



## Ward Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Oliver Road Community Centre**  
**563 Oliver Rd.**

**1. McKellar Ward Meeting 01-2026**

Chair: Councillor Brian Hamilton

**2. Resource Persons**

Wendy Handy, Coordinator - Boards, Committees & Special Projects  
Gordon Stover, Committee & Meeting Management System Coordinator

**3. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed those in attendance, introduced Administration and provided introductory comments. The Chair provided a land acknowledgment and a moment of silence was held in honour of the victims in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.

The Chair acknowledged the passing of Vern Seymour as a contributor to municipal politics.

There were approximately 17 people in attendance.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the McKellar Ward meeting held on Sept 10, 2025, for information.

**5. 2026 Draft Budget Overview**

The Chair provided an overview of the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets. It was noted the budget passed with an increase of 4% to the tax levy, and that this was above the Council requested 2.6%. A discussion was held regarding the factors that caused the increase and what is outside of the control of Council, including Police Services.

The Chair provided a summary of projects planned for the McKellar Ward area, approved through the 2026 budget process:

- Victoria Ave will be open by Fall 2026
- Simpson Street will be closed for several weeks to complete 2025 improvements
- Charry's Corner parkette updates are moving forward
- University area trail being build near St. Andrew's cemetery
- McMillian Street lead service connection
- Cumberland/Waterfront construction continues
- Pacific Ave bridge repairs

A safety concern was raised regarding the Pacific Ave bridge, and whether it could be widened for safer pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk.

## **6. Ward and City Issues**

### **6.1 Dease Street Pool Site**

Will any development happen in the old pool site?

Discussion was held relative to future uses of the Dease Pool site, given the challenges around park alignment and road safety.

### **6.2 Simpson Street - Surveillance**

Will there be increased surveillance in the Simpson Street area as there was an increase in crime during construction?

A discussion was held in relation to increase in natural surveillance due to increased traffic to the area once construction is completed.

### **6.3 Increased Crime in Ward**

A discussion was held relative to increase rates of crime and vandalism throughout the Ward.

### **6.4 Tbaytel Dividend**

A discussion was held relative to the City using Tbaytel funds to support City projects that encourage youth engagement and support families to access affordable options.

### **6.5 Homelessness**

A resident asked how many beds are available for couples and people with pets, as folks end up in hotels.

A discussion was held relative to how emergency shelters are made available during extreme weather events. Further information was shared regarding future housing plans and goals for affordable housing.

#### **6.6 Transit**

A discussion was held relating to the troubles that are being experienced by Transit users, including cancelled busses, little to no notice, getting stranded by cancelled busses, and reduced routes.

The Chair polled those in attendance to get an idea of whether more routes with cancellations is better than few routes with longer waits, but more stable operations. The response was that more reliable operations was more important. The Chair shared initiatives being taken to try to improve transit services and support employees.

#### **6.7 Synergy North**

A resident asked if there was any information about the company cutting power to legal tenants at the request of the landlord.

The Chair acknowledged the question and take it back for further discussion and follow up.

#### **6.8 Council Divisiveness**

A resident raised a concern about the divisive nature of the current Council as seen with split votes, and the need for better decorum.

### **7. Adjournment**

The Chair shared that a final McKellar Ward meeting for this term of Council will be held at the end of April.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.