



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

September 9, 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
Councillor Brian Skakun <via Zoom>

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
Andy Beesley, Director of Civic Facilities and Events
Eric Depenau, 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 Scott

That the agenda for the regular meeting of Council scheduled for September 9, 2026 be amended by:

- Adding a new PowerPoint presentation to agenda item D.5;
- Adding four new items of correspondence to agenda item D.7;

- Adding seven new items of correspondence regarding Urban Bee Hives as agenda items F.14, F.15, F.16, F.18, F.19, F.20, and F.21;
- Adding one new item of correspondence from the Prince George Rotary Hospice House as agenda item F.17;
- Moving agenda items F.10, D.5, and D.6 to be considered in that order immediately following agenda item C.1;

and that the agenda, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Carried Unanimously

B. MINUTES

B.1 Adoption of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes – August 31, 2026

Moved By Councillor Polillo

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That the minutes of the regular Council meeting held August 31, 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 Nechako and Fraser River Riverfront Update

Moved By Councillor Klassen

Seconded By Councillor Sampson

That Council DIRECTS Administration to continue long-term riverfront planning, with a focus on the area from the Simon Fraser Bridge to Wilkins Park, including:

1. developing a more detailed plan for consideration at a future Strategic Planning meeting following the 2026 General Local Election; and
2. considering the long-term riverfront vision when evaluating potential land acquisition opportunities.

Moved By Councillor Klassen

Seconded By Councillor Sampson

That Council AMENDS the main motion by adding the words “and 3. financial considerations, regulatory tools, and partnerships as described in the report dated August 24, 2026 from the Director of Planning and Development, titled “Nechako and Fraser River Riverfront Update.”” After the words “acquisition opportunities.”

The main motion and amendment were withdrawn by unanimous consent of Council.

Moved By Councillor Klassen
Seconded By Councillor Sampson

That Council DIRECTS Administration to continue long-term riverfront planning within City limits, including:

1. developing a more detailed plan for consideration at a future Strategic Planning meeting following the 2026 General Local Election; and
2. considering the long-term riverfront vision when evaluating potential land acquisition opportunities.
3. financial considerations, regulatory tools, and partnerships as described in the report dated August 24, 2026 from the Director of Planning and Development, titled “Nechako and Fraser River Riverfront Update.”

Carried Unanimously

. F.10 Correspondence received September 1, 2026 from Crystal Hudyma, including a Petition of 72 Signatures: Budget Enhancement Request to Address Student Transportation Safety Concerns in Valleyview Subdivision

Moved By Councillor Bennett
Seconded By Councillor Klassen

That Council REFERS to Administration the correspondence dated September 1, 2026 from Crystal Hudyma to report back to Council on potential budget enhancements and work required to address student transportation safety concerns in the Valleyview subdivision.

Carried Unanimously

D. REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF CIVIC OPERATIONS – BLAKE MCINTOSH

D.5 Active Transportation Plan

Moved By Councillor Polillo
Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council APPROVES the Prince George Active Transportation Plan, as attached to the report dated August 24, 2026 from the Director of Civic Operations, titled “Active Transportation Plan”.

Carried Unanimously

Moved By Councillor Scott
Seconded By Councillor Ramsay

That Council REFERS to the Council following the 2026 General Local Election the consideration of establishing a council committee addressing active transportation.

Carried Unanimously

DIRECTOR OF CIVIC FACILITIES AND EVENTS – ANDY BEESLEY

D.6 Proposed Changes to Council Policy on Multiyear Funding Grants

Moved By Councillor Ramsay

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council

1. APPROVES amending the Council Policy on Multiyear Funding Grants as shown on the redlined version of the policy attached to the report dated August 25, 2026 from the Director of Civic Facilities & Events, titled “Proposed Changes to Council Policy on Multiyear Funding Grants”, including removal of Stream B: Limited Duration Operating grants (LDOG), effective January 1, 2027;
2. APPROVES implementing an Urgent Needs Grant funded through the previously approved \$50,000 Community Grants Program enhancement allocation;
3. APPROVES four-year funding terms for all multiyear funding agreement holders listed on the document titled “Multiyear Funding Grant Agreement Recipients 2026” attached to the report dated August 25, 2026 from the Director of Civic Facilities & Events, titled “Proposed Changes to Council Policy on Multiyear Funding Grants”, effective January 1, 2027, with funding remaining subject to Council approval through the annual budget process; and
4. DIRECTS Administration to report back to Council following a one-year pilot of the Urgent Needs Grant and the advantages and disadvantages of a time-limited intake period compared with ongoing intake throughout the year and the consideration of opening applications to the grant to all non-profit organizations.

Carried Unanimously

COUNCILLOR TRUDY KLASSEN

D.1 Capital Project Priorities

Moved By Councillor Ramsay

Seconded By Councillor Bennett

That Council POSTPONES consideration of agenda item D.1 – Capital Project Priorities to the September 23, 2026 regular Council meeting.

Carried Unanimously

COUNCILLOR CORI RAMSAY AND COUNCILLOR TIM BENNETT

D.2 Urban Hive Allowances

Moved By Councillor Ramsay
Seconded By Councillor Bennett

Whereas the current Animal Control Bylaw No. 8898 does not specify beekeeping activities as neither allowable or unallowable,

And whereas ‘bees’ are not defined in the livestock definition and have been interpreted as allowable;

Therefore be it resolved, that council DIRECT administration to return with a bylaw amendment that would allow an unspecified number of hives on single family residential properties within city limits regardless of whether parcels are located on ALR lands.

Carried

Mayor Yu and Councillor Klassen opposed.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – COUNCILLOR
GARTH FRIZZELL, CHAIR**

D.3 Public Inquiry into B.C.’s Forest and Wildfire Management

Moved By Councillor Skakun
Seconded By Councillor Sampson

That Council:

1. APPROVES the resolution in the report dated August 18, 2026 from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, titled “Public Inquiry into B.C.’s Forest and Wildfire Management” to the Union of BC Municipalities requesting the Province establish a public inquiry under the Public Inquiry Act; and
2. REQUESTS the Mayor forward a letter including the resolution to the Premier, Minister of Forests and Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

Carried Unanimously

D.4 Prince George, Canada’s Northern Inland Port

Moved By Councillor Sampson
Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That Council APPROVES in-principle support for the proposal as set out in MLA Bird’s presentation attached to the report dated August 18, 2026, titled “Prince George, Canada’s Northern Inland Port” and include it as part of the City’s advocacy toolkit.

Carried Unanimously

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – DEANNA WASNIK

D.7 Development Variance Permit Application No. VP2026-29

Applicant: Mehsem Holding Ltd., Inc. No. 450385

Location: 2239 Croft Road

Documents for Council's consideration include:

1. Staff report dated August 24, 2026 from the Director of Planning and Development, titled "Development Variance Permit Application No. VP2026-29";
 - a. Location and Existing Zoning Map;
 - b. Development Variance Permit No. VP2026-29;
 - c. Exhibit "A" to VP2026-29;
 - d. Supporting documents:
 - i. Rationale Letter.

Correspondence for Council's consideration include:

1. Correspondence received on August 31, 2026 from Mike Godfrey in opposition to the application;
2. Correspondence received on August 31, 2026 from Darrell Orosz in opposition to the application;
3. Correspondence received on September 1, 2026 from Mike Godfrey in opposition to the application; and
4. Correspondence dated September 3, 2026 from Vanessa Godfrey noting concerns regarding the application.
5. Correspondence dated September 3, 2026 from Celia James in opposition to the application;
6. Correspondence received September 8, 2026 from Mike Godfrey noting concerns regarding the application;
7. Correspondence dated September 4, 2026 from Makhan Dhillon, Mehsem Holding Ltd. regarding the application; and
8. Correspondence dated September 4, 2026 from Jim and Gayle Hesse in opposition to the application.

