensated an additional \$300 each should they be required to manage the Regional District of Central Kootenay assent vote for Castlegar voters.

CARRIED.

(d) **Council Remuneration Review Committee Appointments (Report No. 26-12)**

Report from the Manager of Legislative Services to seek Council appointment of a Council Remuneration Committee to conduct a review of remuneration paid to Mayor and Councillors, and to adopt the Council Remuneration Review Committee Terms of Reference.

COW021-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council appoint Dan Rye, Jo-Ann Bursey, and Stuart Ady to a Council Remuneration Review Committee to conduct an independent review of stipends, indemnities, expense allowances, per diems and travel expenses paid to members of Council,

AND FURTHER;

THAT a report with their recommendations be presented to Council no later than June 30, 2026.

CARRIED.

COW022-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council adopt the Council Remuneration Review Committee Terms of Reference.

CARRIED.

(e) **Finance Department Verbal Update**

- Working on finalizing the budget for distribution to Council prior to the budget meetings.

(f) **Early Spend Approval for Projects Included in the Draft 2026-2030 Financial Plan (Report No. 26-15)**

Report from the Director of Finance & Technology to seek Council's early spend approval for the Regional Airport Study and Electronic Time Tracking in the Draft 2026-2030 Financial Plan.

COW023-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council provide early spend approval in the amount of \$25,000 for the Regional Airport Study project in the 2026 Budget,

AND FURTHER;

THAT the Regional Airport Study project be incorporated into the 2026-2030 Financial Plan accordingly.

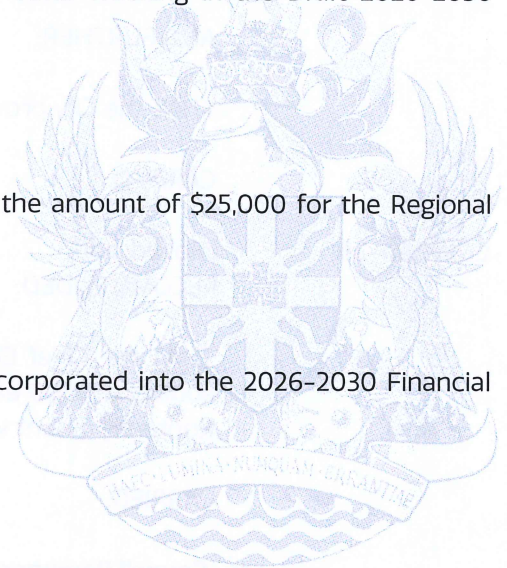
CARRIED.

COW024-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council provide early spend approval in the amount of \$9,000 for the Electronic Time Tracking, Including Leave Request and Training Tracking project,

AND FURTHER;



THAT the Electronic Time Tracking Including Leave Request and Training Tracking project be incorporated into the 2026–2030 Financial Plan accordingly.

CARRIED.

(g) **West Kootenay Regional Airport Air Terminal Building Expansion and Groundside Improvements Loan Authorization Bylaw 1450 (Report No. 26–17)**

Report from the Director of Finance & Technology to seek Council consideration of the first three readings of the West Kootenay Regional Airport Air Terminal Building Expansion and Groundside Improvements Loan Authorization Bylaw 1450.

COW025–26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council consider the required readings of the West Kootenay Regional Airport Air Terminal Building Expansion and Groundside Improvements Loan Authorization Bylaw 1450, authorizing the City to borrow \$5,000,000 to fund the Air Terminal Building Expansion and Groundside Improvements project.

CARRIED.

8 MUNICIPAL SERVICES (Councillor MacLeod, Chair)

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

- Eremenko demolition update.

9 QUESTION PERIOD:

- Nil

10 RESOLUTION TO RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

R030–26

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.

R031–26

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 4:03 p.m.

12 RECONVENE: Mayor McFaddin reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Members Present | Mayor Maria McFaddin Councillor Darcy Bell Councillor Brian Bogle Councillor Sandy Bojchko Councillor Shirley Falstead Councillor Sue Heaton–Sherstobitoff Councillor Cheryl MacLeod |
| Absent | Nil |
| Staff Present | Bree Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services Steffan Klassen, Director of Finance & Technology Chris Hallam, Director of Municipal Services Nicole Brown, Manager of Legislative Services Jennifer Chamberlain, Executive Assistant Meeri Durand, Director of Community Safety and Development Peter Maria, Sea to Sky Ryan Niddery, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure |
| Other | Public and Media |

The Mayor and Council opened the meeting by offering their condolences to the community of Tumbler Ridge.

13 DELEGATION: Nil

14 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

R032–26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT the following Minutes be adopted as presented:

- Regular Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026

CARRIED.

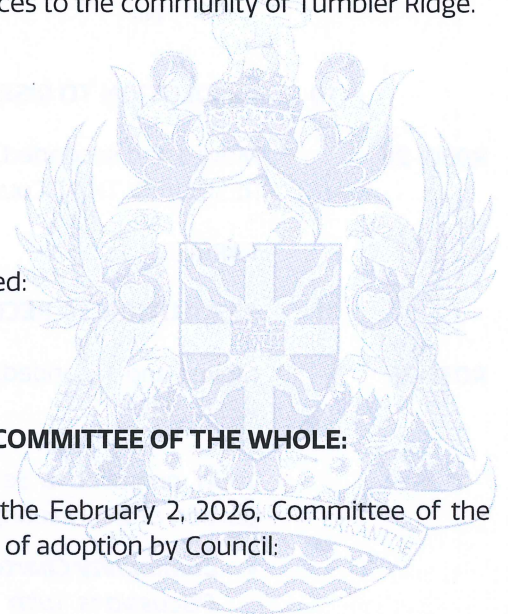
15 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

The following resolutions were recommended at the February 2, 2026, Committee of the Whole Meeting and are presented for consideration of adoption by Council:

R033–26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council receive for information the City of Castlegar’s 2026–2028 Organizational Plan and 2026–2028 Action Plan.

