

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, March 23, 2026
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Bonny Graham
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Heather Stewin

Council Members Absent: Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: John Fortoloczy, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 4 members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Stó:lō people, particularly the Chawathil, Union Bar and Yale First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the March 23, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 9, 2026, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

There were no Staff Reports.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended the Hope and Area Flood Committee Meeting, noting that they are working toward a final report.
- He noted that the Canyon Golden Agers are working to have more events at their hall to attract more seniors. Currently, they are fundraising for projects towards building maintenance and improvements. He added the roof will need to be replaced within the next 4-5 years and the cost is estimated at about \$25,000.
- He participated in a Communities in Bloom planning meeting to discuss the planting and projects for the year, as well as the maintenance of chainsaw carvings.
- He attended an information meeting at the Library, which taught people about artificial intelligence.
- He noted, earlier this month, he attended the LGLA Leadership Forum.
- He announced that earlier today, MLA Tony Luck, the District's CAO, John Fortoloczky, Fraser Valley Regional District Area B Director Peter Adamo and members of the Hope Fire Department, along with Chawathil Band Chief Aaron Pete and some of their band members, passed the keys to the District's retired Fire Truck Tender to Chawathil.

The District and Chawathil will work together on training for the use of the truck. Today was an important step in relationship building and preparedness to work together in cases of an emergency.

- He noted that work continues on getting the helipad open at the hospital; while there were a number of setbacks, they are working to have it open before summer. The helipad is critical to deliver emergency service when needed in a timely manner.

Councillor Graham Reported:

- She attended an AdvantageHOPE meeting and there was a discussion from the marketing team regarding their promotions of Hope and their attendance at outdoor shows.
- She noted that on May 11th there will be the Second Annual Grass Roots Tourism Festival at the Brewery
- She attended the Arts Council Meat Draw at the Legion and noted that they are in the planning stages for Concerts in the Park
- She noted that the Hope Art Gallery has a few more days of their show "Retrospective 17", as well starting April 1st the show "Journey" featuring Moon Pruvost will be starting for the month.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She extended a special thanks to the Hope Fire Department, noting that they responded to 28 calls in a 4-day period during the recent wind events.
- She put out a reminder that on April 11th at the High School they are having their Spring Market and they have 80 vendors, there will be food trucks as well and the event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- She noted that April 25th is Earth Day.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He also attended the AdvantageHOPE meeting, noted that they are working on a rebranding project and they are attending a lot of outdoor shows.
- He noted that on Saturday the Fire Department did a Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting today, noting that they are working to get the Chamber back on track and work with AdvantageHOPE to showcase how they work together to promote our businesses and area.
- She noted that there will be a Local Business Breakfast Meeting on April 15th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Mia's Pasta.
- She also reminded everyone about Earth Day on April 25th.

Councillor Stewin did not have a report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

- (a) **Report dated March 13, 2026 from the Director of Corporate Services
Re: Fees & Charges Amendment Bylaw**

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1621, 2026* be read a first, second and third time this 23rd day of March 2026. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated March 17, 2026 from the Director of Finance
Re: Water Parcel Tax Bylaw**

Council inquired if the parcel tax will apply to all water users. The Director of Finance confirmed that the parcel tax applies to all properties that have water service to their property, whether they are connected to it or not.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Water Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1622, 2026* be read a first, second and third time this 23rd day of March 2026. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) **For Information Correspondence**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated March 23, 2026, be received. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – February 2026**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of February 1 - 28, 2026, be received. **CARRIED.**

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

There was no other pertinent business.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:12 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 23, 2026, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services