



MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 8, 2025, 1:00 P.M.
Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre
80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC

Members:

- Mayor L. Krog, Chair
- Councillor S. Armstrong
- Councillor T. Brown
- Councillor H. Eastmure
- Councillor B. Geselbracht
- Councillor E. Hemmens
- Councillor P. Manly
- Councillor J. Perrino
- Councillor I. Thorpe

Staff:

- L. Bhopalsingh, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- L. Mercer, General Manager, Corporate Services
- B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
- W. Fulla, Director, Finance
- S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
- C. Davis, Deputy Director, Parks and Natural Areas
- J. B. Sine, Recreation Coordinator – Cultural Services
- N. Sponaule, Strategic Initiatives Advisor
- L. Young, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Add new Agenda Heading “6. QUESTION PERIOD:” directly following “Other Business” and renumber subsequent agenda items accordingly.

(b) Reschedule recess to follow Agenda Item 6. Question Period.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the agenda, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. CONSENT ITEMS:

It was moved and seconded that the following items be adopted by consent:

(a) Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 2025-NOV-28

- (1) Consideration of Deferred Discussion re: Loudon Park Improvements Additional Preliminary Options

That Council increase the budget for the Loudon Park Development project by \$5,508,418 to fund the amenity building, dock, and circulation road detailed in Option C.1 funded by \$2,675,000 from the Special Initiatives Reserve, \$2,776,248 from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund, and \$57,170 from the Sewer Operating Reserve.

(b) Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 2025-DEC-03

- (1) Active Transportation

That Council increase the Pedestrian Unallocated Program budget to \$600,000, funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve, for a five-year term effective 2026 and expand the scope to include all Active Transportation projects for the 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan.

- (2) RCMP Contract

That Council budget the RCMP contract at 90% for 2026 and 95% for 2027 to 2030 for the 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan.

- (3) Health and Housing Action Plan Implementation

That for the 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan Council approve the addition of up to a two-year temporary staff member within the Social Development Section, along with related costs effective 2026-JAN-15, funded from unspent Health and Housing funds.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Reallocation of E&N Light Project Funds

It was moved and seconded that the allocations of \$660,900 from the General Capital Reserve and \$496,200 from the General Revenue for the E&N Light Project be reallocated to the pedestrian and active transportation projects for completion in the 2026 budget year. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Armstrong, Eastmure, Perrino and Thorpe*

(b) Loudon Park Development Project

It was moved and seconded that Council:

- a. Direct Staff to proceed with detailed design and construction costs for Option C.1 of the Loudon Park Development project as outlined in the 2025-NOV-19 Report to Council and develop an engagement plan;
- b. Direct Staff to update the 2010 *Loudon Park Improvement Plan* to include text and images of the expanded park area and the new associated site layout diagram as outlined in the 2025-NOV-19 Report to Council;
- c. Allocate \$1.3 million in 2028 of the 2026 – 2030 Provisional Financial Plan to the Loudon Park Improvements Project for non-amenity building related park improvements as outlined in the 2025-NOV-19 Report to Council funded by \$800,000 from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund and \$500,000 from the General Capital Reserve; and
- d. Direct Staff to prepare a plan for future phasing of non-amenity building related park improvements (to include landscaping, picnic shelter, children's play area and equipment, and interpretive signage and other elements outlined in the 2025-NOV-19 Report to Council).

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Geselbracht*

(c) Luminous Paths Festival

It was moved and seconded that Council include the Luminous Paths Festival in the 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan on a biennial basis, with funding starting at \$86,000 in 2026, increased by 2% per year, and that any sponsorship funding received be applied to reduce the City's contribution.

Council recessed the Meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Council reconvened the Meeting at 1:37 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the motion be amended to replace the words “with funding starting at \$86,000 in 2026” with “starting in 2027, with base funding of \$86,000”.

The vote was taken on the amendment.

The motion carried unanimously.

The vote was then taken on the main motion, as amended, as follows:

“It was moved and seconded that Council include the Luminous Paths Festival in the 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan on a biennial basis, starting in 2027, with base funding of \$86,000, increased by 2% per year, and that any sponsorship funding received be applied to reduce the City’s contribution.”

The motion, as amended, carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Geselbracht and Manly*

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

Council recessed the Meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Council reconvened the Meeting at 3:28 p.m.

7. PROCEDURAL MOTION:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the *Community Charter*:

Section 90(1) A part of a Council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (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
- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public; and,
- (n) the consideration of whether a Council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2).

The motion carried unanimously.

Council moved In Camera at 3:28 p.m.

Council moved out of In Camera at 3:34 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 3:35 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER