

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 13, 2024
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Zachary Wells
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Dusty Smith

Council Members Absent: Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Pauline Newbigging

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

Others Present: 2 members of the Public and 1 Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor 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 May 13, 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 April 22, 2024, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) KPMG

Sean Reid from KPMG was in attendance to present to Council the Audit Findings Report for the year ended December 31, 2023. In the presentation, the following items were discussed:

- The audit of the financial statements has been completed, with the exception of:
 - Completing discussions with Council;
 - Obtaining the signed management representation letter;
 - Obtaining evidence of Council's approval of the financial statements; and
 - Completing subsequent event review procedures up to the date of Council's

approval of the financial statements.

- KPMG confirmed that they are independent with respect to the District within the meaning of the relevant rules and related interpretations from January 1, 2022, up to the date of this report.
- Areas of audit focus
 - Tangible capital asset additions
 - Asset retirement obligation
 - Transfers from other governments
- No significant risks of material misstatement for the audit were identified, except for the presumed risk of fraud resulting from management override of controls, which is required by professional standards. There were no significant issues noted in testing.
- There have been no significant accounting policy and practices changes.
- No significant control deficiencies have been identified in internal control over financial reporting.
- Materiality
 - Materiality for 2023 is set at \$460,000.
 - The District's total expenses for the year ending December 31, 2023 were \$17,075,250.
- Tangible Capital Asset Additions
 - The District continued to expand and invest in property, buildings, road, water and sewer related infrastructure.
 - The District acquired and constructed \$3.66 million in capital assets in 2023, which is significant.
 - KPMG noted no issues in their testing.
- Asset Retirement Obligations – Buildings and Wells
 - The District has recognized a liability of \$388,214 relating to buildings and wells.
 - KPMG agreed with management's application of the standard and the inputs used in the estimate.
 - A discrepancy in the calculations used to estimate the obligation was noted, which resulted in a difference of \$110,029. This has been corrected through an adjustment.
- Asset Retirement Obligations – Landfills
 - The District has recognized a liability of \$390,845 relating to the landfill, which is a decrease of \$62,298 from 2022.
 - KPMG agrees with management's estimate of the obligation.
- Transfers from Other Governments
 - The District recognized into revenue a total of \$4.8 million into government transfers from Federal, Provincial and Local Governments, including \$2,874,000 from the Province through the Growing Communities grant.
 - KPMG noted no issues in their testing.
- Significant Deficiencies in Internal Control over Financial Reporting (ICFR)

- KPMG noted no issues in their testing over ICFR or other controls.

5. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Report dated May 13, 2024 from the Director of Finance Re: 2023 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements

Moved / Seconded

THAT the 2023 consolidated financial statements of the District of Hope be approved;
and

FURTHER THAT the Independent Auditor's Report be received; and

FURTHER THAT the Independent Auditor's Report be attached to the consolidated
financial statements of the District of Hope. **CARRIED.**

(b) Report dated May 3, 2024 from the Deputy Corporate Officer Re: E-Mail Poll of Council for the Hope Mountain Centre Trail Restoration Project

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council ratify the e-mail poll of April 29, 2024:

THAT Council of the District of Hope issue a letter of support to the Hope Mountain
Centre for their proposed Trail Restoration Project. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended Bernadette Hogan Simpson's 100th birthday at the Fraser Hope Lodge.
- He attended the Fraser Canyon Healthy Communities Committee meeting in Boston Bar, noting that 72 people attended to express their concerns about medical care in the Fraser Canyon and to discuss a transportation system to serve the entire area.
- He took part in the Communities in Bloom Weed and Feed Cleanup at the berm of Mount Hope, and thanked Hope Panago for their continued support in feeding the volunteers. He added that Communities in Bloom also completed the planters for the May long weekend.
- He attended the Upper Fraser Valley RCMP BBQ in Chilliwack where he discussed issues with RCMP management and the City of Chilliwack Mayor.
- He took part in the annual Ronald McDonald House fundraiser at the Hope McDonalds by working the drive-thru window.
- He noted that Addie Murphy, co-chair of the Canyon Golden Agers Society, has reached out for defibrillator training. He added that the Hope Fire Department will also be providing fire extinguisher training.
- He attended the LMLGA conference alongside over 300 delegates, noting that 60 resolutions were voted on with homelessness, overdose problems, and

transportation being the key topics.

- He announced that the Fraser Valley Regional District has signed a five-year agreement with the BC Wildfire Service for use of the regional airpark in Hope and the airstrip in Boston Bar.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the April 29th Committee of the Whole meeting on the Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Zoning Bylaw Update.
- He noted that over \$43,000 was raised for the Ronald McDonald House during the recent fundraiser.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He noted that the bathrooms located at the 6th Avenue Ballpark have been closed during Hope Minor Softball practices and games, he will be sending an email to Staff to inquire about having them opened.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She took part in the Bad Rock bus tour with guide Sonny McHalsie, noting that it was an excellent tour.
- She noted that a Hope Inclusion Project meeting will take place on May 14th.

Councillor Wells had nothing to report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

- (a) **Report dated April 30, 2024 from the Director of Community Development
Re: Geotechnical Hazard and Flood & Erosion Hazard Development Permit for
66631 Kereluk Road**

Moved / Seconded

THAT a District of Hope Geotechnical Hazard and Flood & Erosion Hazard Development Permit be approved for the property legally described as Lot 20 District Lot 56 Yale Division Yale District Plan 30760; PID 003-852-431 for the construction of a single-family dwelling and detached shop subject to the District of Hope receiving satisfactory certified reports from the qualified professionals confirming a site-specific safe building envelope for the property at 66631 Kereluk Road; and

FURTHER THAT the Director of Community Development be authorized to endorse the Geotechnical Hazard and Flood & Erosion Hazard Development Permit and required covenant document; and

FURTHER THAT for purposes of the Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit validity period, the conditions of the Development Permit shall expire on May 13, 2026; and

FURTHER THAT for the purposes of Section 504 of the *Local Government Act*, “substantially start any construction” shall mean the placement of the foundation for single family dwelling as certified safe by a qualified professional. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **District of Hope 2024 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1579, 2024**

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope 2024 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1579, 2024*, be adopted this 13th day of May, 2024. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated May 13, 2024, be received. **CARRIED.**

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

(a) Letter of Support

Re: New Pathways to Gold – 1926 Alexandra Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council of the District of Hope issue a letter of support to the New Pathways to Gold Society for their application to the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia's Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC April 2024 Intake for the Alexandra Bridge Rehabilitation Project. **CARRIED.**

11. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:23 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held May 13, 2024 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith
Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham
Director of Corporate Services