

Regular Meeting Minutes of Council February 2, 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 Chris Barlow, Chief Administrative Officer
Bree Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services
Steffan Klassen, Director of Finance & Technology
Danny Clarke, Airport Manager
Chris Hallam, Director of Municipal Services
Nick Ahlefeld, Fire Chief
Nicole Brown, Manager of Legislative Services
Meeri Durand, Director of Community Safety & Development
Deanna Hooper, Manager of Civic Works
Ginger Lester, Communications Manager
Anne Simonen, Project Manager
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:**

R014-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of February 2, 2026 be adopted as amended by:

- Under Section 11, removing closed **Community Charter Section 90(1)(K)** and adding closed **Community Charter Section 90(1)(A)**
Personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality,
- Under Section 17, adding the letter from Pegah Pourkarimi received January 16, 2026.
- Under Section 15 (a) 4., adding the following recommendation from the January 12, 2026, Committee of the Whole Meeting to be considered for adoption by Council:

"THAT Council approve Temporary Use Permit 2-25 to allow 'Industrial – Light' use at 2240 6th Avenue within the C3: Corridor Mixed Use zone for furniture manufacturing for a three-year term."

3 RESOLUTION TO RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

R015-26

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

CARRIED.

4 DELEGATION: Nil

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

(a) COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON VERBAL UPDATE

- Nil

(b) FIRE DEPARTMENT VERBAL UPDATE

- Responded to 16 calls for service year to date.
- Update on department training.

(c) RCMP DETACHMENT VERBAL UPDATE

- Polar plunge event in partnership with Special Olympics.
- Update on recent property thefts and an ongoing arson investigation.

(d) WEST KOOTENAY REGIONAL AIRPORT VERBAL UPDATE

- Update on passenger loads in January.

(e) COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT VERBAL UPDATE.

- Nil

(f) Temporary Use Permit 2-25 Arrow Building Supplies – Public feedback verbal update.

- Public notification was sent and two letters with feedback were received. One letter with a concern regarding the property maintenance, and one letter in support of the proposal.

(g) Development Variance Permit 26-01 (2309 5th Avenue) (Report No. 26-09)

Report from the Planner – Policy to seek Council consideration of issuance of Development Variance Permit 26-01 (DVP 26-01) to authorize the construction of a fence located at 2309 5th Avenue.

COW011-26

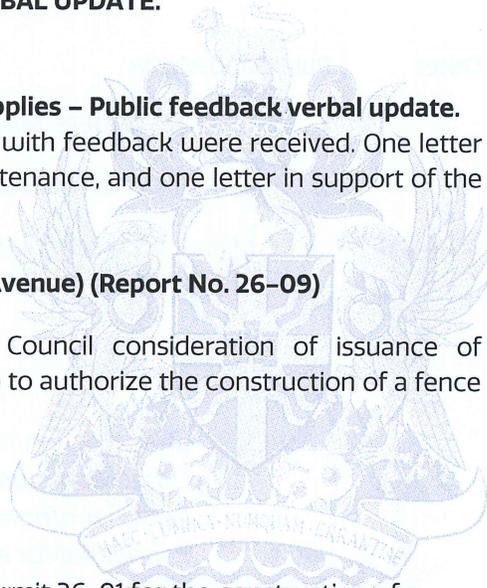
Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council approve Development Variance Permit 26-01 for the construction of a fence by varying the City of Castlegar Zoning Bylaw No. 1428, 2024 as follows:

- 4.2.1 a) i) Maximum Height of a Fence or Screening – Front Yard: from 1.2 m to 1.82 m for the proposed fence;

in accordance with the terms and conditions of draft permit DVP 26-01.

CARRIED.



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

(a) COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON VERBAL UPDATE

- Kootenay Gallery Soup for the Cultured Soul Event.
- Update on the Kootenay Gallery Board Meeting and their marketing and fundraising.
- Castlegar and District Hospital Foundation update.
- Castlegar Communities in Bloom, adopt a road program in collaboration with Civic Works.
- Castlegar together meeting with community organizations.
- Update on the creation of a banner policy.

7 FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (Councillor Bogle, Chair)

(a) Finance and Corporate Services Community Liaison Verbal Update

- Temporary closure at the Chamber of Commerce; it should be open by Friday.

(b) Corporate Services Verbal Update

- Introduction of Trevor Hustad the new Building Official.
- Update on the new Organizational Effectiveness & Initiatives Specialist position, and the elimination of the Manager of IT position.
- Update on various positions available, and recruitment.
- Overview of the targeted door hanger initiatives.
- Outdoor rinks are now closed.
- Update on the utility invoice newsletter.
- Update on the demolition of the Eremenko Building.

(c) 2026–2028 Organizational Plan & Action Plan (Report No. 26–10)

Report from the Chief Administrative Officer to provide Council with the City of Castlegar's 2026–2028 Organizational Plan and 2026–2028 Action Plan.

COW012–26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

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

CARRIED.

(d) Finance Department Verbal Update

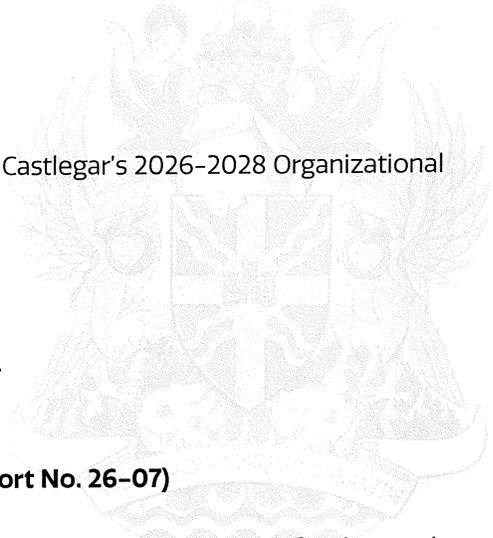
- Working on budget and year end financials.
- Utility billing was mailed last week.

(e) 2026 Community Group Funding Requests (Report No. 26–07)

Report from the Director of Finance & Technology to present Council with funding options in response to the 2026 budget requests from Castlegar & District Heritage Society, Castlegar & District Public Library, and Castlegar Festival Society.

COW013–26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:



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.

COW014-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

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.

COW015-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

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.

Mayor McFaddin left the meeting at 3:57 p.m. and Deputy Mayor Bogle assumed the Chair.

(f) **Financing of South Sewage Treatment Plant North Train Renewal Preconstruction Expenditures via Liability Under Agreement (Report No. 26-08)**

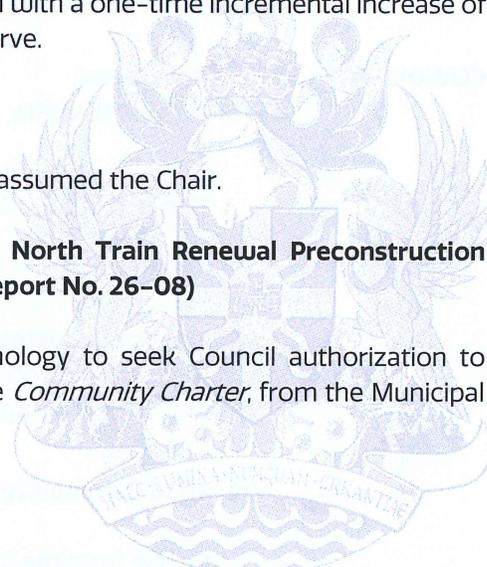
Report from the Director of Finance & Technology to seek Council authorization to borrow up to \$975,000 under Section 175 of the *Community Charter*, from the Municipal Financing Authority.

COW016-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council authorizes up to \$975,000 be borrowed under Section 175 of the *Community Charter* from the Municipal Finance Authority for the purpose of works and services related to the North Train Reinstatement Project at the South Sewage Treatment Plant,

AND FURTHER;



THAT the loan be repaid in five years, with no rights of renewal.

CARRIED.

(g) **IT Department Verbal Update**

- Nil

8 MUNICIPAL SERVICES (Councillor MacLeod, Chair)

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

- Update on the demolition of the Eremenko building.
- Update on flood plain mapping and documentation initiative.

9 QUESTION PERIOD:

- Nil

10 RESOLUTION TO RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

R016-26

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.

R017-26

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].
- ***Community Charter Section 90(1)(A)***
Personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality.

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 4:20 p.m.

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

Present	Councillor Darcy Bell Councillor Brian Bogle Councillor Sandy Bojecho Councillor Shirley Falstead Councillor Sue Heaton–Sherstobitoff Councillor Cherryl MacLeod
Absent	Nil
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 Nicole Brown, Manager of Legislative Services Meeri Durand, Director of Community Safety and Development
Other	Public and Media

13 DELEGATION:

- (a) Reidun Rosi and Sandy McCreight on behalf of Castlegar Community Services Society presented with respect to the West Kootenay Driver Program. Highlights of the presentation include:
- There is a growing need for the medical transportation program.
 - The Volunteer driver program to medical appointments began in 2005 and offers a door-to-door service. This is the only way to access medical appointments for some people.
 - It is projected that 2,600 rides will be required this year. 2024/25 had 1,887 rides.
 - Can provide some social rides also, however, medical takes priority.
 - Over 30 volunteers signed up to provide rides.
 - They are unable to fulfill rides due to a shortage of funding, not due to a shortage of volunteers, as the volunteers are provided with mileage.
 - Looking at regional collaboration.
 - How can the City help: advocate with Provincial partners, potential funding opportunities, connecting them with decision makers, support system level solutions.
 - A letter of support from the City would be beneficial when applying for other grant funding.

