

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

DATE: Tuesday, May 21, 2024
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Ed Wood
Councillor John Allen
Councillor Leo Facio
Councillor Allan Jackson
Councillor Michie Vidal

Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Chief Financial Officer, Scott Schultz
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.
Mayor Wood acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT notice of the May 21, 2024 Special Council Meeting be waived by unanimous vote of all council members pursuant to section 127(4) of the *Community Charter*.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
SC-2024-05-01

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Allen

THAT the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
SC-2024-05-02

*Village of Harrison Hot Springs
Minutes of the Special Council Meeting
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4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Verbal Report from Mayor Wood regarding State of Local Emergency

Mayor Wood reported that there is a significant threat of an interface fire in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, and he has therefore declared a State of Local Emergency pursuant to section 95(1) of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

The Corporate Officer read out the declaration of State of Local Emergency. Mayor Wood reported on the following:

- Sts'ailes has been engaged and a meeting with Chief Leon has been requested
- On May 17, 2024 Mayors across the province attended a Zoom meeting with the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
- There are currently 4850 people evacuated in the province due to wildfires
- Snowpack levels are low, rainfall is lower than average and there is a forecast of above seasonal temperatures
- The declaration is a proactive measure
- There can be 20,000 people in this resort community and no fuel management has been done to date
- Mayor Wood has signed two contracts

Council began to discuss the agreements that were entered into. Councillor Allen raised a point of order that the Mayor must be permitted to speak.

Mayor Wood continued to report on the following:

- Mayor Wood has entered into an agreement with Sensenet for early wildfire detection technology
- Mayor Wood has entered into an agreement with a Registered Professional Forester to clear a pathway of 50 metres along McCombs Drive from McPherson Road to approximately Cottonwood Avenue
- There have been seven local fires already this year

Moved by Councillor Allen
Seconded by Mayor Wood

THAT the Mayor's verbal report dated May 21, 2024 regarding the State of Local Emergency be received for information.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
SC-2024-05-03

Councillor Vidal advised that this appears to be a retaliatory action against a senior member of staff.

Councillor Allen raised a point of order that Council cannot discuss personnel in an open meeting.

5. **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

Moved by Councillor Allen
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT pursuant to section 90 and 92 of the *Community Charter*, this Special Meeting of Council be closed to the public as the subject matter being considered relates to the following:

- Section 90(1)(a) – personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;


CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
SC-2024-05-04


6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Allen
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:38 am to a Special Closed meeting.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
SC-2024-05-05


_____ for
Ed Wood
Mayor


_____ for
Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer