MINUTES of REGULAR Meeting #2026-15 of the Council of the City of Whitehorse called for 5:30pm on Monday, August 24, 2026, in Council Chambers, City Hall.

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| PRESENT: | Mayor | Kirk Cameron |
| | Councillors | Dan Boyd |
| | | Paolo Gallina |
| | | Jenny Hamilton |
| | | Eileen Melnychuk |
| | | Anne Middler |
| | | Lenore Morris |

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| ALSO PRESENT: | A/City Manager | Lindsay Schneider |
| | Director of Community Services | Krista Mroz |
| | Director of Corporate Services | Brittany Dixon |
| | A/Director of Development Services | Mathieu Marois |
| | Director of People, Culture, and Technology | Landon Kulych |

Mayor Cameron called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

## CALL TO ORDER

## AGENDA

**2026-15-01**

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

## PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Kirk Cameron proclaimed September to be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the city of Whitehorse, a month dedicated to raising awareness about prostate cancer and encouraging citizens to be proactive in their health.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month (September 2026)

## MINUTES

**2026-15-02**

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting dated August 10, 2026, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

## PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Cameron advised that a Public Hearing was scheduled at this meeting to hear any submissions with respect to the Official Community Plan (OCP) Amendment Bylaw 2026-25 regarding mineral exploration.

OCP Amendment – Mineral Exploration

Mayor Cameron called three times for submissions with respect to the OCP amendment regarding mineral exploration.

Angela Sabo spoke in opposition to the amendment due to potential health impacts from nearby drilling, referencing completed studies on indoor radon levels and pending groundwater testing results. — Angela Sabo

Donald Roberts spoke in opposition to the amendment, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of the OCP, proper monitoring of mining activities, and protecting water resources. — Donald Roberts

Sybil Hackney spoke in opposition to the amendment, citing a history of regulatory violations in the mining sector and concerns about the City's capacity to effectively enforce protective measures. — Sybil Hackney

James Minifie spoke in opposition to the amendment, noting the potential for broader consequences from mineral development, including impacts on water, wildlife, recreation, and the quality of life of nearby residents. — James Minifie

Glenys Baltimore spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns about unclear implications, impact on greenspace, and need for public education and consultation. The speaker urged Council to complete the mining draft framework first before permitting this work. — Glenys Baltimore

Skeeter Wright spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, highlighting the importance of the OCP and previous public engagement. He expressed concern that allowing mineral exploration could ultimately lead to mining activities if a viable mineral resource is identified. — Skeeter Wright

Neil Hartling spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment and urged Council to first complete the mineral framework, noting negative impacts associated with the mining industry's history in the Yukon. — Neil Hartling

Elizabeth Hanson spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment and urged Council to wait until the mineral framework is complete, raising concerns about the clarity of the process, potential broader impacts on the community, and the loss of greenspace. — Elizabeth Hanson

Rick Griffiths spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, highlighting the importance of protecting greenspace for residents and wildlife and maintaining the integrity of the OCP. — Rick Griffiths

Katie Swales spoke in support of the proposed amendment, describing the potential benefits of mining work to the community and noting that work within City limits could reduce commuting and allow workers to remain closer to their families and community. — Katie Swales

Tara Leduc spoke in support of the proposed amendment, stating that the area no longer meets the definition of greenspace and could instead be considered for economic development. — Tara Leduc

Robin Reid-Fraser spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns about a lack of clarity and information surrounding the proposal and questioning why it was being considered before the mineral framework was completed. — Robin Reid-Fraser

Mona Luxion spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns about impacts on lands designated as future planning and stating that allowing mineral exploration could ultimately result in active mining on those lands. — Mona Luxion

Tim Green spoke in support of the proposed amendment, citing increasing global demand for copper and stating that the proposed exploration work would be short-term and low impact. — Tim Green

Marcus Harden, president of Gladiator Metals, spoke in support of the proposed amendment, describing the proposed exploration work as an information-gathering exercise intended to inform future land-use and development decisions. — Marcus Harden, President, Gladiator Metals

Ryan Burke spoke in support of the proposed amendment, noting that exploration work within the City could reduce travel for workers and allow them to remain in or become part of the community. The speaker also noted that previously disturbed exploration areas can rehabilitate over time. — Ryan Burke

Randy Clarkson spoke in support of the proposed amendment, stating that there is a responsibility to develop natural resources and contribute critical minerals to society. The speaker also challenged concerns raised about indoor radon and the ability of disturbed areas to rehabilitate over time. — Randy Clarkson

Tory Russell spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns that the amendment would undermine the OCP and lead to mining activities that could put the city's water resources at risk. The speaker urged Council to wait until the mineral framework is complete.

Tory Russell

Jonas Smith, Executive Director of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, spoke in support of the proposed amendment, citing the global need for resources and the Yukon's responsibility to contribute. In response to a question from Council, the speaker stated that indoor radon concerns are primarily related to house construction rather than nearby drilling activities.

Jonas Smith, Executive Director, Yukon Chamber of Mines

Christine Aikens spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns about the adequacy of the site analysis and the broader scale of the amendment. The speaker emphasized the ecological and recreational value of the affected lands and the importance of maintaining their protection as greenspace.

Christine Aikens

Jennifer England spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns about changes to the definition of disturbed land and to the future planning designation that would create a pathway for mineral exploration. The speaker urged Council to complete the mineral framework before making these changes.

Jennifer England

Jay Cherian spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment due to its potential impacts on a significant area within the city and emphasized the importance of maintaining the OCP as adopted so that it remains a reliable guiding document.

Jay Cherian

Lorrie Lech spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, stating that allowing mineral exploration within the city could undermine Whitehorse's identity as the Wilderness City.

Lorrie Lech

Dave Waldron spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, stating that it contradicts the community's values of connecting with and protecting the wilderness and natural environment.

Dave Waldron

Michael Svoboda spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns about the level of public engagement and the potential for mineral exploration in future planning areas beyond those specifically identified. The

Michael Svoboda

speaker urged Council to undertake more robust public engagement before making a decision.

Laura Cabott spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, highlighting the public engagement undertaken during the OCP process. The speaker urged Council to wait for the mineral framework to be completed before considering an OCP amendment of this scale.

Laura Cabott

Carmen Gustafson spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, urging Council not to amend the OCP lightly and to wait until the Government of Yukon's mineral legislation is modernized.

Carmen Gustafson

Linnéa Rowlatt spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns that the timing of the public engagement process may have resulted in some residents missing the opportunity to provide input.

Linnéa Rowlatt

Rick Zuran spoke in support of the proposed amendment, highlighting the global demand for resources and the economic benefits that properly managed mineral development could bring to the community.

Rick Zuran

Danièle Héon spoke in support of the proposed amendment, noting the history of mineral exploration within city limits and the existing Yukon Government legislation governing mineral exploration and mining activities.

Danièle Héon

Sandy Johnston spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns about broader impacts on greenspaces and communities across the city and emphasizing that fuel abatement areas should remain eligible for greenspace designation.

Sandy Johnston

Paul Christman spoke in support of the proposed amendment, highlighting the benefit of local mineral work that would reduce the need for workers to travel and stating that rural communities should not bear sole responsibility for mining activities.

Paul Christman

Karen McKenna spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, emphasizing the need for adequate buffers around bodies of water to protect water quality. The speaker urged Council to wait until the mineral framework is complete.

Karen McKenna

Florian Boulais, representing the Wildfire Awareness Society, spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, emphasizing that fuel abatement and FireSmart work should not result in lands becoming eligible for mineral exploration.

Florian Boulais, Wildfire Awareness Society

Keith Jacobsen spoke in support of the proposed amendment, noting that amendments are a normal part of the OCP's lifespan and that the proposed amendment would provide greater flexibility for future decisions.

Keith Jacobsen

Lois Johnston spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns that the level of public engagement was insufficient given the scale and potential community-wide impacts of the proposed amendment.

Lois Johnston

Jill Pangman spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, raising concerns about the timing and level of public engagement, gaps in existing legislation regulating mining activities, and the potential pressure to permit mining if exploration identifies a viable mineral resource.

Jill Pangman

Hearing no additional submissions come forward, Mayor Cameron declared the Public Hearing for the OCP Amendment regarding mineral exploration now closed.

Public Hearing Closed

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Standing Committee Reports from August 18, 2026, were postponed to the Special Council meeting on August 31, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

THE CITY OF WHITEHORSE 19 50

Kirk Cameron, Mayor

Corporate Services

Adopted by Resolution at Meeting #2026-16