14 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

R018–26

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT the following Minutes be adopted as presented:

- Regular Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2026

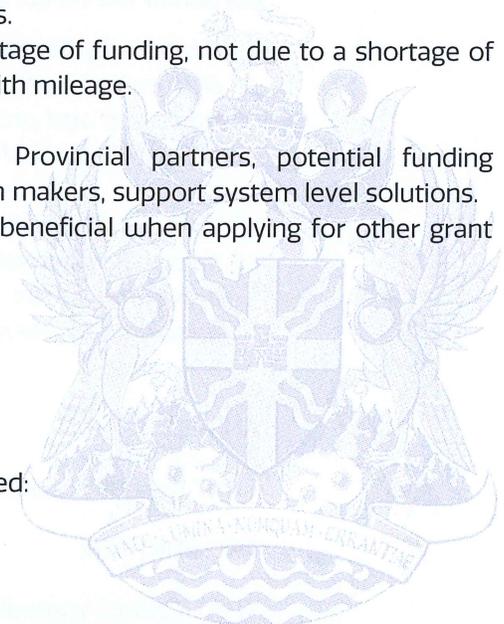
CARRIED.

15 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

The following resolutions were recommended at the January 12, 2026, Committee of the Whole Meeting and are presented for consideration of adoption by Council:

R019–26

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:



THAT the following items considered and received for information at the January 12 2026, Committee of the Whole Meeting, be adopted:

- Emergency Services Monthly Report – November 2025
- Emergency Services Monthly Report – December 2025
- 2025 Year End Annual Call Incident Report
- Building Permit Report – November 2025
- Business Licence Report – November 2025
- Building Permit Report – December 2025
- Business Licence Report – December 2025
- 2025 Year End Development Report

CARRIED.

R020-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council receive report 26-02 for consideration and discussion.

CARRIED.

R021-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council receive for information Report #26-06 titled "2025 Council Strategic Plan Implementation Report – Quarter 4 Update."

CARRIED.

R022-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council approve Temporary Use Permit 2-25 to allow 'Industrial – Light' use at 2240 6th Avenue within the C3: Corridor Mixed Use zone for furniture manufacturing for a three-year term.

CARRIED.

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

R023-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council authorizes up to \$975,000 be borrowed under Section 175 of the *Community Charter* from the Municipal Finance Authority for the purpose of works and services related to the North Train Reinstatement Project at the South Sewage Treatment Plant,

AND FURTHER;

THAT the loan be repaid in five years, with no rights of renewal.

CARRIED.

17 CORRESPONDENCE:

R024-26

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council approve the requests from Christine Chore, on behalf of Canadian Dental Hygienists Association and Gary McKenna on behalf of British Columbia Dental Association to change the Kinnaird Overpass lights to purple from April 4-10, 2026, in recognition of National Dental Hygienists Week.

CARRIED.

R025-26

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council approve the request from Matthew White, on behalf of Parkinson Society of British Columbia to change the Kinnaird Overpass lights to medium blue on April 11, 2026, in recognition of World Parkinson's Day.

CARRIED

Council discussed the request from Jayme Jones of Selkirk Innovates to be a participation partner on project Stories to Solutions: A Collaborative Regional Response to Rural Homelessness.

R026-26

Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT Council direct staff to respond to the request from Jayme Jones of Selkirk Innovates, declining their request to be a participation partner on project Stories to Solutions: A Collaborative Regional Response to Rural Homelessness.

CARRIED.

Council discussed the correspondence from Pegah Pourkarimi received January 16, 2026, regarding participating in Pitch-In week 2026. Council recommend staff respond asking them to connect with Civic Works regarding the Adopt-a-Road program and Pitch-In week 2026.

18 REPORTS OTHER:

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

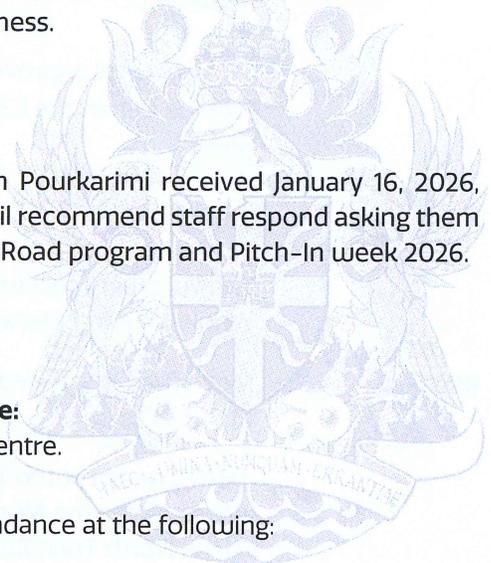
- Next meeting tomorrow at the Recreation Centre.

19 MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor reported on her attendance at the following:

- RDCK Meetings.
- Roger's interview regarding Eremenko Building demolition.
- Senior's Association annual swearing in.
- Castlegar together community group meeting.

20 NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

21 BYLAWS FOR CONSIDERATION: Nil



22 NEXT MEETING(S):

February 17, 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:

Linda Miller inquired about the Organizational Effectiveness & Initiatives Specialist position, and how it was created and if other options were explored, such as external contractors.

25 ADJOURNMENT:

R027-26

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

CARRIED.

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Bree Seabrook
Director of Corporate Services



Maria McFaddin
Mayor



