



**VILLAGE OF SAYWARD
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 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
Councillor Scott Burchett
Councillor Debbie Coates (via Teams)
Councillor Jason Johnson
Councillor Sue Poulsen

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

2. Public Input - None

3. Introduction of Late Items - None

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION R26/10

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council for **January 27, 2026**, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Note: The minutes from the Regular Council meeting held on December 2, 2025 were adopted with amendments at the January 13, 2026 Regular Council meeting. However, upon subsequent review of the video recording, it was determined that the amendments were not accurate.

Cllr Burchett recused himself from approval of meeting minutes at 7:02pm.

MOTION R26/11

MOVED AND SECONDED

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

Opposed Cllr Poulsen CARRIED

MOTION R26/12

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes from the **Special Council Meeting** held on **January 11, 2026**, be adopted as presented.

Opposed Cllr Poulsen CARRIED

MOTION R26/13

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes from the **Regular Council Meeting** held on **January 13, 2026**, be adopted as presented.

Opposed Cllr Poulsen CARRIED

Cllr Burchett returned to the meeting at 7:04pm.

6. Petitions and Delegations – None

7. Correspondence

- a) Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) letter to Municipal Partners regarding tipping fee increase, dated January 8-2026
- b) Cops for Cancer 2025 Impact Report
- c) Rural Coordination Centre BC

MOTION R26/14

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to forward the Rural Coordination Centre of BC correspondence to local BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and the Sayward Health Clinic.

Opposed Cllr Burchett CARRIED

- d) Heritage BC - Heritage Week February 16 – 22, 2026

MOTION R26/15

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Village of Sayward declare February 16-22, 2026 Heritage Week.

CARRIED

8. Council Reports – None

9. Reports of Committees – None

10. Mayor's Report – None

11. Unfinished Business

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

MOTION R26/16

MOVED AND SECONDED

WHEREAS in July 2024, following extensive consultation with First Nations and stakeholders, the Province of British Columbia released its first ever Coastal Marine Strategy, providing a 20-year vision of a “diverse, productive and resilient coastal marine environment that is valued in its own right and that supports the prosperity, health and well-being of coastal communities now and into the future”;

WHEREAS the Coastal Marine Strategy details nine important goals (diverse marine life; abundant wild Pacific Salmon; a clean coast; climate-ready communities; a sustainable coastal economy; vibrant coastal communities; trusting, respectful relationships; a robust tool kit; and integrated and balanced management), but does not have the force of law, and codifying the Strategy into law would support its success and longevity rather than leaving it dependent on the priorities of the government of the day:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Mayor to urge the Provincial Government to enshrine the BC Coastal Marine Strategy into law.

Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen

CARRIED

12. Staff Reports

a) Financial Plan 2026-2030 Proposed New Schedule

MOTION R26/17

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approve the following new dates for Committee of the Whole meetings for Financial Planning purposes:

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6 pm

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6 pm

Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 6 pm

Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen

CARRIED

b) Video Recording Council Meetings – Reconsideration of Council Resolution

MOTION R26/18

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council consider rescinding resolution R24/T75.

CARRIED

MOTION R26/19

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council directs staff to resume posting video recordings of Village of Sayward open Council meetings to YouTube as soon as practicable.

CARRIED

c) 2026 Growing Canada's Community Canopies Regional Grant Application

MOTION R26/20

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Village of Sayward Council support the Strathcona Regional District's application to the 2026 Growing Canada's Community Canopies grant fund to complete a regional equity-focused tree planting prioritization study.

CARRIED

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

Direction to staff to request reports from the RCMP and Fire Department.

14. Bylaws

Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 519, 2025

MOTION R26/21

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 519, 2025 be adopted.

Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen

CARRIED

15. New Business

Sayward Futures Society – Request for Destination BC Sponsor Confirmation Letter

Cllr Johnson recused himself from the meeting at 7:15pm.

Mayor Baker questioned Cllr Burchett whether he had a conflict-of-interest respecting Sayward Futures Society's request matters and if Cllr Burchett should recuse himself that he recuse himself.

A recess was called at 7:17pm.

At 7:38pm Cllr Burchett left Council Chambers. Cllr Poulsen left the meeting at 7:39pm.

Mayor Baker called the meeting back to order at 7:39pm.

Quorum was not met for this topic so the Sayward Futures Society's request for Destination BC Sponsor Confirmation Letter was not considered.

Cllr Johnson returned to the meeting at 7:41pm.

16. Public Question Period

- a) Jackie Lyons of 291 Ambleside Drive encouraged council members to be professional and respectful.

17. In Camera

MOTION R26/22

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT in accordance with Section 92 of the Community Charter, this Council meeting will be closed to the public at this time in order that Council may give consideration to matters in accordance with the following sections of the Community Charter:

- a) 90(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations.
- b) 90(1)(j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- c) 90(1)(m) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting.

CARRIED

Mayor Baker called a meeting recess at 7:44pm.

Mayor Baker recalled the meeting to order at 8:01 pm.

18. Adjournment

MOTION R26/23

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Village of Sayward Council adjourns its January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting.

CARRIED

Time: 8:18pm.

Original Signed by "M.Baker"
Mayor

Original Signed by "A.Young"
Corporate Officer