



**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**
Minutes - Draft
Council

Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1

Monday, February 2, 2026

6:00 PM

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL RECONVENES AT 7:00 PM
WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

Present: 7 - Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Councillor Ken Armour
Councillor Andrea Boardman
Councillor Meagan Brame
Councillor Duncan Cavens
Councillor Jacob Helliwell
Councillor Tim Morrison

Councillor Brame attended the meeting via conference call.

Staff: Dan Horan, Chief Administrative Officer
Deb Hopkins, Director of Corporate Services/Corporate Officer
Ian Irvine, Director of Financial Services & IT
Joel Clary, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Steve Knoke, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jonah Ross, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER - WURTELE ROOM

Mayor Desjardins called the Regular Council meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**I. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING PURSUANT TO
SECTION 90 OF THE COMMUNITY CHARTER**

Moved by Councillor Boardman, seconded by Councillor Armour: That the meeting be closed to the general public in accordance to the Community Charter:

Section 90 (1) (a) and (c), to discuss 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; labour relations or other employee relations; and

Section 90 (2) (b) (i) and (ii), to discuss the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations:

(i) between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government, or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government, or both, and a third party; and

(ii) between the municipality and another local government or between another local government and a third party. Carried Unanimously.

II. CLOSED MEETING

III. RECONVENE THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL AT 7:00 PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Moved by Councillor Armour, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That the Regular Council meeting be reconvened at 7:03 PM. Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Morrison recognized and acknowledged the Songhees and Xwsepsem Nations on whose traditional territory we live, we learn, and we do our work, and noted that the recent school trustee electoral reform process served as a reminder that reconciliation has many layers. The public school system did not serve Indigenous peoples for many generations, including a lack of representation on the School Board. The new electoral area model guarantees representation for the Songhees and Xwsepsem Nations, and has potential to strengthen representation.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

[26-057](#) Late Correspondence

1) Item 5.2 - 2026 Capital Program Update, Staff Report FIN-26-004

• John Roe, Veins of Life Watershed Society - January 29, 2026

2) Item 6.1 - Letter from Susan Gage, Esquimalt United Church Justice Team Re: North Coast Tanker Ban

• Bruce Lemire-Elmore, Esquimalt United Church - delivered by hand at the meeting on February 2, 2026

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Boardman, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That the agenda be approved as circulated with the inclusion of the late items. Carried Unanimously.

4. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS 5 AND 6Item 6.1 Letter from Susan Gage, Esquimalt United Church Justice Team
Re: North Coast Tanker Ban

Susan Gage, resident, spoke in support of the request for letters of support, noting that recent news and research publications have highlighted the potential for widespread and lasting environmental damage from oil spills, and that conditions in northern regions are not conducive to effective oil spill responses.

Bruce Lemire-Elmore, resident, spoke in favour of the request for letters of support, due to the variety of risk factors which can compound to increase the level of risk associated with oil tanker traffic along the North Coast.

Dwight Ince, resident, expressed concern regarding Council taking a position on the North Coast Tanker Ban, due to the lack of public consensus among on the issue, and the assessment of risk put forward in the draft letters.

5. STAFF REPORTS

- 1) [26-049](#) Arena Slab Replacement Project – Tender Award Staff Report No. P&R-26-003

The Director of Parks and Recreation introduced the report and responded to questions from Council.

Council commented that the new floor will be appreciated by user groups.

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Armour: That Council award the Tender - General Contractor - Arena Slab Replacement Project, including all optional components identified in the Archie Browning Sports Centre Energy Conservation Measures (Phase 1), and future change orders within the approved budget, to Blackrete Builders Inc. in the amount of \$2,198,890.00 excluding GST, as included in the 2025/26 Capital Plan (R266). Carried Unanimously.

- 2) [26-041](#) 2026 Capital Program Update, Staff Report Fin 26-004

The Directors of Financial Services and IT, Engineering and Public Works, and Parks and Recreation presented a PowerPoint and responded to questions from Council.

Council comments included:

- Centralizing asset management and capital plan information would be helpful for the budget process.
- Ongoing asset management work has produced valuable data for decision-making, and staff's work on these projects is recognized and appreciated.

- Future maintenance and repair projects may need to be prioritized above other planned capital projects.
- Borrowing for long term projects could be considered, and there is interest in receiving information on this option in the future.
- Increases to capital program contributions will continue to add pressure on the budget in subsequent years; ongoing communication to help the community understand this challenge will be important.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

For Council's Consideration

- 1) [26-046](#) Letter from Susan Gage, Esquimalt United Church Justice Team Re: North Coast Tanker Ban

This item was received.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public input.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That the Regular Council meeting be adjourned at 8:35 PM. Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS

THIS TH DAY OF , 2026

DEB HOPKINS,
CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT