



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

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

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:45 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
Bill Brown, Director of Development Services
Joel Clary, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Terése Finegan, Acting Director of HR/Manager of Economic Development
Matt Furlot, Fire Chief
Ian Irvine, Director of Financial Services & IT
Judy Kitts, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Steve Knoke, Director of Parks & Recreation
Jonah Ross, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER - WURTELE ROOM

Mayor Desjardins called the Regular Council meeting to order at 5:46 PM.

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

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Helliwell:
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 Cavens, seconded by Councillor Boardman: That the Regular meeting of Council be reconvened at 7:01 PM.

Councillor Helliwell acknowledged the traditional territory of the Lekwungen- speaking peoples, the Songhees and Xwespsəm peoples on whose lands we work, learn, live, and play.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

1) 26-019 Late Correspondence

1) Item 6.1 - Parks and Recreation Proposed EV Charging Infrastructure and Partnership, Staff Report No. P&R-26-001
- Kimberly Argyle - received January 12, 2026

2) Item 6.2 - 2026 Draft Budget, Staff Report FIN-26-001

- Nina Sylvester - received January 8, 2026
- David Hodgins - received January 9, 2026
- Dan Bruyere - received January 10, 2026
- Doug Hughes - received January 11, 2026
- Kimberly Argyle - received January 12, 2026
- Kimberly Argyle - received January 12, 2026

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That the agenda be amended to add a Rise and Report from the In Camera meeting of Council held on December 8, 2025 as item 8.1, renumbered accordingly, and approved with the inclusion of the late items. Carried Unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1) [26-012](#) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on December 15, 2025

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Boardman: That the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on December 15, 2025 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEM 6

There was no public input.

6. STAFF REPORTS

1) [26-002](#) Parks and Recreation Proposed EV Charging Infrastructure and Partnership, Staff Report No. P&R-26-001

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

Council comments included the following:

- The chargers will be funded by BC Hydro and the Capital Regional District (CRD).
- Increasing the variety of chargers available in the Township is supportable.

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Brame: That Council endorse the proposed partnerships and direct staff to enter into 10-year agreements with:

1. BC Hydro, for installation and operation of 5-6 Level 3 EV chargers located at Archie Browning Sport Centre; and
2. The CRD for the installation and operation of EV level 2 chargers in various Parks in the Township of Esquimalt. Carried Unanimously.

2) [26-014](#) 2026 Draft Budget, Staff Report FIN-26-001

The Director of Financial Services & IT presented a PowerPoint and staff responded to questions from Council.

Council comments included the following:

- Additional information regarding rationale for infrastructure reserve contributions recommendation of 3% is requested.
- A broader discussion regarding opportunities to increase revenue would be helpful for future budget cycles.
- Developing additional scenarios for tax rate increases below 13% could help articulate the impacts of reduced tax rates to the community, which remains a challenge.
- Staff's perspective on risks and service sustainability is needed for consideration of budget requests and service level discussions.

- Infrastructure reserve contributions were reduced in last year's budget process; this item should not be considered for reduction or deferral for 2026 to manage the long-term tax burden.
- Community input regarding potential service level reductions is helpful, and developing alternative budget scenarios would create valuable opportunities for further input from residents regarding which services they see as essential, or appropriate for reductions.
- Decisions on Police funding requests are a challenge, as the Section 27 appeal process can require deferrals to be carried forward to subsequent budgets.
- Staff's input on discretionary budget items, funding requests, and anticipated challenges associated with reductions, will be essential to determine what reductions are possible.

The CAO noted that the draft budget reflects staff assessments of short and long-term needs, as well as existing risks to service levels, operations, and sustainability. Staff can return with alternative scenarios for tax rate increases below 13%, including analysis of risks associated with deferrals for Council's consideration.

Council comments continued:

- Opportunities to increase revenue could provide effective alternatives to service level reductions; it is important that both are considered in discussions of tax rate scenarios.
- Analysis of options for service level reductions and revenue increases will provide insight required for budget decisions, but will be valuable beyond the current year's budget process.
- Additional scenarios should include information on accumulated surpluses for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That Council direct staff to develop additional budget scenarios for tax rate increases of 7% and 9% for the 2026-2030 Financial Plan. Carried Unanimously.

3) 26-017 Resolution to Hold a Council Meeting Outside the Boundaries of Esquimalt, Staff Report No. ADM-26-003

Mayor Desjardins introduced the Staff Report, noting that in order to attend a meeting outside the Township requested by the Victoria-Esquimalt Police Board, a resolution from Council is needed to satisfy requirements of the Community Charter and Council Procedure Bylaw.

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That Council authorize that a special meeting of Esquimalt Council be held at the Union Club located at 805 Gordon St, Victoria, BC on January

13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. Carried Unanimously.

4) 26-001 Annual Review of Council Code of Conduct, Staff Report No. ADM-26-001

Moved by Councillor Armour, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That Council receive Staff Memorandum ADM-26-001 for information and that Council members sign Code of Conduct Policy No. ADMIN-80 to confirm their understanding of the provisions and affirm their commitment to acting in accordance with the Council Code of Conduct. Carried Unanimously.

7. RISE AND REPORT (FROM IN CAMERA)

1) **26-026** Rise and Report from the In Camera meeting of Council held on December 8, 2025

At the In Camera meeting held on December 8, 2025, Council passed the following resolution:

That the Mayor provide a letter to Minister Krieger indicating support for a study on regionalization of policing to be completed, including a summary of the consultation that has occurred that supports Council's views on regionalization and policing.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public input.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That the the Regular Council meeting be adjourned at 9:02 PM. Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS
THIS TH DAY OF , 2026

DEB HOPKINS,
CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT