

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
SUMMER VILLAGE OF WHITE SANDS COUNCIL
held on February 17, 2026
White Sands Municipal Office
#8 Front Street, White Sands, AB and electronically
streamed to YouTube.**

Present: Dan Zembal, Mayor
Paul Ashford, Councillor (Zoom)
Leona Thorogood, Councillor (Zoom)
Melissa Beebe, CAO
Erin Weinzierl, Admin. Assistant

Absent:

Public: (0)

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Zembal calls the Council Meeting to order at 9:30 AM

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 26:02:01 Moved by Councillor Ashford to approve the agenda as amended:

- Defer 5.1 Delegation – Draft Strategic Plan – Leann Graham, Gra-Core until March meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes:

3.1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2026

Motion 26:02:02 Moved by Councillor Thorogood to adopt the Regular Council Meeting minutes of January 19, 2026, as amended:

- Spelling Error: 5.2 “Decks”
- Remove Paul from Zoom, was in person
- Spelling Error: 11.1. “Board” Minutes

MOTION CARRIED

4. Public Hearing: None

5. Delegation/Presentation:

Motion 26:02:03 Moved by Mayor Zembal to defer 5.1 Delegation – Draft Strategic Plan – Leann Graham, Gra-Core to next March meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Bylaws & Policies:

6.1. P&R 4.6: Dead Standing Tree Management Policy

Motion 26:02:04 Moved by Councillor Thorogood to approve P&R 4.6: Dead Standing Tree Management Policy as amended:

- Add:
 - Bottom of Section 6: If the municipality determines that the tree is not going to be removed by the municipality, a resident may apply for removal at their cost.
 - 7.2 Feld trees may rest where they land and not be removed
 - Appendix B: “Check all that apply”
 - Template Letter: list conditions from Section 7.

MOTION CARRIED

6.2. Bylaw 220-26: Dog Bylaw (Repeal & Replace Bylaw 152-15)

Motion 26:02:05 Moved by Councillor Ashford to approve first reading of Bylaw 220-26: Dog Bylaw as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 26:02:06 Moved by to approve the following amendments and review with Animal Control Bylaw and bring back to the March meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

6.3. ADM 1.1: Tangible Capital Assets Policy (House Keeping Amendments)

Motion 26:02:07 Moved by Councillor Thorogood to have Gitzel & Company review ADM 1.1: Tangible Capital Assets Policy and provide feed for March meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Business:

7.1. RFD – Hall Society Transition to Municipal Operations

Motion 26:02:08 Moved by Councillor Thorogood transitioning the hall from the Hall Society to administration, with the municipality responsible for managing bookings and operations, and contracting cleaning/caretaker services as needed. Administration will continue to development of supporting policies for the transition.

MOTION CARRIED

7.2. RFD – Employee Benefits Plan Review

Motion 26:02:09 Moved by Councillor Thorogood to approve Option 2: Proceed with GroupHEALTH (Cost-Neutral / Savings Option)

MOTION CARRIED

7.3. RFD – Cost of Living Adjustment Direction – 2026 Budget

Motion 26:02:10 Moved by Councillor Thorogood to direct Administration to include a cost-of-living adjustment from draft 2026 budget assumptions pending further Council deliberation.

MOTION CARRIED

7.4. RFD – Joint Advocacy with the County of Stettler Request – Twn Rd 40-4

Motion 26:02:11 Moved by Mayor Zembal to authorize Mayor Zembal to send a letter to the County of Stettler requesting intermunicipal cooperation to jointly advocate to the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors for consideration of Township Road 40-4 being adopted into the Provincial Road network as an Urban Road Approach.

MOTION CARRIED

7.5. RFD – Climate Risk Assessment Proposal, Aptus Engineering

Motion 26:02:12 Moved by Mayor Zembal directs Administration, in coordination with the municipal engineering consultants, to continue advancing stormwater and drainage grant readiness and prepare applications under both federal and provincial programs once funding intakes open in 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

7.6. RFD – Resident Request: Recreational Geocaches on Municipal Public Lands (2026 Pilot)

Motion 26:02:13 Moved by Councillor Thorogood to approve , under the authority of the Use of Public Lands Bylaw 198-23, the placement of up to three (3) recreation geocaches on the municipal public lands within the Summer Village of White Sands for the 2026 season, subject to the Administration confirming appropriate locations and issuing a permission letter, with ongoing maintenance the responsibility of the resident.

MOTION CARRIED

7.7. RFD – Appointment of Assessment Review Board (ARB) Officials – 2026

Motion 26:02:14 Moved by Mayor Zembal to approve the following appointments of the Assessment Review Board (ARB) officials and panelists:

ARB Chairman

- Raymond Ralph

ARB Clerk

- Gerryl Amarin

Certified Panelists

- Darlene Chartrand
- Sheryl Exley
- Tina Groszko
- Richard Knowles
- Marcel LeBlanc
- Roland Merkosky
- Raymond Ralph

MOTION CARRIED

8. Council Reports:

8.1. Mayor Zembal (Verbal Report)

- Strategic Planning
 - Worth while exercise and took previous councils and expanded. Looking

forward to finalization and have completed before the budget

- Bar Harbour
 - Invited guest to work with our neighbours
- Disc Golf
 - Contact the couple at Rochon Sands and excited to potentially set one up in White Sands
 - Very initial discussion
- Approached Dan Hiller (representative for ASVA)
 - We need to draft a resolution

Motion 26:02:15 Moved by Mayor Zembal to draft a resolution that then funnels through Dan Hiller as our representative of our region in ASVA to take forward the municipality's stance on police funding to the association.

MOTION CARRIED

8.2. Councillor Thorogood (Verbal Report)

- Strategic Planning
- Parkland Regional Library Board later this month

8.3. Councillor Ashford (Written Report)

- Senior's Housing Authority
 - Strategic Planning in April

Motion 26:02:16 Moved by Councillor Thorogood to accept the council reports as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

9. CAO Reports

9.1. Written Report with Council Resolution Action List

Motion 26:02:17 Moved by Councillor Ashford to accept CAO written report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

10. Financial Reports:

- 10.1. Council Revenue and Expenditures as December 31, 2025**
- 10.2. Capital Year-End Revenue & Expenditures as of December 31, 2025**
- 10.3. Bank Reconciliation as of January 31, 2026**

Motion 26:02:18 Motion by Mayor Zembal to approve 10.1 and 10.3. Financial reports as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

11. Correspondence

- 11.1. Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) – Advertising Bylaw – Reference Information, January 26, 2026**
- 11.2. ASVA – Information on Insurance Coverage for Fire Incidents & Docks, January 26, 2026**
- 11.3. Community Leadership Invitation Letter – S. Sgt. Russell, Stettler RCMP Detachment**

Motion 26:02:19 Moved by Councillor Thorogood to accept the 11.1 to 11.3 correspondence as information.

MOTION CARRIED

12. Closed Meeting Session: None

13. Adjournment

Motion 26:02:20

Moved by Mayor Zembal adjourns the meeting at 11:41 AM.

MOTION CARRIED

Next Regular Council Meeting is March 16, 2026. Public Welcome.

Original Signed

Mayor

Original Signed

Chief Administrative Officer