



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

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

Monday, February 23, 2026

6:30 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
- Staff:** Dan Horan, Chief Administrative Officer
Bill Brown, Director of Development Services (via conference call)
Ian Irvine, Director of Financial Services & IT
Judy Kitts, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Sarah Holloway, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy Corporate Officer
James Davison, Manager of Development Services
Jonah Ross, Recording Secretary
- Other:** Fiona Wilson, Chief Constable, Victoria Police Department (VicPD)
Donna Phillips, Director of Financial Services, VicPD
Jamie McRae, Deputy Chief, VicPD
Michael Brown, Deputy Chief, VicPD
Tiffany Parton, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, VicPD
Elizabeth Cull, Chair of Finance, Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board (VEPB)
Paul Faoro, VEPB
Paul Thorkelsson, VEPB
Tim Kituri, VEPB
Nathaniel Sukhdeo, VEPB

1. CALL TO ORDER - WURTELE ROOM

Mayor Desjardins called the Regular Council meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Armour: That pursuant to Section 90 (2) (b) (ii) of the Community Charter, the meeting be closed to the general public to discuss the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations 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

Councillor Cavens recognized and acknowledged the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsem Nation on whose traditional territory we live, we learn, and we do our work. As we look over our agenda for the day, let us be mindful of the potential implications that our decisions have on Indigenous peoples and consider the common interests we have with our neighbours and First Nations governments who are also making decisions and passing laws that support our sustainable region.

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Morrison: That the Regular meeting of Council be reconvened at 7:00 PM. Carried Unanimously.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

1) [26-085](#) Late Correspondence

1) That the letter from Rory Tooke, Capital Regional District, dated February 19, 2026, be added to the agenda under Communications - For Council's Information, as item number 8.2, and the agenda be renumbered accordingly.

2) Item 6.1 - Proposed Revisions to 2026 Police Budget, Staff Report No. ASM-26-010

· Carina Foran - received February 22, 2026

3) Item 6.2 - Development Variance Permit - 884 Lampson St., Staff Report No. DEV-26-005

· S. Greenaway - received February 20, 2026

· Anthony Hodda - received February 22, 2026

4) Item 6.3 - Proposed Adjustment to the 2026-2030 Financial Plan for the Major Review of the Official Community Plan, Staff Report No. DEV-26-006

· Sue Adams - received February 23, 2026

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Boardman: That the letter from Rory Tooke, Capital Regional District, dated February 19, 2026, be added to the agenda under Communications - For Council's Information, as item number 8.2, and the agenda be approved with the inclusion of the late items. Carried Unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 1) [26-074](#) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held January 26, 2026
- 2) [26-075](#) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held February 2, 2026
- 3) [26-081](#) Minutes of the Special Joint Council and Advisory Planning Commission Meeting held on February 9, 2026
- 4) [26-077](#) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on February 9, 2026

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Boardman: That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 26, 2026, the Regular Council meeting held on February 2, 2026, the Special Joint Council and Advisory Planning Commission meeting held on February 9, 2026, and the Special Council meeting held on February 9, 2026 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS 6, 7, AND 8

There was no public input.

6. STAFF REPORTS

- 1) [26-076](#) Proposed Revisions to 2026 Police Budget, Staff Report No. ADM-26-010

Elizabeth Cull, Finance Chair of the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board, introduced proposed revisions to the 2026 Police Budget. Members of the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board (VEPB) and Victoria Police (VicPD) gave a presentation and responded to questions from Council regarding the proposal to remove three Traffic Enforcement Officers, the new after-hours bylaw enforcement project, and ongoing exploration of options for improved budget process models.

Council comments included:

- The after-hours bylaw project to measure calls is appreciated, and would likely benefit from additional communication to the public once enacted.
- Ongoing reporting of after-hours bylaw enforcement work will help with

assessment of the project's effectiveness.

- Work being done to explore alternative budget models is exciting, and will help ensure Victoria and Esquimalt receive appropriate attention.
- The Esquimalt-focused approach is appreciated; ensuring its sustainability over the long-term will be important.
- There is recognition that sharing police services between two distinct communities makes the budget process challenging for Esquimalt, Victoria, VicPD, and the VEPB.

2) [26-053](#) Development Variance Permit - 884 Lampson St - Staff Report No. DEV-26-005

The Manager of Development Services introduced the report and responded to questions from Council.

Denise Kors, applicant representative, gave a presentation and, with Kristen Machina, Transportation Engineer, and Dave Stephens, the applicant, responded to questions from Council

Council comments included:

- If parking stalls are optional, rather than assigned to units, residents may opt out to save on fees which could increase pressure on street parking nearby.
- It can be challenging to assess a project's financial viability as rationale for a Development Variance Permit (DVP) application.
- Delays to the project have not been considerate to the community.
- The community engaged in the public hearing process in good faith, and there is concern that approval of the variance will negatively impact the public's trust.
- Given that neighbours identified parking as a concern during the project's earlier approval process, and that further work is needed to address broader parking challenges in the Township, there is concern that approval of this variance may not be appropriate.
- Due to rapid changes in economic circumstances over recent years, more applicants are returning for variances to ensure projects remain financially viable.
- If the variance is not approved, potential new housing could be lost.
- This site may not be appropriate for reduced parking.
- Other variance requests have come forward due to financial concerns, but have still been delivered after being denied; decisions on these requests remains a challenge.
- The site's location along a major transit route, and high walking and cycling scores make a reduction in parking more feasible.

