



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

August 31, 2026

6:00 pm

Council Chambers of City Hall
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC

We respectfully acknowledge the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh,
on whose land we live, work, and play.

PRESENT: Mayor Simon Yu
Councillor Tim Bennett
Councillor Garth Frizzell
Councillor Trudy Klassen
Councillor Ron Polillo
Councillor Cori Ramsay
Councillor Kyle Sampson
Councillor Susan Scott

IN ATTENDANCE: Walter Babicz, City Manager
Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development
Luke Reid, Manager of IT Services/Acting Director of Finance and IT Services
Debbie Heywood, Senior Manager of Civic Services and Facilities/Acting Director of Civic Facilities and Events
Claire Thwaites, Manager of Communications/Acting Director of Administrative Services
Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations
Ethan Anderson, Manager of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer
Leslie Kellett, Deputy Corporate Officer

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Sampson
Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That the agenda for the regular meeting of Council scheduled for August 31, 2026 be amended by:

- Adding three new items of correspondence to agenda item D.8,
- Replacing the draft letter attached to the report at agenda item D.3,
- Adding one new item of correspondence as agenda item G.7 related to agenda item D.2,
- Moving agenda item D.8 and D.7 to be considered in that order immediately following agenda item C.2,

and that the agenda, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Carried Unanimously

B. MINUTES

B.1 Adoption of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes – August 17, 2026

Moved By Councillor Scott

Seconded By Councillor Bennett

That the minutes of the regular Council meeting held August 17, 2026, BE ADOPTED as read on this day and that such minutes as read set out all of the business before Council at that meeting and fully and properly record all of the resolutions passed by Council at that meeting.

Carried Unanimously

C. CONSENT AGENDA

C.1 Monthly Building Permit and Development Permit Summary (July 2026)

C.2 Provincial Housing Target Order – Year 2 Progress Report

Moved By Councillor Ramsay

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council DIRECTS Administration to share the report dated August 10, 2026 from the Director of Planning and Development titled “Provincial Housing Target Order – Year 2 Progress Report” with the BC Minister of Housing and to further advocate to the Province of British Columbia for BC Housing supportive housing developments to be recognized as eligible housing units for the purposes of meeting the City’s Housing Target Order.

Carried Unanimously

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION consent agenda items C.1 and C.2.

Carried Unanimously

D. REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – DEANNA WASNIK

D.8 Development Variance Permit Application No. VP2026-13

**Applicant: L&M Engineering Ltd. on behalf of D.C. McLeod Developments Inc., Inc.
No. BC1323466**

Location: 5310 Russman Road

Documents for Council's consideration include:

1. Staff report dated August 18, 2026, from the Director of Planning and Development, titled "Development Variance Permit Application No. VP2026-13";
 - a. Location and Existing Zoning Map;
 - b. Development Variance Permit No. VP2026-13; and
 - c. Exhibit "A" to VP2026-13.

Correspondence for Council's consideration include:

1. Correspondence dated August 21, 2026 from Jamie Halvorson in opposition to the application;
2. Correspondence dated August 24, 2026 from Peter Thwaites in opposition to the application;
3. Correspondence dated August 24, 2026 from Tim Olmstead and Gwen Neufeld in opposition to the application;
4. Correspondence dated August 24, 2026 from Tyler Patterson in opposition to the application;
5. Correspondence dated August 24, 2026 from Melana van Zyl in opposition to the application;
6. Correspondence dated August 24, 2026 from Florence Sheppard in opposition to the application;
7. Correspondence dated August 24, 2026 from Regina Schulz in opposition to the application;
8. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Paul van Zyl in opposition to the application;
9. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Sheri Grantham in opposition to the application;
10. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Ken Shalansky in opposition to the application;
11. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Roger and Gwynneth Purnell in opposition to the application;
12. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Pal Dhadly in opposition to the application;
13. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Bailee and Brendan Johansen in opposition to the application;
14. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Martinus van Zyl in opposition to the application;

15. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Carla Johnston in opposition to the application;
16. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Roger Sheppard in opposition to the application; and
17. Correspondence dated August 25, 2026 from Janet Thwaites in opposition to the application.
18. Handout: Correspondence dated August 27, 2026 from Randy, Della, and Russill Mills in opposition to the application.
19. Handout: Correspondence dated August 26, 2026 from Nadine Caron and Patrick, Aliah, and Molly Turner in opposition to the application.
20. Handout: Correspondence received August 28, 2026 from Ashley Thandi, Senior Community Planner, L&M Engineering Ltd. (Applicant): Rationale letter in support of the application.

