

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, April 13, 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 Dusty Smith
Councillor Heather Stewin

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Aaron Van Eyk, Director of Engineering
Branden Morgan, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 5 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 April 13, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as amended, to remove item 8(b) regarding the *Water Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1622, 2026*. **CARRIED.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 23, 2026, be adopted, as amended, to correct the resolution for item 8(b) to read that *District of Hope Water Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1622, 2026*, be read a first, second, and third time this 23rd day of March. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) Mayor Smith to present Keith Campbell with a Retirement Gift

Council thanked Keith Campbell for his years of service with the District and in the community and presented him with a carving to show their appreciation.

5. STAFF REPORTS

- (a) **Report dated March 23, 2026 from the Director of Corporate Services**
Re: Appointment of Election Officials for the 2026 General Local Government Elections

Moved / Seconded

THAT pursuant to Section 58 (1) and (2) of the *Local Government Act*, Branden Morgan be appointed Chief Election Officer, effective immediately for conducting the 2026 General Local Government Elections, with power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of the 2026 Elections;

AND FURTHER THAT Donna Bellingham be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Government Elections. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated April 7, 2026 from the Planner III**
Re: Downtown Parking Analysis

Moved / Seconded

THAT the report dated April 7, 2026, from the Planner III regarding the downtown parking analysis, be received for information. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He welcomed Aaron Van Eyk, the District's new Director of Engineering.
- He attended the sod turning ceremony for the Tuck Moto Cafe.
- He noted that work is now underway to correct the ice surface length issue at the Recreation Centre, adding that the plan is to have the work completed by September.
- He attended a meeting with the Interim Leader of the Conservative Party Trevor Halford and MLA Tony Luck to discuss concerns regarding vehicle damage caused by potholes on Highway 5.
- He toured a group of Girl Guides around the chainsaw carving repair shop, noting that they saw the Cookie Monster Carving that will be placed at the Boston Bar Elementary-Secondary School.
- He thanked Tolson Enterprises and the Community Forest contractor for assisting with the collection of cedar logs following the recent windstorm. He added that these logs will be used for the 2027 Chainsaw Carving event.
- He noted that cedar blocks were donated to the Spirit of Hope Secondary School for their bench project completed by senior wood working students. He added that the wood was supplied by Wayne Smith and the carving was completed by Hannu Yliruusi.
- He took part in the 104th Annual Plowing Match in Chilliwack, noting that he placed second behind District of Kent Mayor Sylvia Pranger.
- He noted that the eagle carving completed by Pete Ryan for the 2010 Olympics has been returned to the Hope Eagles Hall.

Councillor Graham Reported:

- She attended the Tractor Grease Variety Show.
- She attended Moon Pruvost show opening at the Hope Art Gallery, adding that the show runs for the month of April.
- She attended the Mountainview Brewing Co. Easter Egg Hunt at Kawkawa Lake, noting that it was well attended and thanked the organizers.
- She noted that AdvantageHOPE offered a variety of Easter weekend activities around town.
- She noted that the daffodil blooms are coming in around town and thanked Communities in Bloom for their work.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She attended the Hope Secondary Spring Market, noting that they had over 80 vendors.
- She noted that the Hope and District Arts Council Annual General Meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on April 14th at the Art Machine.
- She noted that the Arts Council Garage Sale will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on April 25th at the Art Machine.
- She noted that Kal Tire will be collecting tires and rims on Earth Day, April 25th, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. She added that commercial and tractor tires are not eligible.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He noted that AdvantageHOPE and the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce will be holding a co-hosted event at Mia Pizza and Pasta on April 15th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to provide information regarding their roles, how they work together, and how they are working differently. He added that representatives for the Hope Chamber Benefits Plan will also be in attendance to provide information.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He welcomed Aaron Van Eyk, the District's new Director of Engineering.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She noted that a Hope Inclusion Project meeting will be held on April 14th.
- She met with AdvantageHOPE Board Chair Tannis Hendriks to discuss how things are going and what she loves about the community.
- She attended various Easter weekend events around the community with her grandkids.
- She attended a meeting with the Interim Leader of the Conservative Party Trevor Halford and MLA Tony Luck to discuss the cancellation of the Fraser-Cascade School District Welding Program. She noted that there are currently no plans for further funding of the program for the 2027-28 school year, and that a Letter of Support was issued by Conservative Party and the District of Kent. She added that it is important to advocate for the students, families, and other community members that are assisted by these programs.

Councillor Stewin declared a Conflict of Interest due to her position as a Trustee on the Fraser-Cascade School District Board and departed the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Following discussion, Council noted that they would like to issue a Letter of Support to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills for continued funding of the welding program.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council issue a Letter of Support to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills for continued funding of the Fraser-Cascade Welding Program.

CARRIED.

Councillor Stewin returned to the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She noted that Earth Day will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on April 25th in Memorial Park, and that residents can drop off items including:
 - Household paint/spray paint
 - Household type batteries
 - Cell phones
 - Commercial and automotive batteries
 - Scrap metal
 - Reading and prescription glasses
 - Pesticides
 - Electronics
- She noted that Shred-It Day will take place on May 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Memorial Park.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) Fees & Charges Amendment Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1621, 2026* be adopted this 13th day of April, 2026.

CARRIED.

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated April 13, 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 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:22 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held April 13, 2026, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services