

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, July 14, 2025  
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 Dusty Smith  
Councillor Heather Stewin

**Staff Present:** Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO  
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services  
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development  
Branden Morgan, Deputy Director of Corporate Services  
Joshua Wescott, Deputy Fire Chief  
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

**Others Present:** 6 members of the Public and 1 Media

**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 July 14, 2025, 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 June 23, 2025, be adopted, as presented.  
**CARRIED.**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

**(a) Hope and District Arts Council**

Representatives from the Hope and District Arts Council (HDAC) were in attendance to present to Council regarding a request for an increase in funding. The delegation presented an overview of the HDAC, highlighting its historical background, community contributions in tourism, events, and quality of life, as well as its commitment to long-term sustainability. Additionally, the following items were discussed:

- The HDAC is seeking a small increase in funding received from the District of Hope
  - Any unencumbered funds received are matched by the BC Arts Council
  - The \$5,000 received annually from the District has not changed in over 10 years
- The 2025 projected budget is \$185,000, up from \$111,000 in 2015

- The HDAC has recently hired an Art Machine Program Coordinator to enable increased course and program offerings
- The BC Arts Council has raised concerns regarding the amount of compensation that the HDAC is able to offer program instructors
- The HDAC paid \$10,200 in rent to the District in 2024
- The District paid \$9,986 for maintenance and utilities on the HDAC property in 2024

Council sought clarification regarding the amount of the requested increase. The delegation indicated that their initial request was for an additional \$3,000, while acknowledging rising costs and expressing appreciation for any increase the District may be able to provide. Council acknowledged that the HDAC currently receives a yearly pre-approved grant-in-aid for \$5,000. Council noted that the HDAC could apply for an additional grant-in-aid or to the Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest Revenue Sharing opportunities as they become available.

Council inquired as to whether there is any data that shows the increased attendance at HDAC events such as Concerts in the Park. The delegation advised that while they do not currently have that data, they hope that the addition of a second employee will allow them to better track attendance numbers. Council inquired as to the deadline by which the HDAC must secure funding for it to be matched by the BC Arts Council. The delegation advised that the BC Arts Council deadline was in April, but the next grant opportunity through the BC Gaming Branch closes in September.

**(b) BC Housing**

Representatives from BC Housing were in attendance to present to Council regarding BC Housing's plans for the property at 650 Old Hope Princeton Way. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Permanent Housing in Hope
  - 1275 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue
    - 56 supportive homes, 15 shelter beds, 15 EWR beds
    - Estimated completion 2026
  - Riverstone
    - 45 affordable rentals for Indigenous elders, singles, and families
  - 1270 Ryder Street
    - 40 affordable rental apartments
  - Jean Scott Transition House
    - 8-bed transition home
- New Housing Opportunity for 650 Old Hope Princeton Way
  - Owned by the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation
  - Currently operating as the House of Hope Emergency Shelter
  - Opportunity to develop up to 60 units of affordable rental housing and 20 units of Women's Transition Housing and Supports Program second stage and long-term housing
  - Project funding has already been secured and set aside

- Women's Transition Housing and Supports Program
  - For women and children at risk of violence or have experienced violence
  - Includes Safe Homes, transition houses, second-stage housing, and long-term rental housing
  - The District currently has an 8-bed transition home at the Jean Scott Transition House
- Affordable Rentals
  - The Province is leveraging provincially owned sites to deliver affordable rental housing in communities across B.C.
  - BC Housing will develop the site and engage in a long-term lease with the operating non-profit partner
  - Blended Rental Model
    - 30% low to moderate income (at or above CMHC average market rent)
    - 50% rent geared to income
    - 20% deep subsidy
  - Operating subsidy/60-year operating agreement with housing provider

Council engaged in discussion regarding funding for the Fraser Inclusive and Supportive Housing Society (FISH), noting that they would like to see BC Housing funding contributions to the project as it is important to the community. The delegation advised that while they are unable to directly award funding, that FISH should continue to apply to the Community Housing Fund opportunities.

Council noted that the property at 650 Old Hope Princeton Way is currently under temporary zoning and will need to go through a rezoning prior to any development. The delegation advised that BC Housing did not want to begin the procurement process prior to presenting to Council. The delegation added that BC Housing currently owns both properties spanning the area between the Petro Canada gas station and the RCMP detachment.

