



**VILLAGE OF SAYWARD
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Village of Sayward respectfully acknowledges that the land we gather on is on the unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Present: Mayor Mark Baker (via Teams)
Councillor Scott Burchett
Councillor Debbie Coates (via Teams)
Councillor Jason Johnson - Meeting Chair
Councillor Sue Poulsen

In Attendance: Andrew Young, CAO/CO
Jennifer Redshaw, Office Administrator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

2. Public Input

- a) Neil MacDougall of 309-611 MacMillan Drive shared an update regarding the Ombudsperson's new 2026 guidelines for open meetings, specifically that councils should narrow the reasons given for going In-Camera, rather than using a multitude of Community Charter sections, to foster public transparency
- b) Maureen Haslehurst of 520 MacMillan Drive submitted a letter of complaint regarding the behaviour of Cllr Burchett at the December 16, 2025 meeting of council. She stated that his behaviour warrants censure and he should be forbidden to attend council meetings in person. Ms. Haslehurst also recommended that Cllr Burchett participate in anger management training, at his own expense, and requested he write a letter of apology to all who were present at the Council meeting on December 16, 2025.

3. Introduction of Late Items – None

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION R26/1

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council for **January 13, 2026**, be approved as presented.

Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen

CARRIED

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOTION R26/2

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes from the **Regular Council Meeting** held on **December 2, 2025**, be adopted as presented.

No vote was taken

MOTION R26/3

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes from the **Regular Council Meeting** held on **December 2, 2025**, be adopted as amended.

Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen

CARRIED

The amendment was only to note that Cllr Burchett and Cllr Poulsen were opposed to Resolution R25/300 (Revenue Anticipation Bylaw) made on December 2, 2025.

MOTION R26/4

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes from the **Special Council Meeting** held on **December 16, 2025**, be adopted as presented.

Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen

CARRIED

6. Petitions and Delegations – None

7. Correspondence

a) Darryl Lyons letter to Council – dated January 6-2026

b) Jacalyn Lyons letter to Council – dated January 7-2026

MOTION R26/5

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT correspondence a) and b) be removed from the agenda.

Opposed Mayor Baker, Cllr Coates, Cllr Johnson

DEFEATED

c) Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) 2025 Advocacy and Regional District Legislative Reform Update dated December 17-2025

- d) Request for Council Support – BC Coastal Marine Strategy dated December 4-2025

MOTION R26/6

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT consideration of support for the BC Coastal Marine Strategy be deferred to the next meeting.

No vote was taken

8. Council Reports – None

9. Reports of Committees – None

10. Mayor’s Report – None

11. Unfinished Business – None

12. Staff Reports

- a) **Bylaw 519 – Five Year Financial Plan Amendment**

MOTION R26/7

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 519, 2025 be given first, second, and third readings.

Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen

CARRIED

13. Emergency Services/Public Works/Recreation Department Reports – None

14. Bylaws

- a) **Council Procedure Bylaw 416-2015 Amendment**

MOTION R26/8

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 518, 2026 be adopted.

Opposed Cllr Burchett

CARRIED

15. New Business – None

16. Public Question Period

- a) Milena Gradisar of 261 Ambleside Drive recounted some of the dialogue of the December 16, 2025 council meeting for the benefit of people in the gallery who were not in attendance at that meeting. Ms. Gradisar also stated that she plans to write a letter to Council, CAO Young, and the media.
- b) Lee Ettinger of 220 Sayward Heights shared her personal disappointment that Council has deferred the consideration of the BC Coastal Marine Strategy. She believes this group should be met with the same enthusiasm as the fish farm industry.
- c) Art Bowbrick of 77 Kelsey Lane said he would also like to see a copy of the BC Coastal Marine Strategy.

- d) Melissa Holmes of 611 MacMillan Drive voiced her disgust that a Council member would compare council meeting banter to sexual harassment.
- e) Maureen Haslehurst of 520 MacMillan Drive referenced Council resolution R25/19 regarding the possible expansion of secondary ATV routes in the village. Ms. Haslehurst noted that Sayward is a location on the 1000 km North Island off-road track, and that expanding and advertising secondary ATV routes would help make Sayward a destination, resulting in increased campground revenue.

17. In Camera - None

18. Adjournment

MOTION R26/9

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Village of Sayward Council adjourns its January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting.

CARRIED

Time: 8:01pm.

Original Signed by "M.Baker"
Mayor

Original Signed by "A.Young"
Corporate Officer