

Special Open Meeting Minutes of Council March 5, 2026

Special Meeting Minutes of the City of Castlegar Council held in Council Chambers at the Community Forum, 445 13th 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 Sandy Bojecko
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
Nicole Brown, Manager of Legislative Services
Jennifer Chamberlain, Executive Assistant
Danny Clark, Airport Manager
Meeri Durand, Director of Community Safety & Development
Aaron Geck, Assistant Manager – Utilities
Chris Hallam, Director of Municipal Services
Deanna Hooper, Manager of Civic Works
Ryan Niddery, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure
Paul Wallin, Manager of Financial Services

Other Public and Media

1 CALL TO ORDER

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

2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

S005-26 Moved and seconded, and
RESOLVED:

THAT the agenda for the Special Council Meeting of March 5, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED.

3 RESOLUTION TO RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

S006-26 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 2026-2030 Draft Financial Plan – Operating Budget**

The Director of Finance & Technology opened the meeting by providing an overview of the night's agenda and a recap of the day one budget meeting on March 3, 2026.

The Acting Manager of Finance presented on the Operating Budget. Highlights of the operating budget presentation include:

- Financial obligations and debt servicing.
- Explanation of what is new for budget assumptions, impact of internal charges to divisions, comparisons.
- Rising statutory benefit costs, increase in group benefits, FTE allocation shift within divisions.
- Overview of the general fund revenue budget summary page 16 of the budget package and definitions.

Senior Leadership Directors provided an overview of the department outlook for 2026 and the associated budget.

- Corporate Services. Page 21.
- Community Safety & Development. Page 41.
- Municipal Services. Page 62.
- Sewer Fund. Page 188.
- Council discussed the parcel tax for storm water. Looking at extending for two years and undertaking a study during that time to determine allocations. A report will be brought forward to Council in the future.
- Finance & Technology. Page 76.
- Community group budgets and commitments.

The Director of Finance & Technology provided an overview of:

- Property taxation and classes.
- Where tax dollars go.
- Revenues and expenditures.
- Infrastructure Renewal Levy.
- New municipal responsibilities transferred from Federal and Provincial jurisdiction.
- Overall proposed tax rate and what comparable municipalities are at for rates. Castlegar is the fourth lowest on the average house.
- 1% taxation = \$127,000, an average impact on average house in \$14.90.
- Proposed Property Taxation for 2026 is 8.35%.

COW033-26

Moved, and
RECOMMENDED:

THAT Council direct staff to prepare the 2026-2030 Draft Financial Plan inclusive of the Committee of the Whole Recommendations passed by Council at the March 3 and March 5, 2026, Special Budget Meetings,

AND FURTHER:

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with public consultation in accordance with *Community Charter s. 166*, prior to presenting the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw for consideration of the required readings at the March 23, 2026, Council Meeting.

CARRIED.

5 RESOLUTION TO RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

S007-26

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

CARRIED.

6 NEXT MEETING(S):

March 19, 2026, 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.

March 23, 2026, 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.

7 QUESTION PERIOD:

- Nil

8 ADJOURNMENT:

S008-26

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

CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Bree Seabrook
Director of Corporate Services



Maria McFaddin
Mayor