

DISTRICT OF CHETWYND

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting

Date: January 12, 2026
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Courtoreille
Coun. Deck
Coun. Huhn
Coun. MacDonald
Coun. Nelson
S. McLain, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Ennis, Corporate Officer/HR Manager
K. Franson, Director of Financial Administration
S. Weightman, Director of Engineering & Public Works
C. Hillton, Finance/HR Coordinator
L. Wilfur, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Coun. Smith
Coun. Wark

- 1. Call to Order** Mayor Courtoreille called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and an opening statement was read.

A moment of silence was held in honour of those we have lost recently.
- 2. Adoption of Agenda** MOVED by Coun. Nelson, SECONDED by Coun. Huhn

THAT the Regular Council Meeting Agenda for January 12, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED
- 3. Minutes**

M-1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting

MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. Nelson

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 8, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED
- 4. Delegations & Presentations**

Nil

5. Bylaws

Nil

6. Council Committee and Liaison Reports

CR-1 Nil
Regional
District Report

CR-2 Councillor Huhn provided the following report:
Councillor
Report

“First, I would like to acknowledge Katie Mercer. I was unable to be present at council on the day you spoke about your layoff from Peace FM, and I want to sincerely thank you for your many contributions to our community. You were always positive, informed, and a pleasure to work alongside, and I wish you every success in the next chapter of your career.

Peace FM and Chet TV are currently working with a marketing manager on strategic planning to guide the future direction of both platforms. We have welcomed a new staff member, Angel Principio, our Multi-Media Journalist, who will be covering local news and events across radio, television, and social media. Our goal is to strengthen our presence in the community and encourage local organizations, businesses, and community groups to partner with us to promote programs and events. Chetwynd continues to demonstrate strong community pride, and Peace FM and Chet TV are committed to sharing that strength locally and beyond. We are grateful for the District of Chetwynd’s ongoing support and remind the community that sponsorship and event coverage opportunities are always available. Our Bingo program resumes February 5th, and our AGM was held November 27th with a strong board moving into 2026.

The Little Prairie Heritage Museum has had a very successful year, marked by strong community engagement and growth. Highlights include participation in Harvest Fest and the Christmas Parade, hosting school field trips, launching new rentals, completing the reading room, investing in new picnic tables built locally, updating branding through a community vote, and receiving approval for a geo-cache site that continues to attract visitors. They are preparing for mural restoration with CSS students, a 2026 grand opening, membership drive, and community BBQ. Additional improvements include seed grant funding for flowers, updates to the BC Rail car, and expanded youth engagement initiatives. They are looking forward to another successful and connected year ahead.

I would like to address a recent interview posted by our MLA, Larry Neufeld, on social media regarding “Chetwynd Voices.” I feel the interview reflected a single perspective that does not represent the community as a whole and contained statements that I believe were inaccurate. In particular, comments

suggesting a lack of council effort regarding NIFAC were deeply upsetting. Council has repeatedly and consistently advocated—both publicly and privately—for NIFAC to return to Chetwynd, and it has been one of council’s highest priorities. Having personally witnessed this advocacy at council and other tables, I feel strongly that portraying otherwise is incorrect. As community advocates and political leaders, we have a responsibility to ensure information shared publicly is accurate, balanced, and verified, and to consider whether public messaging contributes to solutions or creates further division. Opinions are not facts, and inaccurate statements can fuel conflict rather than strengthen community trust.

Finally, I would like to raise the issue of permanent winter transit options in Chetwynd, particularly for seniors and persons with disabilities. While this winter may be an anomaly, it highlighted a significant gap that affects access to medication, groceries, and essential services. I believe winter transit is an emerging and necessary community resource, and I would like to ask council for guidance, information, and suggestions on how we might revisit this issue. This could include collaboration with community organizations, BC Transit, or exploring additional funding opportunities to ensure community members are supported during future winters.”

