

**Special Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

**January 26, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**

**Council Chambers of the Municipal Office**

**1 Mackenzie Boulevard, Mackenzie, BC**

Council Present: Mayor J. Atkinson, Councillor A. Barnes, Councillor V. Brumovsky, Councillor P. Kylo, Councillor R. McMeeken, Councillor K. Tapper, Councillor J. Wright

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer D. Smith, Chief Financial Officer K. Borne, Director of Operations J. Murray, Fire Chief J. Guise, Director of Recreation Services T. Gilmer, Director of Corporate Services E. Kaehn, Finance Manager W. Peterson, Legislative Clerk/Executive Assistant, C. Smith

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 pm.

*Mayor Atkinson acknowledged the land on which we gather is within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.*

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Resolution: 34090**

**Moved by:** Councillor Wright

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. 2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION - OPERATIONS**

Chief Financial Officer Kerri Born gave a presentation of the 2026 General Operations Budget.

Jessica McDonald, Resident, asked why a temporary position for an Economic Development Assistant has been advertised when the District is looking to save money due to a shortfall of property tax revenue. Director of Corporate Services, Emily Kaehn, responded that the position is partially grant funded. Ms. Kaehn also stated that hiring an additional Economic Development staff member to help expedite projects that support investment attraction and the District's tourism development activities, and that

Council had voted in favour of creating the position at an earlier meeting as a pilot project/initiative (December 9, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council).

Shannon Bezo, Resident, asked if the community would get to “vote” on their preferences for increased taxes, and reduced services, similar to last year’s budget survey. Chief Financial Officer Kerri Borne responded the District did not engage in a 2026 budget survey, but the public has the opportunity to comment on the proposed tax rate increase during the Community Budget Consultation at 6:30 pm following the Provisional Budget presentation on Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Tax rate increases are not final until Council gives the first three readings or adopts the Financial Plan Bylaw and Property Tax Rate Bylaw late April or early May. The District is not proposing to reduce any additional services for the 2026 budget.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution: 34091**

**Moved by:** Councillor Wright

THAT the meeting adjourns at 6:58 pm.

**CARRIED**

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Mayor

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Corporate Officer