

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, March 10, 2025
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

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

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
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer
Julie Mundy, Planner III

Others Present: 7 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 March 10, 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 February 24, 2025, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) Leq'á:mel Development Corporation

Ron Smith and Sean Wilton were in attendance to present to Council regarding the Leq'á:mel Development Corporation trucked liquid waste project. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Background
 - Due to ongoing growth in the FVRD and surrounding areas, existing septage receiving and treating facilities will reach capacity and be unable to handle septage volumes
 - Historically, existing municipal facilities accepted septage from their own taxpayers as well as FVRD Areas A through H

- In 2023, municipalities began restricting access to trucked liquid waste originating from outside of their jurisdiction to conserve capacity
- Scale of the Problem
 - FVRD Areas A through H collect over 17 million gallons of liquid waste annually, not including significant contributions from construction sites, large scale infrastructure work camps, and remote locations
 - When dewatered, this translates to more than 2.5 million gallons of solid waste that must be transported outside of the region
 - Users are incurring up to triple the typical tipping fee along with added transport costs
- Solutions
 - A complete, holistic liquid waste handling system
 - Combines dewatering and drying
 - Solids recovery beneficial for other uses, including as cement kiln fuel
 - Produces very clean water
 - Creating a permanent solution capable
- Proposed Locations
 - Industrial zoned reserve land located south of the Fraser River at Lackaway IR #2
 - Strategic location that includes reducing trucking time and distances, consequently reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint while keeping traffic away from urban areas
 - Already located in an industrial area
 - Heavy truck access and industrial traffic currently accepted
 - No residential neighbors
 - Proximity to river for treated liquid phase discharge
 - Future expansion potential as a permanent industrial site
 - Composed of a 66,000 square foot building, truck scales, septage receiving and screen, and several above-ground storage tanks
 - Papekwatchin reserve land located on the north side of the Fraser River on the inland side of the dyke
 - Proximity to solid waste transfer station
 - Minimal residential neighbours
 - Proximity to river for treated liquid phase discharge
 - Large scale agriculture in the area may reduce sensitivity to potential odor issues
 - Large area for development may be available and some discharge of liquid phase to land may be possible

Mr. Wilton advised that there is enough waste in the area for the project to be economically viable without support from taxpayers. He added that Indigenous Services Canada has provided some funding, and that other options will be looked at to ensure the project is self-funded. Council inquired as to how many jobs will be created by the project. Mr. Smith advised that up to 20 permanent full-time jobs will be created.

Council inquired as to the timeline for completion of the project. Mr. Wilton advised that they are in the process of negotiating an arrangement to receive clean water, and that if received they can bypass a relatively long permitting process. He added that the current timeline is approximately 18 months. Council inquired as to whether discussions have taken place with regards to providing the dry solids to cement kiln facilities. Mr. Wilton advised that some discussions have taken place regarding facilities accepting the dry solids.

(b) TRUE Consulting

Liam Baker, representative from TRUE Consulting, was in attendance to present to Council regarding the Integrated Transportation Master Plan (ITMP). In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- ITMP Scope
 - Plan to support existing and future Official Community Plans
 - High level review of all District transportation infrastructure
 - Road network capacity, growth, and operations
 - Active transportation gap analysis
 - Cost estimates and infrastructure prioritization
 - Progress tracking
- ITMP Development Process
 - Data Review
 - Public Engagement and Feedback
 - Network Evaluation
 - Options and Development Analysis
 - District Review
 - Council Adoption and Implementation
- ITMP Vision
 - Empowered through sustainable and efficient transportation solutions, the ITMP envisions a future where equitable mobility enhances quality of life.
 - Hope prioritizes accessibility, safety, and environmental stewardship, creating a connected and thriving community for all. Our vision is to be a catalyst for a vibrant, accessible, and environmentally friendly urban landscape through innovative transportation planning.
- ITMP Goals
 - Enhance travel choices and diversity
 - Enhance community connectivity
 - Embrace changing technologies
 - Develop key network priorities for investment
 - Improve travel affordability
 - Improved accessibility and equity
 - Improved safety for users
 - Improved health and sustainability for the environment and users
- ITMP Targets
 - Increase the proportion of trips made by sustainable transportation by 50% by 2040
 - Provide a fully connected community through a sustainable transportation