Moved By Councillor Ramsay

Seconded By Councillor Bennett

That Council APPROVES Development Variance Permit No. VP2026-13 to vary “City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007” for the property legally described District Lot 10223, Cariboo District, Except Plan 16496 (011-684-402) as follows:

- a. Vary Section 9.4.4 1. by decreasing the minimum lot width for subdivision from 70.0 m to 24.9 m; and
- b. Vary Section 9.4.4 2. by decreasing the minimum lot area for subdivision from 2.0 ha to 0.84 ha.

Carried Unanimously

D.7 Climate Action Update

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the staff report dated August 17, 2026 from the Director of Planning and Development, titled “Climate Action Update” and the document titled “Climate Forward Action Plan Phase 2”.

Carried Unanimously

Moved By Councillor Bennett

Seconded By Councillor Sampson

That Council AMENDS the agenda by considering agenda item D.6 immediately following agenda item D.7.

Carried Unanimously

CITY MANAGER – WALTER BABICZ

D.6 Tourism Prince George Municipal and Regional District Tax Renewal

Moved By Councillor Sampson
Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council AUTHORIZES Administration to prepare an application to the Province in conjunction with the Tourism Prince George Society for the renewal of the three percent (3%) Municipal and Regional District Tax for an additional five year period effective July 1, 2027 to July 1, 2032, for the purposes of delivering tourism marketing and development services in the City of Prince George.

Carried Unanimously

COUNCILLOR BRIAN SKAKUN and COUNCILLOR GARTH FRIZZELL

D.1 Regulation of Data Centers

Moved By Councillor Frizzell
Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council DIRECTS staff to prepare a high-level overview of regulatory tools and policy models from other jurisdictions to apply for the future arrival of data centres in Prince George.

Moved By Councillor Ramsay
Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council AMENDS the main motion by adding the words “and that staff includes options for public engagement on the matter” after the words “in Prince George.”

Carried Unanimously

Main motion as amended.

Carried Unanimously

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – COUNCILLOR GARTH FRIZZELL, CHAIR

D.2 Public Inquiry into B.C.'s Forest and Wildfire Management

Moved By Councillor Frizzell
Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council POSTPONES consideration of the report dated August 18, 2026 from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, titled “Public Inquiry into BC’s Forest and Wildfire Management” to the September 9, 2026 regular Council meeting.

Carried Unanimously

D.3 Letter to the Minister of Jobs and Families: Extension of Temporary Employment

Insurance Program

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That Council:

1. APPROVES the letter attached to the report dated, August 19, 2026 from the Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, titled “Letter to the Minister of Jobs and Families: Extension of Temporary Employment Insurance Program”; and
2. DIRECTS administration to send the letter to the federal Minister of Jobs and Families.

Carried Unanimously

D.4 Jiangmen Sister-City Agreement Engagement

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council DIRECTS Administration to present a refreshed letter of intent with Jiangmen for Council’s consideration, as described in the report dated August 19, 2026 from the Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, titled “Jiangmen Sister-City Agreement Engagement”.

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council POSTPONES consideration of the main motion to the February 22, 2027 regular Council meeting.

Carried

Mayor Yu, Councillor Frizzell, and Councillor Klassen opposed.

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council DIRECTS Administration to introduce the matter of the Jiangmen Sister City Letter of Intent during the Council strategic priority session in the next council term.

