

MINUTES of a Regular Meeting of the MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KAMLOOPS, held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 7 Victoria Street West, Kamloops, BC, on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 1:30 pm.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Bepple; Councillors Hall; Karpuk; Middleton; Neustaeter; O'Reilly; and Sarai.

Mayor Hamer-Jackson attended the meeting electronically.

Councillor Bass absent; personal reasons.

Chief Administrative Officer McCorkell; Corporate Officer Mazzotta; Corporate Services Director Hallinan; Employee Services Director Howatt; Development, Engineering, and Sustainability Director Kwiatkowski; Community and Culture Director Mazzotta; Communications and Strategic Partnerships Director Rodrigue; Protective Services Director/Fire Chief Uzeloc; Assistant Civic Operations Director Luison; and IT Helpdesk Technician Paul.

Legislative Clerk Cameron observed the meeting electronically.

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Deputy Mayor acknowledged that the City of Kamloops is located on Tkemlúps te Secwépemc territory, situated within the unceded ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation, noting honour and respect for the people, the territory, and the land that houses our community.

2. CIVIL DISCOURSE STATEMENT

The Deputy Mayor stated the City of Kamloops is required to provide a respectful workplace, noting that by attending this meeting, a person is participating in City staff's workplace and as such, asked that they do so with respect and civility. The Deputy Mayor stated any verbal or physical abuse toward staff or Council will not be tolerated.

3. READING

In place of the reading, the Deputy Mayor asked for a moment of silence for Cameron Casorso and JJ Wright in respect of their families' loss.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Sarai, seconded by Councillor O'Reilly, that Council adopt the minutes of the January 27, 2026, Regular Council Meeting.

Affirmative: Deputy Mayor Bepple, Councillors Karpuk, Hall, Middleton, Neustaeter, O'Reilly, and Sarai.

Opposed: Mayor Hamer-Jackson.

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

Kamloops White Cane Club

Vern Short, Vice President

Re: White Cane Week information and challenge to Mayor and City Council to bowl against the Blind Bowling Team on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.

The delegation presented the following:

- That a lack of sight is not a lack of vision, and blindness affects people from every socioeconomic background while never diminishing their desire or ability to fully participate in society.
- Explained that White Cane Week, established in 1994, was created to support returning Second World War veterans who experienced vision loss and serious eye injuries.
- Explained that White Cane Week is an opportunity to raise awareness and promote education within the community about the importance of caring for your vision.
- Introduced the bowling challenge scheduled for February 13, 2026, which the White Cane Club has sponsored for years, inviting sighted participants to bowl against the blind bowling team at Falcon Lanes in Valleyview, Kamloops, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

On question, the delegation responded with the following:

- Explained that the four main eye conditions or diseases prevalent in the Western Hemisphere are cataracts, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and Retinitis Pigmentosa.
- According to Social Canada, approximately 1.5 million Canadians are living with vision loss, noting that conditions such as diabetes and strokes can also trigger vision loss.

6. RESPONSE TO DELEGATIONS

Moved by Councillor Sarai, seconded by Councillor Middleton, that Council send a letter of appreciation to the White Cane Club and Vern Short.

CARRIED.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Location approval and adjustment of start time for the February 11, 2026 meeting with School District No. 73.

Moved by Councillor O'Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hall, that Council approve the Kamloops Kia Lounge at Sandman Centre as the location of the February 11, 2026, Joint Meeting with the Board of School District No. 73, with a revised start time of 6:00 pm.

Affirmative: Deputy Mayor Beppe, Councillors Karpuk, Hall, Middleton, Neustaeter, O'Reilly, and Sarai.

Opposed: Mayor Hamer-Jackson.

CARRIED.

Request for a Closed Council Meeting

Moved by Councillor Sarai, seconded by Councillor Middleton, that Council authorize staff to schedule a Closed Council Meeting at 9:30 am on February 24, 2026, under *Community Charter* sections 90:

(1)(a) 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;

(1)(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;

(1)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

(1)(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

(2)(b) 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,

(MOTION CONTINUED)

(MOTION CONTINUED)

- (ii) **between the municipality and another local government or between another local government and a third party, or**
- (iii) **between the municipality and a first nation or a prescribed Indigenous entity, or between a first nation or a prescribed Indigenous entity and a third party.**

(2)(d) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public must be excluded from the meeting.

Affirmative: Deputy Mayor Bepple, Councillors Karpuk, Hall, Middleton, Neustaeter, O'Reilly, and Sarai.

