

Regular Council Meeting

Minutes

March 23, 2026, 7:15 p.m.

Council Chambers of the Municipal Office

1 Mackenzie Boulevard, Mackenzie, BC

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

Council Absent: Councillor A. Barnes

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer D. Smith, Chief Financial Officer K. Borne,
Fire Chief J. Guise, Director of Recreation Services T. Gilmer (virtual),
Director of Corporate Services E. Kaehn, Deputy Fire Chief L. Thorne,
Economic Development Coordinator R. Richman, Legislative
Clerk/Executive Assistant, C. Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:18 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 MINUTES

2.1 Special Meeting- February 23, 2026

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 23, 2026 were adopted as presented.

2.2 Special Meeting- February 23, 2026

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 23, 2026 were adopted as presented.

2.3 Committee of the Whole - February 23, 2026

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on February 23, 2026 were adopted as presented.

2.4 Regular Meeting - February 23, 2026

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 23, 2026 were adopted as amended.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

Resolution: 34148

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the following late items be added to the agenda;

7. CORRESPONDENCE

For Action:

7.1.5 Request for Support - Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association (MORATA)

Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association is requesting a letter of support for their application to the South Peace Mackenzie Trust for the Morfee Mountain Phase 3 Expansion. A sample letter has been provided.

CARRIED

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Resolution: 34149

Moved by: Councillor Tapper

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Shannon Bezo is available to speak to items 7.1.2 and noted that she hoped Council will discuss and support 7.2.1 and 7.2.2

6. **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

6.1 Mackenzie Outdoor Community Centre Proposal

Ryan and Korina Lucas presented to Mayor and Council their proposal for a cover for the Outdoor Rink outside of the Recreation Centre to increase the use and accessibility.

Resolution: 34150

Moved by: Mayor Atkinson

THAT the District of Mackenzie provide a letter of support in principle, for the establishment of an Outdoor Community Centre as proposed in their presentation and letter.

CARRIED

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Resolution: 34151

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT the Correspondence listed on the Agenda be received.

CARRIED

7.1 For Action:

7.1.1 Request for Support - Mackenzie Community Services

Resolution: 34152

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the District of Mackenzie provide a letter of support to Mackenzie Community Services for their application to the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Community Benefits stream for a community Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness event.

CARRIED

Resolution: 34153

Moved by: Councillor Tapper

THAT Mackenzie Community Services may utilize the front area at the Mackenzie Recreation Centre as well as Spirit Square for a community Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness event on September 9, 2026, AND THAT staff bring back a report report outlining the cost of utilizing the Sas Da'Ghe room for the event.

CARRIED

Resolution: 34154

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT the Mackenzie Recreation Centre is illuminated in red for September 8, and 9, 2026 to bring awareness to the Red Shoes Rock campaign.

CARRIED

7.1.2 Request for Support - Mackenzie Community Services

Resolution: 34155

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT the District of Mackenzie provide a letter of support to Mackenzie Community Services Application to the RBC Barrier Buster Grant presented by the Rick Hansen Foundation to help create a more accessible environment in their new office space.

CARRIED

7.1.3 Request for Support - Mackenzie Minor Hockey Association

Resolution: 34156

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT Council approve the waiver of fees for use of the Community Hall, for the Mackenzie Minor Hockey Association Banquet on April 18, 2026, excluding additional staff time costs.

CARRIED

7.1.4 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) 2026 Membership Dues

Resolution: 34157

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT the District pay the 2026 Union of BC Municipalities UBCM membership dues in the amount of \$2,815.02.

CARRIED

7.1.5 Request for Support - Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association (MORATA)

Resolution: 34158

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT the District of Mackenzie provide a letter of support to Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association (MORATA) for their application to the South Peace Mackenzie Trust (SMPT) to help fund the Morfee Mountain Expansion Phase 3.

CARRIED

7.2 For Consideration:

7.2.1 2026 North Central Local Government Association Resolution Co - Sponsors

Resolution: 34159

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the District co-sponsor the following 2026 NCLGA resolution submitted by the City of Dawson Creek:

"Improved Access to Publicly Funded Mental Health Services

WHEREAS local governments experience increasing pressures on emergency services, policing, bylaw enforcement, homelessness response, and community safety systems associated with gaps in timely and accessible mental health services;

AND WHEREAS access to counselling and other mental health supports is often dependent on private insurance coverage, employer benefits, session limits, or out-of-pocket costs, creating barriers to equitable access, particularly in rural and northern communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia take steps to improve access to universal, publicly funded mental health services, including counselling and related supports, with a focus on early intervention and prevention."

CARRIED

7.2.5 Request for Support - District of 100 Mile House

Resolution: 34160

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the District of Mackenzie provide a letter of support for the District of 100 Mile House NCLGA resolution #2:

"Expansion of Support for Medical Professional Services

WHEREAS there is significant and on-going shortages of healthcare professionals in the South Cariboo and across communities in Northern Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)

AND WHEREAS Efforts have been made in some healthcare professions, many other healthcare professions need attention for the overall wellbeing of residents in small, rural, and remote location;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA, in collaboration with the Union of British Columbia (UBCM), advocate to the Provincial Government for increased educational training seats in any appropriate college/university;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA, in collaboration with the Union of British Columbia (UBCM), advocate to the Provincial Government look to reduce any barriers in accessing those training seats and create incentives to encourage healthcare professionals to practice in rural areas."

CARRIED

7.2.8 Request for Support - BC Coastal Marine Strategy

Resolution: 34161

Moved by: Mayor Atkinson

THAT the District of Mackenzie provide a letter of support for the BC Coastal Marine Strategy and its enshrinement into law.

Opposed (3): Councillor Brumovsky, Councillor P. Kylo, and Councillor McMeeken

Absent (1): Councillor Barnes

DEFEATED (3 to 3)

7.2.9 Northern Angel Summit 2026 Media Kit

Resolution: 34162

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT the District share the Northern Angel Summit to the District website and social media to promote the program to any resident who may benefit.

CARRIED

7.3 Centre Table File

7.3.1 Comprehensive Appraisal Report - 4850 Coquiwaldie Road

7.3.2 Comprehensive Appraisal Report - 1 Hunter Road

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8.1 2026 NCLGA Resolutions

Resolution: 34164

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT Council submit the following resolution to the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) for consideration at the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM):

Northern and Rural Home Owner Grant

WHEREAS effective January 1, 2027 the BC Government will repeal the \$200 Northern and Rural Home Owner Benefit that helps offset the additional costs associated with living in rural BC;

AND WHEREAS in the last decade, northern and rural communities have been disproportionately challenged with the rising cost of living due to the economic downturn in the forestry industry resulting from the loss of appurtenancy, downsizing and closure of post-secondary campuses, inflationary prices of groceries, heating, and travel for routine and specialist healthcare, the impacts of natural disasters such as forest fires and flooding, in addition to other distinctly rural and northern challenges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to reverse its recent decision to repeal the Northern and Rural Home Owner Benefit starting in tax year 2027 to recognize the ongoing and unique economic challenges BC rural and northern communities are facing.

CARRIED

Resolution: 34163

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT the Northern Rural Home Owner Grant resolution be amended to remove the word "appurtenancy".

Opposed (3): Mayor Atkinson Councillor J. Wright, and Councillor K. Tapper

Absent (1): Councillor Barnes

DEFEATED

Resolution: 34165

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT the Class 5 Digital Infrastructure NCLGA resolution is amended to include the word "include" and amended to say "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia and BC Assessment to include high - energy digital infrastructure, including but not limited to AI cryptocurrency mining facilities in Utilities or Class 5 Industry.

CARRIED

Resolution: 34166

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the District of Mackenzie send both NCLGA and UBCM resolutions to the NCLGA committee to seek co-sponsorship.

CARRIED

8.2 2026 Utilities Provisional Capital and Operating Budgets

Resolution: 34167

Moved by: Councillor P. Kylo

THAT Council approve the 2026 Utilities Provisional Capital and Operating Budgets;

AND THAT staff proceed with an 11% water rate increase, a 11% sewer rate increase, a 1.5% rate increase for residential garbage and a 4% rate increase for commercial garbage.

CARRIED

8.3 Concession Lease Agreement

Resolution: 34168

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT Council awards the concession lease agreement to Fry Daddy's for a period of three years effective from June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2029 with the option of a two-year extension if mutually agreed;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the contract and any related documentation.

