

**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
in the Municipal Hall**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 5:30 pm
210 Carrier Crescent, Fraser Lake, B.C.
Municipal Chambers**

Members Present: Sarrah Storey
Jolene Webb
Audrey Fennema
Craig LePoidevin
Joe Jenkinson

Staff Present: Ethan Fredeen
Jesse Gervais

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Council amended the agenda to remove item 8.1.b and to move item 11.1 to before item 8.

Resolution Number: 2025-01-029

THAT Council adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. Delegations

a. Fraser Lake and District Chamber of Commerce

Business walk taking place next week, January 30. Will be waste-free event.

Requesting photocopying and printing support from Village of Fraser Lake. Will contact staff January 23.

Next Chamber meeting scheduled for February 18, 2025.

Planning Easter event and Bike Rodeo for spring 2025.

3. Adoption of Minutes

a. January 8, 2025

Resolution Number: 2025-01-030

THAT Council approve the January 8, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council minutes as presented.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

5. Councillor Reports

Resolution Number: 2025-01-031

THAT all Council reports be received for information.

CARRIED

a. Councillor Fennema

Nothing to report.

b. Councillor Jenkinson

Attended meeting and tour with Minister of Local Government and Rural Communities. Discussed requests on coordination of major projects in local area and streamlining legislative and grant reporting requirements to reduce administrative load on staff. Toured Community Hall Phase II, Autumn Services, Fire Hall, and White Swan Park/Pier.

c. Councillor LePoidevin

Nothing to report.

d. Councillor Webb

Nothing to report.

e. Mayor Storey

Attended RDBN. Rural area will see a 3% tax increase for 2025.

Attended Vanderhoof Town Hall with Minister of Forests.

Met with Surinderpal Rathor, Mayor of Williams Lake and Cariboo Regional District Director Steve Forsythe.

Attended North Central Local Government Association Strategy Meeting.

Attended Official Opposition Dinner in Prince George.

Attended Northern Medical Programs Trust meeting. Events coming up with UBC Faculty of Medicine in Prince George and Vanderhoof.

Attended Artemis Blackwater meeting and reception.

Attended Mt. Milligan reception and met with Travis Desormeaux, Director of Social and Community Responsibility. Discussed potential reopening of Endako Mine within 5 years.

Met with Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship Minister Randene Neill, made official requests for local FrontCounter BC, removal of White Swan Park covenants, and Mouse Mountain Sponsored Crown Grant.

Met with Jagrup Brar, Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals. Discussed Endako Mine and Artemis Blackwater primary road and Holy Cross Forest Service Road maintenance.

Met with Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development Steve Morissette. Discussed population-based funding, particularly for schools. Will be requesting follow-up meeting with Minister of Education and Childcare to discuss school tax.

Met with Premier Eby.

Met with Coastal GasLink.

Met with Minister Parmar to discuss returning for potential town hall in Fraser Lake. Potential dates will be forthcoming.

Met with former Minister Nathan Cullen.

Had dinner with Minister of Local Government and Rural Communities Brittny Anderson.

Met with Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks and discussed BC Conservation Service and regional campsite capacity.

Met with Nadleh Whut'en and Stellat'en First Nations representatives, including land managers from respective Nations. \$1.2 billion agreement signed with Rio Tinto (also includes Cheslatta Carrier Nation), three major infrastructure projects being discussed for the Nechako Reservoir.

Met with Innergex to discuss Nithi Wind project.

Met with BC Hydro. Number of workers expected in the region is 200-300 currently beginning in 2027.

Met with Minister Dix to discuss managing impacts on infrastructure and services of concurrent energy projects.

Met with Northern Development Initiative Trust staff.

Did radio interview in Prince George.

Met with CN Rail on trail plan and White Swan Park cleanup.

Met with Diana Gibson, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation. Discussed shared advocacy on RBA with feds and including lands in allowable expenses in grants.

Brittney Anderson, Minister of Local Government and Rural Communities visited Fraser Lake. Toured the Fire Department, White Swan Park, and Phase II of the arena. Discussed major projects coordination and improved provincial reporting requirements.

Attended NDIT meeting. Discussed strategic planning.

Hosted Tea with the Mayor, two people attended. Event will be moved around the community to different venues. Discussed poultry processing in the region. Discussed potential food truck.

Met with Library. Discussed Library taking leadership role for December 23 annual social and dance.

6. Accounts Payable

Resolution Number: 2025-01-032

THAT the Village of Fraser Lake Cheque Register for January 1 - 12, 2025 for \$209,764.90 be received for information.

CARRIED

7. Correspondence List

Resolution Number: 2025-01-033

THAT all correspondence be received as information.

CARRIED

a. Coastal GasLink

b. Independent Contractors and Businesses Association

Relevant to discussions at Vanderhoof Town Hall. Small contractors have difficulty being included in major projects, but also lack capacity and availability to manage some aspects of large projects.

c. Fraser Lake and District Chamber of Commerce - Funding Increase Request

Staff intend to have a signed contribution agreement between the Chamber and the Village prior to issuing any funds.

Resolution Number: 2025-01-034

THAT Council direct staff to present a Budget 2025 line item for the Fraser Lake and District Chamber of Commerce for \$5,000.00.