Opposed: Mayor Hamer-Jackson.

CARRIED.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Zoning Bylaw Amendment No. ZBA00114 Changes to Home-Based Business Regulations and to C6 (Arterial Commercial) Zoning Regulations

Council received an Administrative Report dated February 3, 2026, prepared by the Development, Engineering, and Sustainability Department to present proposed amendments to *Zoning Bylaw No. 55* to expand the range of one-person home-based businesses permitted to receive client visits and to amend the C6 (Arterial Commercial) zone to remove the restriction on office use along the Notre Dame Drive corridor.

Moved by Councillor Neustaeter, seconded by Councillor Karpuk, that Council authorize:

- a) ***Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 55-107* to be introduced and read a first and second time**
- b) **a public hearing to consider Bylaw No. 55-107**

Note: The above noted Bylaw No. 55-107 amendment will be held at third reading pending approval of the bylaw by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

CARRIED.

9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Community Engagement Activities

Council received the Community Engagement Activities memo.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Mayor Hamer-Jackson's Notice of Motion on Paid Meals at Council and Committee Meetings was not seconded.

Presented by Mayor Hamer-Jackson on January 27, 2026

Re: Employment of Immediate Family Members of Council Members

Councillor Karpuk declared a conflict of interest due to having a family member employed with the City and left Council Chambers at 2:12 pm.

Councillor Middleton declared a conflict of interest due to having family members employed with the City and left Council Chambers at 2:13 pm.

Councillor O'Reilly declared a conflict of interest due to having a family member employed with the City and left Council Chambers at 2:13 pm.

Moved by Mayor Hamer-Jackson, seconded by Councillor Hall, that Council direct staff to prepare a report for Council on implementing a clear policy that prohibits the hiring or employment of immediate family members of Council members while that Council member is in office.

AND FURTHER THAT the report be returned within 60 days of adoption of this motion and confirm the policy applies going forward only and does not affect existing employees.

Affirmative: Mayor Hamer-Jackson.

Opposed: Councillors Bepple, Hall, Neustaeter, and Sarai.

DEFEATED.

Councillors Karpuk, Middleton, and O'Reilly returned to Council Chambers at 2:28 pm.

11. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillors reported as follows:

Councillor Karpuk

- Passed on commentary that the public is very enthusiastic about the Riverside Park Skating Loop and grateful that there should be skate rentals available soon.

Deputy Mayor Bepple

- Explained that every year the City of Kamloops recognizes exceptional volunteers, and that the nomination window for the City's Exemplary Service Awards will be open from February 13, 2026, to March 13, 2026, with details available on the City's website.

- Explained that the Exemplary Service Awards recognize individuals in two age categories who have demonstrated a long-term voluntary commitment to community growth and service.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA)

Re: Call for Resolutions for 2026 Convention

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bepple, seconded by Councillor Neustaeter, that:

Whereas the Government of British Columbia commissioned an independent review of CleanBC to assess its effectiveness and identify actions needed to meet provincial greenhouse gas emission reduction targets;

And whereas the final report of the independent CleanBC review concludes that British Columbia is not on track to meet its 2030 climate targets;

And whereas the review recommends establishing a Citizens' Assembly on Building a Sustainable Economy in British Columbia to help build public understanding and consensus on the actions required to achieve these targets;

And whereas the review identifies the need to strengthen CleanBC in order to ensure that British Columbia's clean energy system remains affordable and reliable, with energy efficiency and electrification as key components of the transition;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request the Government of British Columbia to establish a Citizens' Assembly, as recommended in the independent CleanBC review, to support implementation of the review's recommendations;

And be it further resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request the Government of British Columbia to adopt the CleanBC review recommendation to promote and increase the production of clean, provincially generated renewable electricity, biofuels, and renewable natural gas, in accordance with social, economic, and environmental best practices.

Affirmative: Deputy Mayor Bepple, Councillors Karpuk, Hall, Middleton, Neustaeter, O'Reilly, and Sarai.

Opposed: Mayor Hamer-Jackson.

CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bepple, seconded by Councillor O'Reilly, that:

Whereas the Interior Health and Northern Health regions of BC in combination make up the largest number of fatalities for vehicle incidents in the province, being 189 out of 331 deaths in 2023 or 57%, while only representing 22% of the province's population;

And whereas the Interior Health region has a death rate of 15.2 per 100,000, and the Northern Health region has a death rate of 18.1, both of which are well in excess of the provincial average of 6.0;

And whereas the safety of highways in the Interior Health and Northern Health regions impacts all British Columbians due to the centrality of these highways;

And whereas the province's commitment to a \$728 million to upgrade Highway 1 between Kamloops and the Alberta border mitigates safety issues on one specific corridor, but does not address safety concerns on the many other highway corridors in Interior and Northern BC;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work with regional districts and municipalities in the Interior Health and Northern Health regions to prioritize upgrades, as well as ongoing road maintenance standards and oversight, to provincial highways within municipal borders and in regional districts.

And be it further resolved that the Province commit to funding improvements with the goal of reducing death rates in the Interior Health and Northern Health regions.

Affirmative: Deputy Mayor Bepple, Councillors Karpuk, Hall, Middleton, Neustaeter, O'Reilly, and Sarai.

Opposed: Mayor Hamer-Jackson.

CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Sarai, seconded by Councillor Neustaeter, that Council forward the following resolution to the Southern Interior Local Government Association:

Whereas Canada is facing a critical airline pilot shortage due to retirements, rising training costs, and insufficient public investment that have created critical gaps between workforce demand and supply;

(MOTION CONTINUED)

(MOTION CONTINUED)

And whereas this national shortage in airline pilots is reducing service to regional and rural communities, increasing economic disruption, threatening aviation safety, and putting a growing strain on the national transportation system;

And whereas excessive training costs and inadequate government funding have unnecessarily prevented qualified Canadians from becoming pilots:

Therefore be it resolved that Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the government to take immediate action to expand funding, training capacity, and financial support for pilot education in order to protect public safety, economic stability, and reliable air service for all Canadians.

CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Sarai, seconded by Councillor Neustaeter, that:

WHEREAS local governments in British Columbia are responsible for land-use planning, infrastructure, permitting, and development approvals, all of which are directly affected by provincial reconciliation policy, archaeology requirements, and the *Heritage Conservation Act* and Regulations;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia is implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) and also undertaking reviews of reconciliation, archaeology, and heritage policy frameworks;

AND WHEREAS local governments are not consistently included as formal partners in provincial policy development related to DRIPA implementation, archaeology processes, and heritage legislation, despite being responsible for implementation at the community level and for public infrastructure projects that are significantly impacted by these policies;

AND WHEREAS the current *Heritage Conservation Act* is outdated, and existing archaeology processes create uncertainty, delays, and cost impacts for local governments, Indigenous communities, and the public, which further contribute to challenges in delivering affordable development and housing in British Columbia;

(MOTION CONTINUED)

(MOTION CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Southern Interior Local Government Association, Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, North Central Local Government Association, Lower Mainland Local Government Association, and Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments, urging the Province of British Columbia to ensure that senior representatives of all local government associations in British Columbia are formally included in discussions and decision-making related to the review, reform, and implementation of DRIPA, reconciliation policy, archaeology processes, and any replacement or reform of the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

CARRIED.

BC Natural Resources Forum

Re: "Forestry is a Solution" Campaign

Moved by Councillor Neustaeter, seconded by Councillor Hall, that Council sign the petition to support BC's forestry sector, as shown in the attachment under item 13.2 on the February 3, 2026, Regular Council agenda, and forward it to local Members of the Legislative Assembly, Peter Milobar and Ward Stamer, for support.

Affirmative: Deputy Mayor Bepple, Councillors Karpuk, Hall, Middleton, Neustaeter, O'Reilly, and Sarai.

Opposed: Mayor Hamer-Jackson.

CARRIED.

13. RECESS

The meeting was recessed at 2:50 pm.

14. RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 2:56 pm.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Beppe; Councillors Hall; Karpuk; Middleton; Neustaeter; O'Reilly; and Sarai.

Mayor Hamer-Jackson attended the meeting electronically.

Councillor Bass absent; personal reasons.

Chief Administrative Officer McCorkell; Corporate Officer Mazzotta; Corporate Services Director Hallinan; Employee Services Director Howatt; Development, Engineering, and Sustainability Director Kwiatkowski; Community and Culture Director Mazzotta; Communications and Strategic Partnerships Director Rodrigue; Protective Services Director/Fire Chief Uzeloc; Assistant Civic Operations Director Luison; and IT Helpdesk Technician Paul.

Legislative Clerk Cameron observed the meeting electronically.

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hamer-Jackson declined to give a Mayor's report.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.