Council requested staff send a letter to MLA Larry Neufeld on the social media “Chetwynd Voices” interview after all Council members have reviewed the interview and provided direction.

Council requested staff provide an update on where the District of Chetwynd is at with BC Transit.

CR-3
Mayor’s Report

Mayor Courtoreille provided the following report:

“Welcome to the year 2026.

I’m most optimistic for the year; Mayor & Council along with staff will do our utmost to achieve the best results for Chetwynd. The year 2025 brought us hope and it gave us tariffs which put the brakes on many export products to the United States (US) from British Columbia (BC). It also caused less travel to the US because of the immigration policy. Here in BC, we have our own setbacks with continued closure/diversion in our health care system. In 2025 the BC government invested 4.2 billion towards the health system capacity, including major Hospitals down south in Surrey, St. Paul’s and the BC Cancer Centre. This still does not elevate our problems with diversions in the Peace Region and the closure of weekend and after-hour Emergency Room (ER) in Tumbler Ridge (TR). It was totally shocking; we all have friends and family in TR we worry about that work in the community.

We still need to work where we play and the one industry that stands out amongst many is the softwood industry. Canfor closing and West Fraser curtailing its production for the last year or so. The position you believe in is critical to your belief, but I understand the renewable resources have always been softwood not oil, not natural gas, not coal but trees/forest that provided work for many communities like Chetwynd. The natural resource should be for the residents that have chosen to live here, for all that depend on work and job security and to enjoy where we live. With responsible handling of this resource, we will be better stewards of the land. When you can count over 38 to 50 trucks (stopped counting after 38) of fully loaded logging trucks going toward Prince George there must be some wood/fiber in our area for a sawmill to maintain a good supply. Just another question for the BC Government.

My condolences go out to the families who have lost loved ones, and we will never forget the memories of lives that they have lived. God Bless,

Kinanaskomitinan Hia Hia”

CR-4
Administrator’s
Report

Nil

MOVED by Coun. Nelson, SECONDED by Coun. Deck

THAT the:

- Councillor Report; and
- Mayor’s Report

be received for information.

CARRIED

7. Discussion Items

Nil

8. Correspondence

C-1
Eclipse LLP re:
District of
Chetwynd
Interim Audit

MOVED by Coun. MacDonald, SECONDED by Coun. Huhn

THAT the letter from Eclipse LLP dated December 23, 2025 re: District of Chetwynd Interim Audit, be received for information.

CARRIED

RA-3
FCM Annual
Conference and
Trade Show
Registration

MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. MacDonald

THAT the report dated January 6, 2026 re: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show Registration prepared by the Administration Department, be received; and

THAT Council authorize two members of Council to attend the 2026 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show in Edmonton, AB June 4 – 7, 2026.

AMENDMENT:

MOVED by Coun. Nelson, SECONDED by Coun. Huhn

THAT Council authorize three members of Council to attend the 2026 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show in Edmonton, AB June 4 – 7, 2026.

RETRACTED

AMENDMENT:

MOVED by Coun. Nelson, SECONDED by Coun. Huhn

THAT all member of Council be authorized to attend the 2026 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show in Edmonton, AB June 4 – 7, 2026.

CARRIED

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED

CARRIED

11. Reports for Information

RI-1
December
Accounts
Payable Cheque
List

MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. MacDonald

THAT the report dated January 5, 2026 re: December Accounts Payable Cheque List prepared by the Finance Department, be received for information.

CARRIED

RI-2
Building Permit
Values

MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. MacDonald

THAT the report dated January 6, 2026 re: Building Permit Values prepared by the Engineering & Public Works Department, be received for information.

CARRIED

12. New Business

Nil

13. Public Question Period

Nil

14. Adjournment

MOVED by Coun. MacDonald, SECONDED by Coun. Huhn

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Deanne Ennis – Corporate Officer

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Allen Courtoreille - Mayor

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 12, 2026 in the Council Chambers.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Deanne Ennis – Corporate Officer