

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 25, 2024
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Dusty Smith

Council Members Absent: Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Zachary Wells

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer

Others Present: 1 member 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 November 25, 2024, 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 November 12, 2024, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

(b) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held November 13, 2024, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Report dated November 19, 2024 from the Deputy Corporate Officer Re: 2025 Regular Council Meeting Schedule & Council Appointments

Moved / Seconded

THAT the 2025 Regular Council Meeting schedule be approved; and

FURTHER THAT the Council Appointments, Committees and Acting Mayor's Schedule for January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, be adopted, as amended. **CARRIED.**

(b) Report dated November 19, 2024 from the Planner III Re: Interim Housing Needs Report

The Director of Community Development provided a summary of the Interim Housing Needs Report, which included:

- Requirements of the Interim Housing Needs Report
 - Number of housing units needed for the next 5 and 20 years
 - Statement about the need for housing near walking, bicycling, public transit, or other alternative forms of transportation
 - Description of actions taken by the local government since the last report
 - Last Interim Housing Needs Report completed in 2021
- District of Hope Housing Needs
 - 5 years – 686 units
 - 20 years – 2,123 units
 - Components are Extreme Core Housing Need, Persons Experiencing Homelessness, Suppressed Household Formation, Anticipated Growth, Rental Vacancy Rate Adjustment and Additional Local Demand
- Official Community Plan Policies
 - Prioritize urban areas
 - Densify downtown
 - Walking distance to services
 - Encourage walking and cycling
 - Support accessible transportation
- Actions Taken since 2021
 - Adoption of the Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing Zoning Bylaw
 - 149 building permits issued from 2021-2024
 - 2021 – 62
 - 2022 – 29
 - 2023 – 8
 - 2024 – 50
 - Completion of the Hope Downtown Action Plan
 - Form and Character Development Permits issued for 60 dwelling units
- Next Steps
 - Official Community Plan Bylaw Update
 - Zoning Bylaw Update to include Residential and Mixed-Use Zones

Council inquired as to whether this report considered the increase in demand for rental units being utilized during the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project. The Director of Community Development advised that the last census was done in 2021 and he is unsure of the amount of pipeline related activity that was captured. He added that there is still a need for rental housing, and that these reports are generated with consideration for regional housing needs.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council receive the 2024 Interim Housing Needs Report and endorse its publication. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He participated in an Enbridge roundtable with stakeholders in the community to discuss the upcoming Sunrise Expansion Project, noting that it was well attended and good input was provided.
- He attended the Energy Futures Townhall Meeting where he viewed the Local Government at the Crossroads of Affordability and Transition presentation by Barry Penner. He noted that there is a growing need for power generation in B.C. to meet demand, and that Council and staff have are working to put the District in a better position while being financially responsible.

He noted that Washington State has given BC notice that they will not be able to supply power in the near future as their demands have increased. It is projected that BC has a proposed 7000 megawatt demand coming for new industries, whereby Site C will only supply 1100 megawatts when in full operation.

- He attended former MLA Jackie Tegart's retirement event in Merritt along with Councillor Stewin, noting that they presented her with a framed print and acknowledged the excellent relationship she shared with District Council and staff during her 10 years of service.
- He attended the Chilliwack Christmas Appreciation Breakfast where they discussed the successes of 2024 and plans for the future of Upper Fraser Valley tourism. He added that there were 252 attendees at the event.
- He attended the Newcomer Fair on November 19th, noting that he welcomed individuals to the District, connected with new people, and shared services in the community.
- He announced that the District's Christmas Tree Lighting Event will take place on November 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. He noted that the tree is being provided by the Hope Lions Club, and other events include an LED picture frame by AdvantageHOPE, hot chocolate by Hope Community Services, and glow sticks for kids by the Hope & District Chamber of Commerce and Hope Fire Department.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She attended the Beta Sigma Phi Craft Fair at the Legion Hall on November 16th and noted that it may be the last year for this event as their volunteers begin to

age out.

- She announced that the Hope Community Choir Christmas Concert will take place on December 1st at 2:00 p.m. at the Grace Baptist Church.
- She announced that the Stuff the Cruiser event will be taking place on December 7th with a pancake breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and the cruiser taking donations until 2:00 p.m. She added that Kal Tire will be matching all cash donations made on December 7th up to \$5000, with donations going to the food bank.
- She attended a District of Hope Accessibility Committee meeting on November 25th, noting that they discussed adding benches and accessible picnic tables in areas of the community that lack these amenities.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the AdvantageHOPE meeting on November 21st.
- He attended the Hope and Area Transition Society (HATS) meeting on November 16th, noting that the temporary winter shelter is now open with 3-4 beds remaining out of 20 total.
- He noted that HATS is undertaking a rebranding and they will be changing their name to the Cedar Strong Prevention and Intervention Society, noting that the organization has expanded over the last 30 years and the new name will encompass their new services while maintaining core values. He added that more information will be available on their new website, cedarstrong.org, which will be online soon.
- He announced that the Santa Ride event hosted by Hope Towing and the Hope Lions Club will be taking place on December 14th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He noted that they will be accepting cash and food donations for the Full Cupboard Program.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He noted that he spoke with Mike Brodzik regarding the upcoming Mount Hope Mountain Bike Trail that is being developed. He noted that social media groups for the trail network reached over 9,000 members in three days, and that the trail opening may result in an influx of visitors to the community.
- He attended the Curling Club Meat Draw Fundraiser at the Legion Hall on November 23rd, noting that it was well attended.
- He attended the AdvantageHOPE meeting on November 21st, noting that the MRDT intake for the month of October was the highest October that they have ever had, and the second highest month overall since they began collecting. He added that these numbers are post-pipeline and continuing to grow.
- He noted that AdvantageHOPE is continuing to review museum artifacts in the new storage facility, noting that they hope to complete 40% of the collection by the end of December, and the remainder by March 2025.
- He announced that the 2nd Annual Fog Fest is ongoing until the end of November, noting that businesses are seeing great turnouts.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended former MLA Jackie Tegart's retirement event in Merritt with Mayor Smith.
- She attended the 75th anniversary of the Harrison Hot Springs Elementary School, noting that there was a band, dancing, and a great celebration.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1593, 2024

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1593, 2024*, be adopted this 25th day of November, 2024. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated November 25, 2024, 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, December 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:24 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held November 25, 2024 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services