Council inquired as to who will be managing the project once it is built. The Delegation advised that BC Housing will maintain ownership of the transition housing portion of the development, with management through an operating agreement with a non-profit. The remainder of the units would be owned, potentially through a long-term lease, by a non-profit who would take over management. Council inquired as to whether BC Housing intends to request a permissive tax exemption for the project. The delegation advised that the transition housing portion of the project would be exempt from property taxes, and that BC Housing will work with Staff to determine the best solution for the remaining units.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

**(a) Report dated June 30, 2025 from the Fire Chief  
Re: Hope Fire Department Mission Statement and Core Values**

The Deputy Fire Chief provided a brief overview of the proposed Mission Statement and Core Values.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the report dated June 30, 2025 from the Fire Chief regarding the District of Hope Fire Departments Mission Statement and Core Values, be received for information;

AND THAT Council endorse the Hope Fire Department's Mission Statement and Core Values as presented. **CARRIED.**

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

**7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Mayor Smith Reported:**

- He noted that he met with a young lady named Isabelle to discuss options to help with a fundraiser for a future spray park in Memorial Park. He advised that they have decided to hold a bottle drive on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with volunteers stationed at the Hope Bottle Depot and picking up bottles throughout the community. He added that all funds raised will be held in the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce Spray Park Project Fund.
- He noted that the Communities in Bloom judges toured the community last week and expressed his gratitude for the work completed by the District Operations department, local businesses, and volunteers. He also thanked Teresa Williams and John Mason for their leadership of the largest volunteer group to date.
- He congratulated Councillor Medlock on his 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.
- He congratulated newly elected Chief Aaron Pete of Chawathil First Nation and thanked outgoing-Chief Norman Florance for his leadership and efforts to connect with the District.

**Councillor Graham Reported:**

- She attended the opening of the First Blood Mountain Bike Trail, noting that the trail was well anticipated by enthusiasts across the Province and even from other countries. She added that she transported the Chawathil drummers to the trail opening event, and that they gave opening remarks and an opening song. She thanked the AdvantageHOPE team and local volunteers for their work on the event.
- She attended the Canada Day Car Show in Memorial Park, noting that there were hundreds of cars, food trucks, live music, and a 50/50 draw with proceeds going to the Fraser Canyon Hospital.
- She attended two Concerts in the Park, noting that Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> will feature local artists and food vendors.

**Councillor Skoglund Reported:**

- She attended the Canada Day Car Show in Memorial Park, noting that it was well attended and brought a lot of people to the downtown core.

**Councillor Medlock Reported:**

- He attended the opening of the First Blood Mountain Bike Trail, noting that it brought hundreds of bikers from all over. He added that he hopes more trails can be developed in the community to expand this resource.
- He attended the Canada Day Car Show in Memorial Park, noting that the FVRD also hosted an event at the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ball Park in the evening.
- He attended the Hope Motor Sports 4x4 event this past weekend, noting that it was attended by a few hundred people.

**Councillor Smith Reported:**

- He noted that one of his vehicles was displayed at the Canada Day Car Show in Memorial Park, although he was unable to personally attend.
- He noted that he has heard from the public regarding the popularity of the new First Blood Mountain Bike Trail.
- He announced that his business, Silver Skagit Mechanical, will be shutting down. He added Surespan Bridges will be operating on the property in the future.
- He announced that the Classic Car Show will be taking place in Sunshine Valley on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with entry by donation. He added that there will also be a small market hosted during the show.

**Councillor Stewin Reported:**

- She received an email from Megan te Boekhorst regarding 2026 Pride Events, noting that they are looking to host a larger event next year. She added that they are looking for Council support for a grant application and she would like to pass a motion of support at a future meeting.
- She attended the Park Street Manor 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 12<sup>th</sup>, noting that well over 100 people attended and note that the Lions Club offered support and helped with the barbeque.

**Councillor Newbigging Reported:**

- She attended the Park Street Manor 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 12<sup>th</sup>, thanking John Duff and his staff for their work.
- She reminded everyone that the Fundraiser on the Fraser will be taking place on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., with all proceeds going to the Mount Hope Senior Citizen Housing Society. She added that there will be a live band, food, prizes, and that those attending are reminded to bring chairs for a great evening on the Fraser.

**8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

**(a) Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1602, 2025**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1602, 2025*, be adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Report dated July 2, 2025 from the Planner II  
Re: Short-Term Rental Zoning Bylaw Text Amendment**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Bylaw Amendment No.1603, 2025* be given first and second reading to add short-term rental regulations to the Zoning Bylaw; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595*, the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*. **CARRIED.**

**9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) For Information Correspondence**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated July 14, 2025, be received. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – June 2025**

Council requested clarification regarding cheques CA527R81I82I, CA527S81I82I, CA527T81I82I, and CA527W81I82I, which were for the purchase of four folding camping cots. The Deputy Fire Chief advised that the BC Wildfire Service has implemented new requirements that necessitate deployed firefighting crews to carry supplies for up to three days, which includes cots, tents, and other equipment.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of June 1-30, 2025, 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, August 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**13. RECESS TO IN-CAMERA MEETING AT 8:03 P.M.**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Section 90(1)(c) [labour relations or other employee relations] of the *Community Charter* and adopting closed meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

**14. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:51 p.m.

**15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

*Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held July 14, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.*

Original Signed by Victor Smith

**Mayor**

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

**Director of Corporate Services**