CARRIED.



R034-26

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council direct staff to include the Castlegar & District Heritage Society's 2026 request of \$63,046 annual contributions for 2026-2028, plus a one-time contribution of \$5,000 for refurbishment projects in the 2026-2030 Financial Plan,

AND FURTHER;

THAT the annual funding increase for 2026-2028 be phased in over 3 years using the Host Agreement Reserve with contributions of \$21,471 in 2026, \$8,235 in 2027 and \$0 in 2028,

AND FURTHER;

THAT the one time \$5,000 contribution for refurbishment projects be funded from the Host Agreement Reserve.

CARRIED.

R035-26

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council direct staff to include the Castlegar & District Public Library's 2026 request of \$366,293 in the 2026-2030 Financial Plan to be funded from taxation. The \$17,443 incremental increase will be funded by property tax increase in 2026.

CARRIED.

R036-26

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council direct staff to increase the contribution to the Castlegar Festival Society for 2026 to \$24,000 in the 2026-2030 Financial Plan with a one-time incremental increase of \$6,000 to come from the Host Agreement Reserve.

CARRIED.

The following resolutions were recommended at the February 17, 2026, Committee of the Whole Meeting and are presented for consideration of adoption by Council:

R037-26

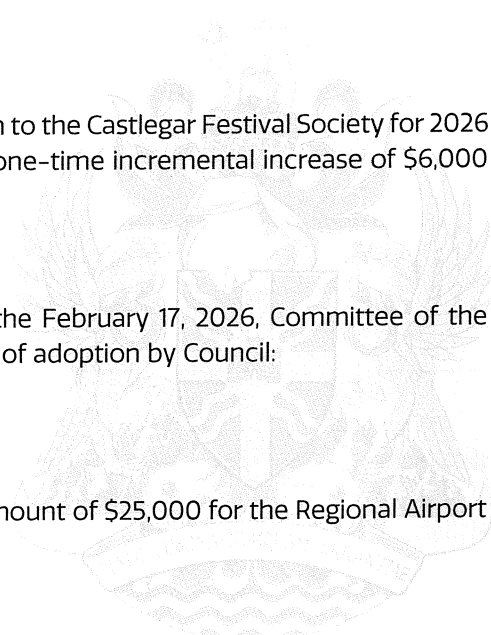
Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council provide early spend approval in the amount of \$25,000 for the Regional Airport Study project in the 2026 Budget,

AND FURTHER;

THAT the Regional Airport Study project be incorporated into the 2026-2030 Financial Plan accordingly.

CARRIED.



R038-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council provide early spend approval in the amount of \$9,000 for the Electronic Time Tracking, Including Leave Request and Training Tracking project,

AND FURTHER;

THAT the Electronic Time Tracking Including Leave Request and Training Tracking project be incorporated into the 2026-2030 Financial Plan accordingly.

CARRIED.

16 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY (RDCK) MEETING MINUTES: Nil

17 CORRESPONDENCE:

R039-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council approve the request from Ariana Ranjbar on behalf of Lupus Canada to change the Kinnaird Overpass lights to purple on May 10, 2026, in recognition of World Lupus Day.

CARRIED.

18 REPORTS OTHER:

(a) **Recreation Commission Member Verbal Update**

- The next meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on March 3, 2026

19 MAYOR'S REPORT: Nil

20 NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

21 BYLAWS FOR CONSIDERATION:

West Kootenay Regional Airport Air Terminal Building Expansion and Groundside Improvements Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1450 – First, Second, and Third Readings – (Report No. 26-17)

A Bylaw to authorize the borrowing of funds for the West Kootenay Regional Airport Air Terminal Building Expansion and Groundside Improvements.

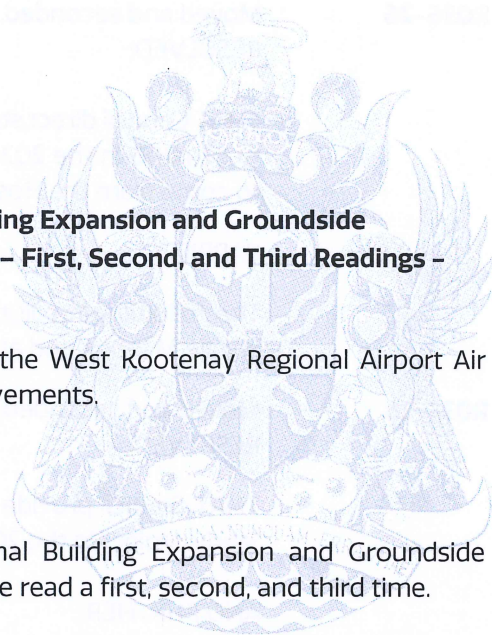
R040-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT West Kootenay Regional Airport Air Terminal Building Expansion and Groundside Improvements Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1450 be read a first, second, and third time.

CARRIED.

22 NEXT MEETING(S):

March 2, 2026 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.



23 NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

24 QUESTION PERIOD:

Jarrold Beck asked the Council to write letters to the Ministry of Transportation and ICBC requesting them to address LED headlights and the safety risks they may cause.

25 ADJOURNMENT:

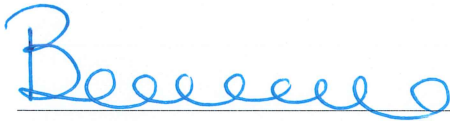
R041-26

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

