

**Village of Haines Junction
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026**

Present:
Mayor Strand
Councillor Busche
Councillor Mackinnon
Councillor Sundbo

Absent:
None

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

Mayor Strand acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

3. Adoption of Agenda

#01-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended with the following addition by Mayor Strand:

- New Business c. Power Outage with ATCO.
- Council Reports – Motions for meetings.

Motion #01-26 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 December 17, 2025

Discussion:

- Not all councillors were able to review the meeting minutes prior to this discussion. It was requested that this be tabled until the next meeting.

#02-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole and the regular Council meetings of December 17, 2025 be tabled to the next Council Meeting.

Motion #02-26 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

None.

10. New Business

a. Accounts Payable to January 14, 2026

Discussion:

- Noted that the cost of the installation of the view monitor was higher than expected.

b. Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Application

Treasurer's Presentation:

- \$500 grant to go towards conducting a Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. The Village staff put an application in.

Discussion:

- Noted that this was a Village of Haines Junction application for a grant for a community FireSmart event.
- Mentioned that the late Councillor McPhee conducted a similar event in 2025.

c. Power Outage with ATCO

Councillor Sundbo's Presentation:

- This was a big event in the community when it was extremely cold. The Councillor would like to know more about what caused it to mitigate the risk of this happening again. It might be appropriate to ask staff to reach out to ATCO for information about what precipitated the power outage and to thank them for their speedy response. Does ATCO have personnel living in Haines Junction? Did this have any part to play in the response? Looking to avoid future issues.

Discussion:

- Staff should be requested to conduct a debrief to include lessons learned about this event to better prepare for future emergencies.

#03-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Village of Haines Junction staff contact ATCO and ask them for more information about the recent power outage, causes, lessons learned and plans to avoid outages like this in the future if possible.

Motion #03-26 was **CARRIED**.

#04-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Village of Haines Junction staff conduct a debrief for Mayor and Council regarding the recent power outage and discuss lessons learned and how we can improve our emergency response in the future.

Motion #04-26 was **CARRIED**.

11. Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption

a. Bylaw #436-25 Short Term Rental Accommodation Moratorium – For 3rd reading

Discussion:

- This version includes a list of the existing schedule.
- One participant doesn't have all the information filled in. Fourth listing, second page, is missing the providers.
- Only 8 short-term rentals. Do all 8 have business licences?
 - Yes.
- How many of these don't have Village of Haines Junction business licences?
 - One.
- In Section 5.8., what does "impact to neighbours, neighbourhood noise, parking lots" mean? Is this a reason to deny? It appears to be a reason to deny in case of nearby residents complaining of noise.
- Why is C here? Full home vs. mortgage helper?
 - Difference between renting out the full home or the rental suite. Consider changing the wording and taking out 'mortgage helper'.
- Noted that this bylaw isn't a short-term rental by-law but rather a moratorium. This is the list to show applicants who'd like to undertake short-term rentals what is required to approve their request.
- It was noted that CAO Fairbank or a by-law officer should have a conversation with the one applicant who doesn't have a business license, to discuss this with them as the licence is a requirement.

#05-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw #436-25 Short Term Rental Accommodation Moratorium is read for the third time and final time on the 14th day of January 2026.

Motion #05-26 was **CARRIED**.

b. Bylaw #437-26 2026 Municipal By-Election – For 1st and 2nd reading

Discussion:

- Mayor Strand will not be in the Yukon in time to vote in the by-election, nor with a special ballot. Discussing other options for the special ballot. She's requesting that voting take place on March 5th, 2026.
- The Order in Council stipulates that the time set by Council to make nominations must end no later than February 16th, 2026. The third reading could take place on February 11th, 2026.

#06-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw #437-25 2026 Municipal By-Election is read for the first time on the 14th day of January 2026.

Motion #06-26 was **CARRIED**.

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13. Council Reports and Notice of Motions

Councillor Busche

- The Councillor met with the Solid Waste Advisory Group and discussed research into a composting system and provided free store updates. The group asked if the Council would like reports or updates, which Councillor Busche declined due to a busy Council schedule. Instead, Councillor Busche suggested that when a report is sent, that it holds findings and a recommendation.
- Does Council want solely a recommendation or a presentation of many researched options and the ultimate recommendation?
 - Councillor Sundbo suggested that the options, the recommendation and rationale, and associated estimated costs be provided in a report from the group.

Councillor Mackinnon

- Thanked all participants of the Christmas Lights Contest.
- Attended the New Year's Eve celebration at the Da Kų Cultural Centre and noted they were amazing. Thanked the CAFN and the fire department.
- Thank you to the fire crew for their quick response in addressing a house fire emergency.
- Thank you to ATCO for addressing the power outage and their quick response.
- Thank you to all the Village of Haines Junction employees with the snow removal.
- Mentioned thinking of our neighbours in Alaska and their declared disaster zone, avalanches and snow and rain.

Councillor Sundbo

- Next weekend he will be out of the community.

Mayor Strand

- Had a discussion with Senator Pat Duncan. Should have met yesterday but will meet via Zoom on Friday to discuss the Arctic Winter Games. The Nordic ambassadors will be coming in March 2026 and they'd like to know if Haines Junction will host them.
 - Is Council open to hosting?
 - Yes.
 - How many ambassadors are there?
 - Unknown.
 - Mayor Strand will update the Council by email after her Friday's meeting.

#07-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Council had a retroactive meeting December 17, 2025 for personnel and a retroactive meeting for personnel for January 6, 2026.

Motion #07-26 was **CARRIED**.

14. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

15. Motion to Close Meeting to the Public

#08-26 It was moved and seconded

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

Motion #08-26 was **CARRIED**.

16. Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public

#09-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be reopened to the public at 8:10 p.m.

Motion #09-26 was **CARRIED**.

17. Adjournment

#10-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Motion #10-26 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.



Mayor Diane Strand
for



Treasurer Donna Istchenko