Carried Unanimously

D.5 UBCM Resolution – Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) 27 Day Exemption

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That Council:

1. APPROVES the resolution in the report dated August 11, 2026 from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, titled “UBCM Resolution – Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) 27 Day Exemption”;
2. DIRECTS administration to submit the resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities; and
3. SUPPORTS advocacy for the establishment of an MRDT exemption pilot program.

Carried Unanimously

E. NOTICE OF MOTION

COUNCILLOR TRUDY KLASSEN

E.1 Capital Project Priorities

Notice of this motion has been given. This item will be considered at the September 9, 2026 Regular Council Meeting.

COUNCILLOR CORI RAMSAY and COUNCILLOR TIM BENNETT

E.2 Urban Hive Allowances

Notice of this motion has been given. This item will be considered at the September 9, 2026 Regular Council Meeting.

F. BYLAWS - FINAL READING AND ADOPTION

F.1 City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007, Amendment Bylaw No. 9634, 2026

Moved By Councillor Klassen
Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That Council GRANTS FINAL READING AND ADOPTION of “City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007, Amendment Bylaw No. 9634, 2026”.

Carried Unanimously

F.2 City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007, Amendment Bylaw No. 9635, 2026

Moved By Councillor Scott
Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That Council GRANTS FINAL READING AND ADOPTION of “City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007, Amendment Bylaw No. 9635, 2026”.

Carried Unanimously

F.3 City of Prince George Road Closure Bylaw No. 9628, 2026

Moved By Councillor Bennett

Seconded By Councillor Sampson

That Council GRANTS FINAL READING AND ADOPTION of “City of Prince George Road Closure Bylaw No. 9628, 2026”.

Carried Unanimously

G. CORRESPONDENCE

G.1 Correspondence dated August 18, 2026 from Martin Turenne, President and CEO, FPX Nickel Corp.: Request for a Letter of Support for the Baptiste Nickel Project and Refinery Accelerator Project

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council REQUESTS the Mayor to provide a letter in support of the Baptiste Nickel Project and Refinery Accelerator Project to FPX Nickel Corporation.

Carried Unanimously

G.2 Correspondence dated July 16, 2026 from the Ukrainian Street Festival Organizing Committee: Request for Financial Support for the Inaugural Ukrainian Street Festival

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Mayor Yu

That Council PROVIDES up to \$2,500 in funding to support the Inaugural Ukrainian Street Festival, to be funded from the 2026 Council Contingency Fund.

Defeated

Councillors Polillo, Ramsay, Sampson, and Scott opposed.

G.3 Correspondence dated August 20, 2026 from Margo A. Wagner, Chair, Cariboo Regional District Board of Directors: Letter in Support of the City of Prince George’s UBCM Resolution regarding the Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Bennett

That Council DIRECTS Administration to send correspondence to all communities in British Columbia whose residents are eligible to receive the Home Owner Grant regarding the City's UBCM resolution on the Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant.

Moved By Councillor Ramsay

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council AMENDS the main motion by adding the words "and from whom the City has not received a response" after the words "eligible to receive the Home Owner Grant"; and adding the words "and submits a letter to the Minister naming all communities who have submitted a letter in support of the UBCM resolution" after the words "Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant".

Carried Unanimously

Main motion as amended.

Carried Unanimously

- G.4 Correspondence dated August 18, 2026 from Maureen Latta, Committee Clerk, City of New Westminster: Advocacy for Provincial Legislation Regarding Housing Targets and Density Requirements to Be Directly Tied to Infrastructure Funding
- G.5 Correspondence dated August 13, 2026 from Louise Sarrazin noting concerns regarding Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 9635, 2026
- G.6 Correspondence dated August 17, 2026 from Shelley Kobewka noting concerns regarding Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 9635, 2026
- G.7 Correspondence dated August 31, 2026 from Frank Varga in response to agenda item D.2 regarding a Public Inquiry into BC's Forest and Wildlife Management

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION correspondence items G.1 to G.7.

Carried Unanimously

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Polillo

Seconded By Councillor Ramsay

That there being no further business the Regular Council Meeting, BE ADJOURNED.

Carried Unanimously

THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON

CERTIFIED CORRECT