CARRIED

d. Regional District of Bulkley Nechako - Municipalities and Regional District Meetings

e. Regional District of Bulkley Nechako - ESS Agreement Termination

Council asked about the history of the agreement. Vanderhoof is currently hosting the ESS. Will be discussed with Vanderhoof and Fort St. James at future Tri-Council meeting. Position has floated between Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James. Fraser Lake has previously had significant capacity for ESS.

Council discussed the importance of having local, paid capacity for ESS.

f. Fraser Lake Public Library - Budget 2025 Request

Council asked what support the Regional District provides to the Library. The Regional District provided \$39,190.32 from January to October, 2024. Council requested further advocacy at the Regional District to increase their portion of the support.

Council discussed providing further support to the Library from the Village of Fraser Lake during the budget deliberations.

Resolution Number: 2025-01-035

THAT Council direct staff to present a Budget 2025 line item for the Fraser Lake Public Library for \$66,243.90.

CARRIED

8. Bylaws

a. Land Acquisition Reserve Bylaw 863

Resolution Number: 2025-01-036

THAT Council give fourth and final reading to Land Acquisition Reserve Bylaw 863, 2025.

CARRIED

9. Staff Reports

a. Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

1. CAO Fourth Quarter Report

Resolution Number: 2025-01-037

THAT Council receive the 2024 4th Quarter Office of the CAO Strategic Initiatives Report for information.

CARRIED

2. Family Day Celebration

Council asked if staff can seek support from corporate sponsors.

Council discussed having sufficient food to not run out as has happened in previous years.

The Historical Society will also open the Museum, provide a loom demonstration.

Staff requested direction on hosting events both at the lake and the arena. Council supported multiple venues. Staff will plan for location of food and hot chocolate distribution.

Council discussed the anticipated opening date for Phase II of the Community Hall.

Resolution Number: 2025-01-038

THAT Council direct staff to allocate \$1,250 from the 2025 Recreation budget for Family Day celebrations, including the procurement of food for the event.

CARRIED

b. Economic Development Officer

1. Economic Development and Deputy Corporate Fourth Quarter Report

Council asked about the funding model for the Countertop Composters. Staff responded that some of the Local Government Climate Action Plan funds must be spent in 2025, and the degree of subsidy for the compost units will be for Council consideration during Budget deliberations.

Resolution Number: 2025-01-039

THAT the Economic Development Officer and Deputy Corporate Officer's Quarterly Report be received for information.

CARRIED

2. Rebrand Resolution Cleanup

Resolution Number: 2025-01-040

THAT Resolution 2024-07-261 be rescinded.

CARRIED

Resolution Number: 2025-01-041

THAT the Village of Fraser Lake supports the Fraser Lake Rebranding Plan for 2025 with \$10,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust's Marketing Initiatives Program and \$10,000 from the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program – Forest Impact Transition fund.

CARRIED

c. Director of Finance

1. Finance Fourth Quarter Report

Resolution Number: 2025-01-042

THAT the Finance Department Fourth Quarter 2024 Report be received for information.

CARRIED

2. 2025 Budget and 5 Year Financial Plan Schedule

Fraser Lake is one of the first communities prioritized for audit. Staff would like to adjust the meeting dates by one later each.

Council would like a poll on possible additional meeting dates.

Council discussed the times possible for Budget discussions and instead having Committee of the Whole budget discussions on alternative days.

Staff will request Council availability for a longer day session for Budget planning.

Resolution Number: 2025-01-043

THAT Council approve the 2025 - 2029 Five Year Financial Plan schedule as presented.

DEFEATED

3. Addition to Reserves

Resolution Number: 2025-01-044

THAT the Village of Fraser Lake adds \$81,000 to the water reserve for 2024.

CARRIED

Resolution Number: 2025-01-045

THAT the Village of Fraser Lake adds \$149,000 to the Land Acquisition Reserve for 2024.

CARRIED

d. Director of Public Works

1. Public Works Fourth Quarter Report

Resolution Number: 2025-01-046

THAT Council receive the 2024 4th Quarter Report from the Public Works Department.

CARRIED

e. Fire Chief/Bylaw Officer

1. Fraser Lake Fire Rescue Fourth Quarter Report

Resolution Number: 2025-01-047

THAT Council receive the 4th Quarter Report of 2024 from the Village of Fraser Lake Volunteer Fire Department for information.

CARRIED

10. Reading List

11. New Business

12. In Camera

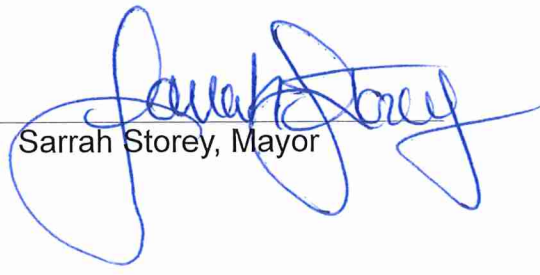
13. Rise with Report

14. Adjournment

Resolution Number: 2025-01-048

THAT The meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED



Sarrah Storey, Mayor



Ethan Fredeen, Corporate Officer