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Brame: That Council

deny DVP000167. Defeated, with Mayor Desjardins, and Councillors Armour, Cavens, and Helliwell Opposed.

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Armour: That Council approve a Development Variance Permit to vary the parking ratio for required residential vehicle parking per unit, subject to staff determining an approach that ensures that the parking ratio reflect the recent parking bylaw and ultimate end-use of the building in terms of purpose built rental versus strata ownership.

Council comments continued:

- There is interest in ensuring that the building will meet relevant parking bylaw requirements for the final ownership structure.
- Amending the motion to allow for staff to proceed without starting a new DVP process, if possible, is preferred.

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Armour: That the main motion be amended to replace "a Development Variance Permit to vary the parking ratio for required residential vehicle parking per unit" with "the Development Variance Permit No. DP00176 to vary the parking ratio for required residential vehicle parking per unit, at 884 Lampson St within the CD No. 155 Zone, from 0.92 to 0.73, as outlined in Staff Report No. DEV-26-005." Carried with Councillors Boardman, Brame, and Morrison Opposed.

Main Motion as Amended:

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Armour: That Council approve the Development Variance Permit No. DP00176 to vary the parking ratio for required residential vehicle parking per unit, at 884 Lampson St within the CD No. 155 Zone, from 0.92 to 0.73, as outlined in Staff Report No. DEV-26-005, subject to staff determining an approach that ensures that the parking ratio reflect the recent Parking Bylaw and the ultimate end use of the building in terms of purpose built rental versus strata ownership. Carried with Councillors Boardman, Brame, and Morrison Opposed.

- 3) [26-064](#) Proposed Adjustment to the 2026-2030 Financial Plan for the Major Review of the Official Community Plan, Staff Report No. DEV-26-006

The Director of Development Services introduced the report and responded to questions from Council.

Council comments included:

- Approving changes at this time will still allow the next Council opportunities to review the project early in their term.

- The proposed adjustment to the project's timeline is minor.
- This slight delay will respond to staff's concerns regarding capacity, while ensuring progress continues towards a new Official Community Plan.

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That Council authorize staff to amend the 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan to include all budgeted costs for the Esquimalt Road Urban Design Guidelines and the Financial Impact Analysis Model in the 2027 fiscal year. Carried Unanimously.

7. REPORTS / MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

- 1) [26-073](#) February 9, 2026 Special Committee of the Whole resolutions to be ratified

Moved by Councillor Armour, seconded by Councillor Brame: That the resolutions from the February 9, 2026 Committee of the Whole be ratified:

1. 2026 Budget Book, Staff Report FIN-26-003

That Council direct staff to update the 2026 Budget Book to reflect the comments made at the February 9, 2026, Special Committee of the Whole meeting.

2. 2026-2030 Financial Plan Options and Way Ahead, Staff Report ADM-26-008

That Council direct staff to provide:

- 1) more information on Advertising - Corporate Services, Advertising - Engineering, and Advertising - Communications as potential service reductions;
- 2) more information on Local Grants as a potential service reduction;
- 3) more information on the supplemental budget request of one Fire Inspector (FTE); and
- 4) an overview of what the overall budget impacts are of the three options for supplying the established firefighting level of service. Carried Unanimously.

- 2) [26-078](#) Minutes of the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held on November 26, 2025

This item was received.

- 3) [26-080](#) Minutes of the Advisory Planning Commission meeting held on January 20th, 2026

This item was received.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

For Council's Consideration

- 1) [26-069](#) Letter from the BC Association of Farmers' Markets dated February 2, 2026 Re: BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program Letter of Support

Council comments included:

- Supporting this program is worthwhile, but it can be challenging to consider advocacy requests on an individual basis given the many important issues facing the community.
- The Nutrition Coupon Program engages two local Esquimalt organizations, and provides direct benefit to residents.
- Lower-income households in the Township spent over \$15,000 using the coupons in 2025.
- The program strengthens food security, health, and nutrition in the Township.

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Brame: That Council direct staff to send a letter to the Minister of Health in support of the ongoing funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program. Carried Unanimously.

For Council's Information

- 2) [26-089](#) Letter from Rory Tooke, Capital Regional District, dated February 19, 2026, re: Innovating Wastewater Treatment

Mayor Desjardins introduced the letter, noting the need for community education on the benefits of thermal processing of biosolids, and the biochar that it produces. Mayor Desjardins also highlighted the Township's leadership on this issue within the region.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public input.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That the Regular Council meeting be adjourned at 9:12 PM. Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS

DEB HOPKINS,
CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT

THIS DAY OF _____, 2026