



MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 2026-APR-13, 5:00 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:

- D. Lindsay, Chief Administrative Officer*
- L. Bhopalsingh, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- L. Mercer, General Manager, Corporate Services
- B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
- S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
- J. Holm, Director, Planning and Development
- A. Chanakos, Zoom Moderator
- K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 2(a) Procedural Motion - Add *Community Charter* Sections 90(1)(e)(i)(m)(n) and 90(2)(b).

* Denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by "Council Procedure Bylaw 2018 No. 7272"

3. 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 meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (m) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting;
- (n) the consideration of whether a council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2); and,

Section 90(2) A part of a council meeting must be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to one or more of the following:

- (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations.

Council moved In Camera at 5:00 p.m.

Council moved out of In Camera at 6:13 p.m.

Council recessed the open meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Council reconvened the open meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS (continued):

- (b) Agenda Item 8(a) Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation - Semi-Annual Update – add PowerPoint titled “Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation Report to Council”.
- (c) Agenda Item 8(b) Tourism Nanaimo - Semi-Annual Update – add Briefing Note and PowerPoint titled “Tourism Nanaimo - Q1 2026 Progress Report”.
- (d) Agenda Item 13(b) Rezoning Application No. RA521 - 2565 Departure Bay Road – add Delegation from Don Duddridge.
- (e) Agenda Item 17(a) Deferred Motion: Development Cost Charge Reduction Bylaw – add PowerPoint titled “Development Cost Charge (DCC) Reduction Options”.

Council recessed the meeting at 7:05 p.m. to address a technical issue.

Council reconvened the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2026-MAR-23 at 4:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Councillor Manly provided a report on his attendance at the Smart City Summit and Expo and the Net Zero City Expo in Taiwan as a delegate for the City of Nanaimo.

Mayor Krog advised of the following:

- As of 2026-APR-13, there are two road closures along Third Street. The intersection at Third Street and Howard Avenue will be closed until 2026-MAY-08, and Third Street, between Howard Avenue and Pine Street, will be closed until 2026-AUG-13
- Starting 2026-APR-13, Public Works staff and contractors will be cleaning the City's stormwater catch basins. The work involves large equipment; therefore, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians are encouraged to approach with caution and obey traffic control personnel

7. RISE AND REPORT:

(a) Board of Variance Appointment

Mayor Krog advised that, during the 2026-MAR-23 In Camera Council Meeting, Council appointed Kris Sillem to the Board of Variance for a three-year term ending 2029-MAR-23 or until a successor is appointed.

8. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation - Semi-Annual Update

Colin Stansfield, Chief Executive Officer, Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation (NPC), via Zoom, provided NPC's semi-annual update. Highlights included:

- The NPC has completed Nanaimo's first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) strategy
- NPC has been awarded a second round of CanExport funding
- The NPC is working to ensuring Vancouver Island is in a position to capture its share of Canada's defense investment opportunities
- Creating a Business retention and expansion (BRE) program that reflects shared and coordinated action
- Better aligning Nanaimo by connecting data, decision-making and delivery across sectors
- The Compass Initiative work has been facilitated through the Mayor's Leaders' Table and brings partners together for a shared foundation
- Attainable housing is one of the most critical enabling conditions to economic and social infrastructure
- NPC's initiatives are evolving into a more coordinated approach

(b) Tourism Nanaimo - Semi-Annual Update

Carly Pereboom, Executive Director, Tourism Nanaimo, via Zoom, provided the Tourism Nanaimo progress report between January to March 2026. Highlights included:

- 2025 Destination Health shows that Nanaimo is performing as a healthy tourism destination
- Winter still remains the biggest challenge and there are also challenges around labour shortage
- There has been an increase in external dollar spending in Nanaimo; however, spending patterns show reduced spending on recreation, entertainment and retail
- Provided an overview of conferences hosted, sport events activated, and campaigns running through the first quarter of 2026
- Three target campaigns launched this quarter include "Break Spring", "Escape the Noise" and the Beyond Van Gogh exhibit
- The "Escape the Noise" campaign was launched in partnership with BC Ferries, hullo, Seair, and Devon Transport
- Tourism Nanaimo is working in parallel with the City's strategic plan

9. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

The following Committee minutes were received:

- Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Center, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2026-FEB-18 at 9:00 a.m.

10. DELEGATIONS:

(a) Raelyn Crossley re: the Parking Bylaw

Raelyn Crossley expressed concerns regarding the downtown area as well as concerns that on-street parking is limited to 24 hours. They addressed a fine they received for parking on the street in front of their home and requested that on-street parking time limits be reconsidered, noting that some people may not be able to move their vehicle daily.

(b) Lois Powell re: Proposed Municipal Boundary Extension Alternative Approval Process

Lois Powell spoke regarding concerns with the alternative approval process and stated support for using a referendum process to receive elector approval. They spoke regarding the Snuneymuxw First Nation reserve lands, uncertainty around the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and requested more information on the proposed municipal boundary extension.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

(a) Green Municipal Fund Growing Canada's Community Canopies

Introduced by Laura Mercer, General Manager, Corporate Services.

It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff:

1. To apply to the Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) program for funding of \$140,000 to update the City of Nanaimo's Urban Forestry Management Strategy; and,
2. To include the Urban Forestry Management Strategy Update in the 2026-2030 Financial Plan at a total cost of \$175,000, \$50,000 in 2026 and \$125,000 in 2027 funded by grant of \$140,000 and \$35,000 from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund.

The motion carried unanimously.

12. DEVELOPMENT REPORTS:

(a) Development Variance Permit Application No. DVP493 - 3135 Mexicana Road

Mayor Krog requested that Council hear anyone wishing to speak with respect to Development Variance Permit Application No. DVP493 – 3135 Mexicana Road.

No one in attendance wished to speak with respect to DVP493 – 3135 Mexicana Road.

It was moved and seconded that Council issue Development Variance Permit No. DVP493 to reduce the minimum parking requirements for a proposed addition to Wellington Secondary School located at 3135 Mexicana Road as outlined in the “Proposed Variances” section of the Staff Report titled “Development Variance Permit Application No. DVP493 - 3135 Mexicana Road” dated 2026-APR-13. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Rezoning Application No. RA521 - 2565 Departure Bay Road

Councillor Geselbracht vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 8:24 p.m. declaring a conflict of interest as he is a client of a financial management firm of which the property owner is a partner.

Delegations:

1. Nicole Smith spoke in opposition and noted concerns with increased density in the neighbourhood even further than what has recently been allowed through Bill 44. They noted concerns with increased traffic, pedestrian safety, environment and infrastructure, as well as the direct impact it would have on their privacy, noise levels, views and property value. They advised that they have since sold their property due to the proposed rezoning. While acknowledging the need for housing, they requested that Council also consider the opinions and voices of the existing community.
2. Rob Dykstra spoke in opposition, noting that many residents in the neighbourhood are opposed to the application. They expressed their belief that the existing mandated R5 zoning is sufficient, and encouraged infill designed to compliment the existing neighborhood’s character. They noted traffic concerns on Departure Bay Road and the number of large developments in the area. While acknowledging the need to meet the Provincial housing quota, they requested that Council consider current residents.
3. Don Duddridge spoke in opposition and spoke regarding the original vision for Lynburn Crescent and the changes in the neighbourhood due to development. They expressed concerns regarding increased crowding, speeding traffic, and lack of affordability. They requested that Council be farsighted in their decision.

It was moved and seconded that “Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2026 No. 4500.250” (to rezone 2565 Departure Bay Road from Three and Four Unit Residential [R5] to Row House Residential [R7]) pass first reading. The motion carried.
Opposed: Councillor Eastmure

It was moved and seconded that “Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2026 No. 4500.250” (to rezone 2565 Departure Bay Road from Three and Four Unit Residential [R5] to Row House Residential [R7]) pass second reading.

It was moved and seconded that “Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2026 No. 4500.250” be referred back to Staff to have discussions with the applicant to limit the floor area ratio (FAR) to be generally consistent with the submitted concept plans presented in the Staff report titled “Rezoning Application No. RA521-2565 Departure Bay Road” dated 2026-APR-13. The motion carried.
Opposed: Councillor Hemmens

Council recessed the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Council reconvened the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

13. BYLAWS:

(a) “Highway Closure and Dedication Removal Bylaw 2026 No. 7448”

Mayor Krog requested that Council hear anyone wishing to speak with respect to “Highway Closure and Dedication Removal Bylaw 2026 No. 7448”.

No one in attendance wished to speak with respect to “Highway Closure and Dedication Removal Bylaw 2026 No. 7448”.

It was moved and seconded that “Highway Closure and Dedication Removal Bylaw 2026 No. 7448” pass third reading. The motion carried unanimously.

14. CORRESPONDENCE:

(a) Island Coastal Economic Trust Request for a Letter of Support re: Advancing Made-on-the-Coast Co-Governance Legislation

It was moved and seconded that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, provide a letter of support to Island Coastal Economic Trust regarding advancing legislation to modernize the Island Coastal Economic Trust. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Correspondence dated 2026-FEB-11 from Jim Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) re: Request for Support for Orphan Dike Advocacy Letter

It was moved and seconded that Council support the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS)'s orphan dike advocacy letter to the Honourable David Eby, Premier of BC. The motion carried unanimously.

15. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Deferred motion: Development Cost Charge Reduction Bylaw

The vote was taken on the following motion deferred from the 2026-MAR-23 Regular Council Meeting:

“That Council direct Staff to proceed with a Development Cost Charge (DCC) Reduction Bylaw, with a 75% DCC reduction for not-for-profit rental and supportive housing, and with eligibility criteria as proposed in the Staff Report titled “Development Cost Charge Reduction Bylaw”, dated 2026-MAR-18.”

The motion was defeated.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, and Councillors Armstrong, Eastmure, Hemmens and Thorpe*

Councillor Thorpe moved to reconsider the following motion:

“That Council direct Staff to proceed with a Development Cost Charge (DCC) Reduction Bylaw, with a 50% DCC reduction for not-for-profit rental and supportive housing, and with eligibility criteria as proposed in the Staff Report titled “Development Cost Charge Reduction Bylaw”, dated 2026-MAR-18.”

The motion to reconsider was voted on and carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Perrino*

The following motion was now on the floor for reconsideration:

“That Council direct Staff to proceed with a Development Cost Charge (DCC) Reduction Bylaw, with a 50% DCC reduction for not-for-profit rental and supportive housing, and with eligibility criteria as proposed in the Staff Report titled “Development Cost Charge Reduction Bylaw”, dated 2026-MAR-18.”

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillor Perrino*

(b) Deferred Request for Reconsideration re: BC Council of Forest Industries Request for Endorsement of “Forestry is a Solution”

The vote was taken on the following motion deferred from the 2026-MAR-23 Regular Council Meeting:

“That Council:

1. Endorse the “Forestry is a Solution” campaign;
2. Encourage community members to visit forestryisasolution.com to sign the petition and send a letter to their MLA, the Minister of Forests, the Premier, and the Official Opposition of Forests Critic; and,
3. Direct Staff to share information about Forestry is a Solution through the City’s official communication channels.”

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Brown, Eastmure, Geselbracht and Manly*

16. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 10:14 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER