

Sparwood Council Meeting

Date: July 21, 2026

Notes: Allison Capron

Edited: Sarah B Groot

Petitions, Delegations and Other Presentations

Crown Mountain Project update

Presenter: Dave Baines, Crown Mountain Resources

- Project is located approximately seven kilometres northeast of Sparwood.
- Project remains in the environmental assessment process.
- Three mining pits are proposed on the shoulder of Crown Mountain.
- Mine facilities would be located within the West Alexander Creek watershed.
- Total project footprint is approximately 850 hectares.
- Project proposes production of approximately two million metric tonnes of coal over an estimated 15-year mine life.
- Company changed its name from NWP Coal Canada Limited to Crown Mountain Resources Limited on June 1, 2026.
- Crown Mountain Resources has entered into a YQT Agreement with Yaq̓it ʔa·knuq̓h'it First Nation to establish employment and training opportunities.
- The BC Environmental Assessment Office issued a Section 27 Notice on May 26, 2026, indicating its review of the 2024 application was complete and requested revisions had been addressed.
- A revised application is expected in late 2026.
- Next steps include a conformity review and consensus-seeking process with First Nations.
- Environmental approval is anticipated in mid-2027, with permitting expected in late 2027 or 2028.

Bylaws

Fire Services Amendment Bylaw No. 1375, 2026

Presenter: Sheldon Tennant, Director of Fire Services

Purpose of the bylaw:

- Update references to the Fire Safety Act.
- Revise backyard fire pit permit requirements.
- Authorize controlled use of Fire Department assets by external agencies.
- Amend the Fire Service response boundary along Highway 3.

Council adopted the bylaw.

Motion carried.

Traffic Regulations Bylaw No. 1346

- Consideration postponed until Aug. 4, 2026.
- Councillor Kallies declared a conflict of interest and was excused from discussion.
- Council did not have quorum to proceed.

Business

Recreation Centre concession lease

Presenter: Jenna Jensen, Director of Community Services

Staff recommended approval of a lease agreement with A Touch of Grace Kitchen Ltd. to operate the Sparwood Recreation Centre concession.

Lease details:

- Five-year term.
- Aug. 15, 2026, to June 30, 2031.
- Total lease value of \$38,794.06, excluding GST.

Council approved the lease.

Motion carried.

Development Variance Permit DVP2026-001

1501–1523 Elder Drive

Presenter: Patrick Sorfleet

Application requests:

- Reduce the minimum townhouse floor area from 78.97 square metres to 60.4 square metres for Lots 10–15.
- Reduce the minimum townhouse lot area from 180 square metres to 175 square metres for Lots 14 and 15.

Council approved notice for an informal hearing.

Committee of the Whole

Ice cancellation policy

Presenter: Jenna Jensen

Staff reviewed two existing policies governing ice bookings at the Sparwood Recreation Centre.

Current policies include:

- 60-day notice for cancellation of block ice bookings.
- Full refund for cancellations received at least 60 days before the booking.
- No refund for cancellations within 60 days unless cancelled ice is rented by another user.
- Weekday daytime bookings cancelled at least five days in advance may qualify for a refund or credit.

Staff advised that some user groups have requested a shorter cancellation period.

Council discussion included:

- Maintaining the existing five-day cancellation policy for weekday daytime bookings.
- Requesting additional feedback from user groups regarding the 60-day cancellation period.
- Exploring a tiered cancellation model.
- Rescinding the Block Ice Booking Policy and incorporating it into the Recreation Cancellations and Withdrawals Policy for administrative efficiency.

No decision was made.

Internal Reports

Junior B Hockey Ice Requests

Council received the report.

Outdoor Field Use and Rental Cost Details

Council received the report.

Bylaw Enforcement Month End Report – June 2026

Council received the report.

Question Period

Jenna Kaus

- Said scheduling for minor hockey is complex.
- Said tournament sanction timelines may have changed.

- Said a 30-day cancellation period would still allow cancelled ice to be rebooked.
- Said local user groups should have priority over Alberta rentals.

Melanie Barker

- Said the skating club has concerns about the current cancellation policy.
- Said confirming judges more than 60 days before events is often difficult.
- Said additional flexibility would benefit skating club programming.

Jessica Slemaker

- Said organizers of new events face financial risk if events do not proceed.
- Said current registration timelines do not align with the existing 60-day cancellation requirement.

Documenter: Allison Capron

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