CARRIED

8.4 Evan Bichon Recognition

Resolution: 34169

Moved by: Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Little Mac Ski Hill Chalet will be renamed the Evan Bichon Chalet to honour Mackenzie athlete and olympian Evan Bichon.

CARRIED

- 8.5 2026 Public Notification and Emergency Route Planning Grant
Resolution: 34170
Moved by: Councillor Tapper
THAT Council supports an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Public Notification and Emergency Route Planning grant for up to \$40,000;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the grant and any related documentation should the application be successful.
CARRIED
- 8.6 2026 Community Resiliency Investment Grant Application
Resolution: 34171
Moved by: Councillor Wright
THAT Council supports an application to the 2026 Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Grant Program through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for up to \$200,000;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the grant and if successful, any related documentation.
CARRIED
- 8.7 Resolution of Support – Local Government Development Approvals Program
Resolution: 34172
Moved by: Councillor McMeeken
THAT Council supports an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Local Government Development Approvals grant program for up to \$200,000 for the Modernizing Mackenzie’s Development Services project which will include a digitization component to align with the BC Building Hub and an update of the District of Mackenzie’s Subdivision Bylaw 780, 1993;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the grant and any related documentation should the application be successful.
CARRIED
- 8.8 RTC – Short Term Rentals
Resolution: 34173
Moved by: Councillor Wright
THAT Council receive this report for information.
CARRIED

8.9 Property Sale and Price Approvals

Resolution: 34174

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT Council approves the minimum sale price of \$140,000 for 4850 Coquiwaldie Road in the District's Industrial Subdivision, legally described as Lot 10, District Lot 3673, Cariboo District Plan, EPP36375;

AND THAT Council approves the minimum sale price of \$25,000 for 1 Hunter Road, legally described as LOT 33, PLAN PGP22048, DISTRICT LOT 3673, CARIBOO LAND;

AND THAT 1 Hunter Road is advertised and sold through both local realtor companies, Century 21 and Royal LePage, under the same agreement as approved for Bell Place subdivision lots in Delegation Bylaw No. 1332, 2016.

Opposed (1): Councillor P. Kylo

CARRIED

8.10 2026-2030 RCMP Detachment Occupancy Renewal Agreement

Resolution: 34175

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT Council approves the RCMP Detachment Occupancy Renewal Agreement for a term of five (5) years commencing on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2030;

AND THAT Council authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the agreement.

CARRIED

9. COUNCIL REPORTS

9.1 Mayor's Report

Mayor Atkinson provided a written report.

9.2 Council Reports

Councillor Kylo provided a verbal report. Councillors Brumovsky and Wright provided written reports.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

11. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution: 34176

Moved by: Councillor P. Kylo

THAT Council direct staff to reach out to Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Director Grace McGregor to obtain information and insight on how other communities manage data processing centres, particularly in the absence of a dedicated water policy or bylaw, in order to support staff research and inform future Council discussions related to AI data centre water use.

CARRIED

Resolution: 34177

Moved by: Mayor Atkinson

THAT Council approve the Mayor's request to send a letter to the Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests, regarding recent reductions to FireSmart program funding, outlining the importance of continued FireSmart work in Mackenzie and extending an invitation for the Minister to visit the community to view completed wildfire mitigation projects.

CARRIED

Resolution: 34178

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report outlining a proposed policy framework for the naming and dedication of District facilities, rooms, and other municipal assets, to support a consistent, transparent, and well-defined process for future naming considerations.

CARRIED

Resolution: 34179

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT Council approve Councillor Jesse Wright's request to represent the District of Mackenzie at an upcoming meeting with Progressive Intercultural Community Services to discuss matters of mutual interest and gather information relevant to the community.

Opposed (2): Mayor Atkinson, and Councillor McMeeken

Absent (1): Councillor Barnes

CARRIED (4 to 2)

Resolution: 34180

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a proposed policy governing non-profit use of the Mackenzie Recreation Centre, to establish a consistent and transparent process for evaluating requests and to assist both the District and non-profit organizations in planning and budgeting.

CARRIED

12. BYLAWS

N/A

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

N/A

14. COMING EVENTS

14.1 Easter Weekend Facility Hours

14.2 Powder King Northern Edge

15. INQUIRIES

N/A

16. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution: 34181

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT the meeting adjourns at 9:09 pm.

CARRIED

Mayor

Corporate Officer