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Polillo

That Council:

1. APPROVES Development Variance Permit No. VP2026-29 to vary "City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007" for the property legally described as Lot

A, District Lot 4046, Cariboo District, Plan 28244 (PID 006-077-013) as follows:

- a. Vary Section 10.1.5 8. by Decreasing the minimum rear yard setback of a principal building from 6.0 m to 1.17 m, as shown on Exhibit “A” to VP2026-29.
2. PERMITS that issuance of Development Variance Permit No. VP2026-29 BE WITHHELD until the following requirement has been met to the satisfaction of administration:
 - a. Receipt of security in the amount of 120% of the cost of the landscaping works identified on Exhibit “A”.

Carried

Mayor Yu, Councillor Sampson, and Councillor Skakun opposed.

E. BYLAWS - FINAL READING AND ADOPTION

E.1 City of Prince George Restrictive Covenant Discharge Bylaw No. 9580, 2025

Moved By Councillor Polillo

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council GRANTS FINAL READING AND ADOPTION of “City of Prince George Restrictive Covenant Discharge Bylaw No. 9580, 2025”.

Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE

- F.1 Correspondence dated August 26, 2026 from Owen Marshall: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance
- F.2 Correspondence dated August 27, 2026 from Bruce Wayne: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance
- F.3 Correspondence dated August 27, 2026 from Andy Pratt: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance
- F.4 Correspondence dated August 31, 2026 from Amelia Merrick: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance
- F.5 Correspondence dated August 31, 2026 from Barry Clark, President, PG Beekeepers Association: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance
- F.6 Correspondence dated August 11, 2026 from Julie Maitland, Mayor, Village of Hazelton: Letter in Support of the City of Prince George’s UBCM Resolution regarding the Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant
- F.7 Correspondence dated August 28, 2026 from Danielle Veach, Mayor, Village of

Pouce Coupe: Letter in Support of the City of Prince George's UBCM Resolution regarding the Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant

- F.8 Correspondence dated May 19, 2026 from Lara Beckett, Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors: Letter in Support of the City of Prince George's UBCM Resolution regarding the Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant**
- F.9 Correspondence dated July 20, 2026 from Linda McGuire, Mayor, Village of Granisle: Letter in Support of the City of Prince George's UBCM Resolution regarding the Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant**
- F.11 Correspondence dated September 2, 2026 from Sean Rickards: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance**
- F.12 Correspondence dated September 2, 2026 from Barry Pages, Chair, North Coast Regional District: Letter in Support of the City of Prince George's UBCM Resolution regarding the Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant**
- F.13 Correspondence dated September 2, 2026 from Martin Elphee, Mayor, District of Fort St. James: Letter in Support of the City of Prince George's UBCM Resolution regarding the Northern-Rural Homeowners Grant**
- F.14 Correspondence dated September 6, 2026 from Lisa-Ann Marshall: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance**
- F.15 Correspondence dated September 7, 2026 from Colin Hamilton: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance**
- F.16 Correspondence dated September 7, 2026 from Dawn Cowie: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance**
- F.17 Correspondence dated September 4, 2026 from Erin Connelly, Executive Director, Rotary Hospice House: Request for a Letter of Support regarding Northern Health Funding**

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Skakun

That Council REQUESTS the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the Rotary Hospice House regarding Northern Health funding, as described in the correspondence dated September 4, 2026 from Erin Connelly, Executive Director, Rotary Hospice House.

Carried Unanimously

- F.18 Correspondence received on September 8, 2026 from Shelley Proctor: Letter in opposition to the Urban Bee Hives Allowance**
- F.19 Correspondence dated September 8, 2026 from the Everyone At the Table**

collective (EAT): Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance

F.20 Correspondence dated September 3, 2026 from Dr. Byron Silver: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance

F.21 Correspondence dated September 3, 2026 from Shauna Russell: Letter of Support for Urban Bee Hives Allowance

Moved By Councillor Polillo

Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION correspondence items F.1 to F.21.

Carried Unanimously

G. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Polillo

Seconded By Councillor Sampson

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

Carried Unanimously

THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 9:04 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON

CERTIFIED CORRECT