



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

District of Summerland – July 29, 2025

Delegation – Mayors for Peace – An advocate for Mayors for Peace (M4P), a global network of cities advocating for nuclear disarmament and a culture of peace. Founded by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, M4P promotes youth leadership, peace education, and international collaboration through events like survivor testimony talks, internships, and cultural exchanges. With over 8,400 member cities worldwide—including 113 in Canada—the goal is to reach 10,000 members. The presentation encourages renewed local engagement, especially in 2025, marking 80 years since the atomic bombings.

Fees and Charges (Electric Rates & Building Permit Fees) Amendment Bylaw No. 2025-015 – Council adopted Fees and Charges (Electric Rates & Building Permit Fees) Amendment Bylaw No. 2025-015, approving updates to both electric utility rates and building permit fees. The bylaw introduces a revised rate structure aimed at ensuring cost recovery and supporting infrastructure sustainability. Adjustments to building permit fees reflect increased service delivery costs and align with regional benchmarks. These changes will take effect as outlined in the bylaw to maintain financial responsibility and service efficiency.

Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) Bylaw No. 2025-016 – Council adopted the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) Bylaw No. 2025-016, a key step in the application process to implement a provincially administered accommodation tax. The MRDT, set at up to 3%, will support local tourism marketing and development, with projected annual revenues between \$140,000 and \$180,000. To ensure continuity in tourism promotion, Council approved interim bridge funding of \$32,000 for Destination Summerland until the MRDT takes effect in early 2026. This initiative supports good governance by fulfilling Council’s commitment to explore a hotel/tourism tax in partnership with the Chamber and accommodation providers.

Delegation – Summerland Fall Fair – The Summerland Fall Fair is set to return on Saturday, September 13, celebrating local agriculture, food, and community spirit. This year’s event features live entertainment, children’s activities, food demonstrations, and educational presentations, with the popular Harvest Harmony dance kicking off festivities the night before. The fair remains free for all, supported by a silent auction and a recent \$7,500 BC Community Gaming Grant. Organizers are asking for Council’s help to place a storage container on municipal land to support fair operations, and Council has tasked staff with exploring storage solutions.

Delegation – Garnet Valley Agri-Tourism Association (GVATA) – Members of the GVATA presented two key recommendations to Council aimed at protecting Garnet Valley Road and reducing future financial burdens on the District. They propose implementing permanent load restrictions to prevent damage from heavy industrial truck traffic, which the road was not designed to handle. Additionally, GVATA recommends introducing a soil removal fee, with revenues directed to a reserve fund for future road repairs. These measures are supported by local residents and align with provisions under the Community Charter.

Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC) Implementation – Council received a staff report for information on the Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC), which included a financial analysis of a proposed building permit rebate. The rebate would support builders who voluntarily exceed minimum greenhouse gas emission standards in new residential and commercial construction. This incentive aims to encourage higher performance buildings and aligns with the District’s Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP) and commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter.

OCP Zoning Bylaw Amendment Application – 15815 Highway 97 – Adoption (Z24-007) - Council adopted Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2025-003 and Zoning Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 2025-004 to redesignate and rezone a portion of 15815 Highway 97 from “Agricultural” to “Agri-Industrial” and from “A1 – Agricultural Small Acreage” to “M3 – Agri-Industrial.” This change permits the development of a 2,105 m² food processing facility for the Okanagan Food and Innovation Hub (OFIH), supporting regional agriculture and food security. The amendments align with the Agricultural Land Commission’s conditions and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit’s requirements. The project supports Council’s strategic priority to build an adaptable and affordable community while enhancing local food infrastructure.

Note: These highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council proceedings. The summary is not inclusive of all, agenda items. For a detailed account of the full agenda, including staff reports, other supporting documents and official meeting minutes, please consult the District of Summerland website at <https://www.summerland.ca> or contact Corporate Services at 250-404-4037



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