

**Village of Haines Junction
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2026**

Present:

Mayor Strand (via Zoom)
Councillor Busche
Councillor Mackinnon

Absent:

Councillor Sundbo

Treasurer Istchenko, Recorder L. Sylvain, Sylvain Human Resource Services

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory

Councillor Mackinnon acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

3. Adoption of Agenda

#11-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the agenda be adopted.

Motion #11-26 was **CARRIED**.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

5. Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings

a. Draft Minutes of December 17, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

#12-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 17, 2025 be adopted.

Motion #12-26 was **CARRIED**.

b. Draft Minutes of January 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting

#13-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meetings of January 14, 2026 be adopted.

Motion #13-26 was **CARRIED**.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Delegations

There were no delegations.

8. Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions

None.

9. Old Business

a. Update from ATCO re: request from Council

Treasurer's Presentation:

- A debrief is planned and is currently being undertaken.

10. New Business

a. Accounts Payable to January 28, 2026

Discussion:

- No discussion.

b. RTC – Awarding of 2025 Donated Refundables Funds

Treasurer's Presentation:

- There were three applicants and they all met the criteria. As such, the funds would be set between all three of them.

#14-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT administration proceed to award the funds to successful applicants as recommended in the January 28th, 2026 Report to Council – Awarding of 2025 Donated Refundables Fund.

Motion #14-26 was **CARRIED**.

c. AYC – Call out for AYC Resolutions

Treasurer's Presentation:

- This is coming up.

Discussion:

- Suggested that a Committee of the Whole meeting be organized to discuss the Mandate Letter and updates on previous resolutions. This may be organized for February 2026.
- Can someone put a resolution a second time if it hasn't been addressed?
 - Uncertain, but probably not.
- Noted that there will be a new Councillor at the time that this will be submitted.
 - **Action:** Councillor MacKinnon to contact all Councillors to discuss availability for a Committee of the Whole meeting.

d. RTC – Tax Lien Summary

Treasurer’s Presentation:

- As part of the yearly legislative process, properties with taxes over 6 months overdue may enter the tax lien process, beginning with Council’s approval of the TL1 form, followed by 60 days of public posting and newspaper ads
- The tax arrears list is kept in-camera until Council approves it and it becomes public; two properties listed have since paid their taxes.

11. Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption

a. Bylaw #437-26 2026 Municipal By-Election

Treasurer’s Presentation:

- There are few possible dates for the by-election. If Council would like to change the date before the 2nd reading, this would need to take place now to allow for a 2nd and 3rd reading at this meeting.

Discussion:

- Mayor Strand would prefer to poll on March 5, 2026 to ensure she is present. Other Councillors are amenable to this date. The Convention Centre is booked, but events can be shifted to accommodate the polling.

#15-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the notice of nomination proceeding be posted on February 9, 2026, the nomination be on February 16, 2026, and the regular poll take place on March 5, 2026.

Motion #15-26 was **CARRIED**.

#16-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 437-26 is read this second time on the 28th day of January 2026.

Motion #16-26 was **CARRIED**.

#17-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 437-26 is read this third time on this 28th day of January 2026.

Motion #17-26 was **CARRIED**.

12. Correspondence

a. Mandate Letter – Government of Yukon

#18-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the letter be received and brought forward to a subsequent Council’s Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion #18-26 was **CARRIED**.

b. Haines Junction Health Centre Newsletter January 2026

#19-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Haines Junction Health Centre Newsletter of January 2026 be received and filed.

Motion #19-26 was **CARRIED**.

c. ISED Consultation on Rural Development Action Plan

Discussion:

- Canadians can go online and participate in the questionnaire to provide feedback about federal programs.
- Suggested that Council members submit their feedback individually as there isn't sufficient time to organize an organizational response. The deadline is February 6, 2026.
 - **Action:** Yukon Government's Community Advisor, Amanda Janssens, offered to research this Action Plan and find out the context and impacts for Council, providing a summary of her findings.

#20-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the ISED Consultation on Rural Development Action Plan be received and brought to the February 11, 2026 Council meeting for further discussion.

Motion #20-26 was **CARRIED**.

d. Invitation to participate in Yukon Literacy Coalition Feb 28 event at Da Ku

Discussion:

- Dakwākāda dancers performed in Carcross and it was fantastic.

#21-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT a Council member or Council members attend the Yukon Literacy Coalition's February 28, 2026 event on behalf of Council.

Motion #21-26 was **CARRIED**.

e. TCT Trail Grant Applications are Open

Treasurer's Presentation:

- This is a Trail Care Grant Program for up to \$1,500, which the Village has participated in for the last several years. The money is received by the Village and then given to various non-profit groups to clean up different areas of the trails.

Discussion:

- Council is amenable to participate in this.

#22-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the TCT Grant Application correspondence be received and that Village of Haines Junction staff submit an application if applicable.

Motion #22-26 was **CARRIED**.

f. Correspondence re: Short-term Rental (STR) Moratorium Bylaw

Discussion:

- A Village of Haines Junction citizen submitted an email to Village of Haines Junction staff. The citizen has a legitimate concern regarding a lack of communication regarding this Bylaw.
- Mayor Strand discussed feeling responsible for accidentally failing to communicate this by-law ahead of time and in her Facebook updates.
- Was this citizen already involved in short-term rentals?
 - Noted that the person is required to prove that they were previous short-term renters to be added to the list.
- Council discussed the Policy and Communications Manager's response to this Citizen. She noted that the moratorium is temporary.
- The citizen requested that Council provide a summary within the email that is sent with the council package to ensure that key information is shared in a succinct manner.
 - Council is concerned that adding this task will overburden Village of Haines Junction staff. As a result, they have decided not to provide email summaries.

#23-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Village of Haines Junction staff write a letter to Heiko Haehnsen thanking him for his email and noting that if he has any more concerns, that he reaches out to Council.

Motion #23-26 was **CARRIED**.

13. Council Reports and Notice of Motions

Councillor Busche

- Councillor has attended two additional Solid Waste Group meetings. She noted the impressive work that they are conducting. The group is researching four different composting ideas. They are touring the Raven Re-Center to learn what happens to our recycling.

Councillor Mackinnon

- She will be attending the March 25, 2026 meeting by Zoom, depending on the timing of her flights.

Councillor Sundbo

- Not present.

Mayor Strand

- Met with Senator Pat Duncan on January 16, 2026 regarding the Nordic Ambassadors to Canada. They will be in Haines Junction on March 10, 2026. Senator Duncan will not be attending but will send a representative. The meeting with Councillors will be from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Convention Center. Mayor Strand suggested that Chief Joe, her Council, Minister Istchenko, and Rangers be invited to the lunch.
- The Council has also been invited to the Cultural Centre at 10:30 a.m. to meet with CAFN's Chief and Council.
- Mayor Strand noted that she will be away from the Yukon until March 1, 2026, but that she is available by Zoom and email. She will be in the Yukon from March 2-6, 2026, and then the following three weeks, Mayor Strand will be in Whitehorse and may not be available. She will be unavailable for physical signing of documents but can sign electronically.

#24-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Village of Haines Junction provide lunch for the Nordic Ambassadors on March 10, 2026 and that Champagne and Aishihik First Nations's Chief and Council, Minister Istchenko and two Rangers be invited.

Motion #24-26 was **CARRIED**.

14. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

15. Motion to Close Meeting to the Public

#25-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public at 7:50 p.m.

Motion #25-26 was **CARRIED**.

16. Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public

#26-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be reopened to the public at 7:52 p.m.

Motion #26-25 was **CARRIED**.

a. Form TL1 Tax Lien Summary

#27-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council accept Form TL1 Tax Lien Summary.

Motion #27-25 was **CARRIED**.

17. Adjournment

#28-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Motion #28-25 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Mayor Diane Strand

CAO David Fairbank