



**VILLAGE OF SAYWARD  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
February 24, 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  
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**

- a) Lee Ettinger of 220 Sayward Heights inquired what the line item on the proposed budget of General Investment Income consists of.

CAO Young replied that he believes it is interest income and that he would look into it further.

**3. Introduction of Late Items**

Mayor Baker requested a Mayors Report be added to the agenda, and that it be moved to appear before Minutes of Previous Meetings.

**MOTION R26/37**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT a Mayor's Report be added to the agenda prior to the Minutes of Previous Meetings.

**Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen**

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION R26/38**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council for **February 24, 2026**, be approved as amended.

**Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen**

**CARRIED**

**5. Mayors Report**

Mayor Baker’s report focused on a CHEK News story about the Village of Sayward that was broadcast on February 22, 2026. Mayor Baker asked Councillor Burchett a series of questions about the broadcast which the Councillor declined to answer. The Mayor then stated – in his opinion – that Councillor Burchett’s actions were in violation of the Council Code of Conduct. For reference, the questions that Mayor Baker asked Councillor Burchett follow:

- a) Councillor Burchett, did you seek authorization from Village of Sayward Council to speak to CHEK News reporters before you made statements to CHEK News on Thursday, February 19, 2026?
- b) Councillor Burchett, did you inform CHEK News reporter, Kendall Hanson, or anyone at CHEK News that the purpose for the sought financial forensic audit by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs is to “uncover if there’s been fraud, embezzlement, or other financial misconduct for potential use in legal proceedings”?
- c) Councillor Burchett, did you review the current Council Code of Conduct before you spoke to Kendall Hanson or anyone at CHEK News before you made statements to CHEK News on Thursday, February 19, 2026? In particular, did you review Sections 26, 14 (and Section 3(1) and 8(5) of Appendix “A”), and Section 13(b)(v) of the current Council Code of Conduct?

**MOTION R26/39**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT Council receives the Mayors Report.

**Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen**

**CARRIED**

**6. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**MOTION R26/40**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the minutes from the **Regular Council Meeting** held on **January 27, 2026**, be adopted as presented.

**Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION R26/41**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the minutes from the **Regular Council Meeting** held on **February 10, 2026**, be adopted as presented.

**Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION R26/42**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the minutes from the **Committee of the Whole Meeting** held on **February 17, 2026**, be adopted as presented.

**Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen**

**CARRIED**

**7. Petitions and Delegations – None**

**8. Correspondence – None**

**9. Council Reports – None**

**10. Reports of Committees – None**

**11. Unfinished Business - None**

**12. Staff Reports**

**a) 2026 Local Government Elections**

**MOTION R26/43**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

1. THAT Andrew Young, CAO, be appointed Chief Election Officer for the 2026 Local Government Election, with power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of the 2026 Local Government Election pursuant to Section 58 of the Local Government Act; and,
2. THAT Jennifer Redshaw, Office Administrator, be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 Local Government Election.

**Opposed Cllr Burchett, Cllr Poulsen**

**CARRIED**

**b) Sayward Official Community Plan – Potential Project**

**MOTION R26/44**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the Sayward Official Community Plan (OCP) – Potential Project be tabled; and,  
THAT staff confirm the timelines of the Housing Initiatives Grant and whether it can be re-scoped to allow for an OCP comprehensive review; and,  
THAT staff obtain another quote from a second consultant; and,  
THAT staff reports on what stage of completion the draft OCP is in and how much money has been spent so far.

**Opposed Cllr Johnson**

**CARRIED**

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

**14. Bylaws – None**

**15. New Business - None**

**16. Public Question Period**

- a) Milena Gradisar 261 Ambleside commented that Mayor Baker had an issue with a recent CHEK News media interview. Ms. Gradisar inquired whether she needed permission prior to speaking with the media.
- b) Lee Ettinger, 220 Sayward Heights, agreed that the OCP review discussion should be delayed, and she believes that the OCP review puts the cart before the horse since there may not even be a village to have an OCP in the future. Ms. Ettinger believes that the grant money could be better spent on local housing initiatives rather than academic reports.
- c) Melissa Holmes of 611 MacMillan Drive wanted it noted that she was not removed from the council meeting on February 17, 2026. She said that the mayor did not ask her to leave the meeting but that she left on her own accord.
- d) Milena Gradisar of 261 Ambleside stated that there is a rumor in the community that one councillor is responsible for \$140,000 to \$280,000 in legal expenses, and if this is incorrect information it should be straightened out.
- e) Lee Ettinger of 220 Sayward Heights inquired if the public is allowed to know who on council voted to keep the financial details of legal costs in-camera.

CAO Young responded that Council members and staff are not permitted to discuss in-camera matters unless authorized to do so by Council resolution.

## 17. In Camera

### **MOTION R26/45**

#### **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)(d) the security of the property of the municipality;
- c) 90(1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;
- d) 90(1)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- e) 90(1)(l) discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [*annual municipal report*];
- f) 90(1)(m) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting;

**Opposed Cllr Burchett**

**CARRIED**

Mayor Baker called a recess at 8:05 pm.

Mayor Baker recalled the meeting to order at 8:19 pm.

**18. Adjournment**

**MOTION R26/46**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the Village of Sayward Council adjourns its February 24, 2026 Regular Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**Time: 10:21 pm**

Original signed by "M.Baker"  
Mayor

Original signed by "A.Young"  
Corporate Officer