

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL

March 31, 2026

MINUTES

Present:

Mayor: Angela Adshead

Councillors: Pat Anderson
Gary Hughes
Jim Starchuk
Doug Wilcox
Stephen Ward

Absent: Rene Lafleur (with notice)

Staff: J. Allen, Interim Clerk-Treasurer
C. Beaudoin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

1. Call to Order

Mayor Adshead called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None

3. Public Meetings

None

4. Deputations/Delegation

None

5. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

RESOLUTION No. 2026-054

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated March 31, 2026 as approved.

CARRIED

6. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes

RESOLUTION No. 2026-055

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the following minutes as presented:

6.1 Regular Meeting of Council – March 3, 2026

6.2 Special Meeting of Council – March 10, 2026

6.3 Special Meeting of Council – March 24, 2026

CARRIED

March 31, 2026

7. Staff Reports

RESOLUTION No. 2026-056

MOVED BY: Councillor Ward

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the staff reports as presented.

7.1 By-Law Enforcement – February 2026

7.2 Staff Report 2026.03.31.01 – By-Law 2026-15 Amendment No. 9 to User Fee By-Law 2023-33

7.3 Staff Report 2026.03.31.02 – By-Law 2026-16 Elections Signs By-Law

CARRIED

8. Items for Council consideration

8.1 Ombudsman Investigation Final Report

RESOLUTION No. 2026-057

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council acknowledges receipt of the Ombudsman Investigation Report Final Report;

AND FURTHER THAT Council will post the Investigation Report on our website and have copies available for the public at the Municipal Office.

CARRIED

8.2 Tender to Purchase Municipal Property – 17 Argentite Street

RESOLUTION No. 2026-058

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ward

WHEREAS 17 Argentite Street was declared as surplus to municipal needs at the Regular Meeting of Council on September 19, 2023;

AND WHEREAS Council acknowledges receipt of the tender to Purchase Municipal Land for 17 Argentite Street by Jack Chang and Tianying Liu for \$1,054.00;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the sale of 17 Argentite Street to Jack Chang and Tianying Liu for \$1,054.00 plus applicable fees and directs staff to proceed with the necessary documents.

CARRIED

9. Items for Council information

RESOLUTION No. 2026-059

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the items for Council information as presented.

9.1 Northeastern Public Health - Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan 2025 Meeting Minutes

9.2 OCWA – Cobalt Wetlands 2025 Performance Review

CARRIED

10. **By-Laws and Agreements**

10.1 By-Law No. 2026-13 Tax Ratios for 2026

RESOLUTION No. 2026-060

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2026-13 being a By-Law to establish tax ratios for 2026 be taken as read a first, second and third time this 31st day of March, 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

10.2 By-Law No. 2026-14 Tax Rates for 2026

RESOLUTION No. 2026-061

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ward

WHEREAS at the Special Meeting of Council on March 24, 2026, the 2026 Budget was approved in the amount of \$4,346,492 which includes a Capital Budget of \$609,626 and an Operating Budget of \$3,736,866 and which requires a levy for municipal purposes in the amount of \$923,823;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2026-14 being a By-Law to provide for the adoption of the 2026 tax rate for Municipal and School purposes and to further provide penalty and interest for payments in default be taken as read a first, second and third time this 31st day of March, 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

10.3 Draft By-Law 2026-15 – Amendment No. 9 to User Fee By-Law 2023-33

(Staff Report 2026.03.31.01)

RESOLUTION No. 2026-062

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2026.03.31.01 which detailed a cost recovery analysis on user fees with the following recommendations:

1. Increase to Water Operating and Water Capital
2. Increase to Sewer Operating and Sewer Capital
3. Increase of \$40.00 to OPP and a new \$50.00 OPP Vacant Lot user fee

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2026-15 being a By-Law to adopt Amendment No. 9 to User Fee By-Law 2023-33 be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 31st day of March, 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

10.4 By-Law No. 2026-16 Elections Signs By-Law (Staff Report 2026.03.31.02)

RESOLUTION No. 2026-063

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ward

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2026.03.31.02;

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2026- 16 being a By-Law to regulate election signs within the Town of Cobalt be taken as read a first, second and third time this 31st day of March, 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

DEFERRED

11. Unfinished Business

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12. New Business

12.1 Schedule of Accounts

RESOLUTION No. 2026-064

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the following Schedules as presented:

Schedule No. 2026-04 in the amount of \$242,136.48

CARRIED

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Adshead reminded Council and the public of the David Brydges Bench Memorial ceremony at the Drummond Park on April 25. Mayor Adshead asked Council's opinion on having an appreciation lunch for staff. Council gave their approval.

14. Closed Meeting

RESOLUTION No. 2026-065

MOVED BY: Councillor Ward

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council convene in Closed Session as per Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, in order to address a matter pertaining to subsection:

(2)(d) Labour relations or employee negotiations

CARRIED

15. Business Arising from Closed Meeting

Direction was given to Staff on Closed Session Matters.

16. **Confirmation By-Law**

RESOLUTION No. 2026-066

MOVED BY: Councillor Ward

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2026-17 being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt be taken as read a first, second and third time this 31st day of March 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

17. **Adjournment**

RESOLUTION No. 2026-067

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

CARRIED



Angela Adshead, Mayor



Jaime Allen, Interim Clerk