network of walkable and bikeable infrastructure by 2040

- Existing Road Network and Capacity
 - Modeled for growth to 2038
 - Level C service capacity is considered acceptable by most municipalities
 - In general, the District's transportation network works well
 - Wallace Street, 6th Avenue, and highways see the highest levels of traffic
 - Incremental increases in traffic volume are expected
- Active Transportation and Transit
 - Primary focus given to road network resiliency
 - General lack of connectivity and infrastructure between downtown and other areas of the District
 - Focus on walkability, cycling, and trail connectivity
- Recommended Studies
 - Pedestrian Crossing Control Program
 - Intersection Safety Study
 - Wallace Street Corridor Safety Study
 - 6th Avenue Corridor Safety Study
 - Ministry of Transportation Hope Interface Needs Study
- Funding Mechanisms
 - Capital Funding
 - Development Cost Charges
 - Developer Contributions and Offsite Improvements
 - Grant Funding
 - Ministry of Transportation Cost Sharing
- Progress Tracking
 - Annual with capital plan updates for projects, developments, study updates, grants, engagement and BC Transit ridership
 - Every 6 years for traffic counts and volumes, traffic model updates, pedestrian and cyclist counts, public surveys and BC Transit Future Action Plan

Council noted the Hope Accessibility Advisory Committee will be reviewing sidewalks in the District and reporting back with recommendations for improvements that may overlap with suggested works in the ITMP. Council inquired as to whether the projects included in the report are listed in order of priority. Mr. Baker advised that there is a prioritization chart located in the appendices of the report.

Council inquired as to whether the report speaks to specific areas of the community in its recommendations. Mr. Baker advised that the recommendations in the report are high-level, and that further studies can be undertaken in areas of concern to determine a suitable solution. Council inquired as to the method used for the creation of traffic models and counting. Mr. Baker advised that the model is created using a mix of manual counting and traffic studies and reports created by the Ministry of Transportation.

5. STAFF REPORTS

- (a) **Report dated March 4, 2025 from the Deputy Corporate Officer
Re: Hope Pride Committee – June 2025 Flag Raising Request**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approves the Hope Pride Committee request to fly the Pride Flag for the period of June 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025, in accordance with the *Flag Raisings and Flag Protocol Policy*. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended the Hope Fire Department 25th Anniversary celebration at the Hope Legion Hall, recognizing those who have stepped up in the community to volunteer on the Fire Department.
- He attended the Flood Table Restart meeting on February 25th, noting that Ebwater Consulting is working on a budget and timeline for completion of new flood hazard mapping.
- He noted that the FVRD Intergovernmental Relations Committee is working on items to bring forward to UBCM in September.
- He attended an FVRD Hospital Board meeting, noting that Agassiz now has four doctors which has relieved pressure on other hospitals in the area.
- He attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the BC Housing supportive housing site on Seventh Avenue alongside representatives from Chawathil First Nation, BC Housing, Cedar Strong Prevention & Intervention Society, and Fraser Health.
- He attended the University of the Fraser Valley International Women’s Day event in Abbotsford, noting that there were excellent speakers and that the event was well attended.
- He attended a Housing Committee meeting where they prepared an application for funding to complete a housing needs report.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She wished everyone a happy belated International Women’s Day.
- She attended the 2025 Grad Auction Night on March 1st, noting that it was a good event that was well attended.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended a tour of a proposed alternate access route for the Hope Ready Mix gravel pit expansion that would be located closer to the Enbridge compressor station at the top of Othello Road. He noted that it was a good opportunity to see the challenges of the route, and that Hope Ready Mix is viewing it as a viable option that they will survey and investigate.

- He attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the BC Housing supportive housing site on Seventh Avenue alongside representatives from Chawathil First Nation, BC Housing, Cedar Strong Prevention & Intervention Society, and Fraser Health. He added that he is happy to see the project reach this stage, and that the completion date is currently set for Fall 2025 with occupancy in Spring 2026.
- He attended the Hope Fire Department 25th Anniversary celebration at the Hope Legion Hall, noting that there were fourteen tables of attendees and over 704 years of combined service between them. He added that there were many donations made to the Fire Department for raffle prizes.
- He noted that Valley Waste and Recycling has released a mobile application for residents of Hope to track their collection schedules, and that residents can get more information on the District's social media and website.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He attended the Hope Figure Skating Club Annual Skating Carnival, noting that it was well attended and decorated, and that membership is slowly climbing with 45 skaters in the club. He added that the carnival also featured skaters from the Cheam Skating Club.
- He noted that the contractor currently performing rock scaling on Richmond Hill is doing a very good job with traffic control.
- He thanked Danielle Laporte, Communication System Analysis Advisor, for her work on the District's communications, noting that members of the public have expressed appreciation for the increased messaging.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended the Hope Fire Department 25th Anniversary celebration at the Hope Legion Hall, noting that she was impressed by the generosity of the community and that it was a wonderful night of celebration and awards.
- She noted that the Hope Inclusion Project will be meeting on March 11th, and that she will distribute the minutes when they are completed.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended the 2025 Grad Auction Night on March 1st.
- She attended the Hope Fire Department 25th Anniversary celebration at the Hope Legion Hall., noting that she received a challenge coin designed by Bonnie Graham for the Fire Department when entering.
- She attended the Hope Figure Skating Club Annual Skating Carnival, noting that the music and talent were great and that the kids had fun.
- She attended a Hope and District Chamber of Commerce meeting, noting upcoming events:
 - March 17th – St. Patrick's Day – Locals can enter into a draw to win a one-night stay in Manning Park at local businesses
 - April 26th - Earth Day – 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Memorial Park
 - May 10th – Shredding Day – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. downtown free or by donation to the Spray Park fund

- August 14th to 17th – Chainsaw Carving Contest
- 100th Year of the Chamber of Commerce – Gala to be planned for the Fall

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

**(a) Report dated February 13, 2025 from the Planner II
Re: Development Variance Permit Application at 509 Corbett Street**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approves a Development Variance Permit for the following *Zoning Bylaw* variances for 509 Corbett Street:

- Part 6.12.1 to allow off-street parking spaces to be accessed directly from a highway or street.
- Part 6.16.1 allow off-street parking space along the front and rear lot lines to be within 1 m of the lot line.
- Part 12.2.5 (Setbacks) to reduce the minimum exterior lot line setback from 4.5 m to 3.0 m.
- Part 12.2.5 (Setbacks) to reduce the minimum rear lot line setback for a portion of the proposed light industrial building from 3.0 m to 1.8 m. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Report dated February 26, 2025 from the Deputy Corporate Officer
Re: *Public Notice Bylaw No. 1590, 2025***

Council inquired as to whether the public can be informed of the changes to public notice through a mailout. The Director of Corporate Services advised that staff will look into the possibility of including information in an upcoming mailout for taxes or utilities. She added that staff will endeavor to include public notices in at least one issue of the newspaper whenever possible.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Public Notice Bylaw No. 1590, 2025*, be read a first, second, and third time this 10th day of March, 2025. **CARRIED.**

**(c) Report dated March 3, 2025 from the Planner III
Re: *Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025***

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*, be read a first, second, and third time this 10th day of March, 2025. **CARRIED.**

**(d) Report dated March 5, 2025 from the Director of Finance
Re: *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1600, 2025***

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1600, 2025*, be read a first, second, and third time this 10th day of March, 2025. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated March 10, 2025, be received. **CARRIED.**

(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – February 2025

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of February 1-28, 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, March 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:16 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 10, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services