

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, June 8, 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: 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 Director of Corporate Services

Others Present: 2 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 June 8, 2026, 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 May 25, 2026, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) Chilliwack Division of Family Practice

Dr. Aseem Grover and Petra Pardy were in attendance on behalf of the Chilliwack Division of Family Practice to present to Council regarding a proposal to preserve the Specialist Medical Clinic in Hope. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Hope's Specialist Services
 - One-of-a-kind rural program that serves patients from Hope and the Fraser Canyon with local care without travel
 - Improves health system integration and reduces wait times significantly
 - Alleviates pressure on services such as Care Transit

- 2,819 patient visits from October to December in 2025, avoiding \$192,000 in travel costs
- Reduces travel burdens benefiting vulnerable groups lacking transportation
- Current Situation and Proposal
 - Visiting specialists provide care without compensation for travel time or mileage
 - The existing space next to the Hope Pharmacy is a hybrid clinic where primary care providers are located and visiting specialists are accommodated, resulting in reduced hours
 - Primary care providers are moving into a new smaller dedicated space elsewhere in the District
 - Local physicians have historically absorbed costs for the clinical space, but will no longer cover these costs once they have moved out of the shared space
 - The Specialist Clinic will occupy the full space next to the Hope Pharmacy while partnering with Fraser Health, First Nations Health Authority, the Fraser Valley Regional District, and the District of Hope to cover annual operating costs
- Funding
 - With family doctors leaving the space, office and medical supplies will be reduced by 50%
 - \$126,971 in annual funding is required to maintain the Specialist Clinic
 - Fraser Health has committed to providing funding for a Medical Office Assistant
 - First Nations Health Authority has pledge \$15,000 in annual funding and will utilize the space 1-2 days a week
 - The Fraser Valley Regional District has pledged \$10,000 in annual funding
 - The remaining \$40,971 in annual funding is requested from the District of Hope
- Review funding agreement on a bi-annual basis to monitor utilization, funding contributions and identify other partners and sponsors
- The Village of Harrison Hot Springs and City of Grand Forks have similar agreements in which they pay clinical operating costs in their communities

Council asked whether the specialist clinic also reduces wait times for local people or only eliminates the need for travel. Dr. Grover advised that the clinic addresses both issues. Council inquired as to whether residents in other areas of the Fraser Valley could take advantage of reduced wait times and receive referrals for the specialist clinic. Ms. Pardy advised that referrals from outside Hope and the Fraser Canyon would be redirected elsewhere.

Council inquired as to the timeline for funding decisions. Dr. Grover advised that the lease on the current clinic building expires on September 1st, noting that the family physician who currently holds the lease would like to give notice in July. Council inquired as to who would be responsible for cost overruns. Dr. Grover advised that while most costs are standard, any overruns related to equipment or supplies would be handled by the specialists. Council inquired as to what length of agreement is being sought. Dr. Grover advised that they would like to establish an agreement for a minimum of two years.

The Deputy CAO noted that Staff will bring forward a Report to Council with costs, term options, and other information through consultation with the Chilliwack Division of Family Practice.

5. STAFF REPORTS

**(a) Report dated May 26, 2026 from the Director of Corporate Services
Re: Management Policy**

Council asked how the District can ensure that matters previously covered by the policy are still addressed under legislation and existing agreements. The Deputy CAO advised that Staff, if directed, could create a new policy for Council's consideration that would be reviewed on a yearly basis. He added that the current policy has not been followed or maintained since its creation.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Management Policy Number 101-04 be repealed.

CARRIED.

**(b) Report dated May 29, 2026 from the Director of Corporate Services
Re: 280 Hudson Bay Street – Remedial Order for Demolition**

Council discussed the hazards present at the property, including proximity to a neighbouring home, off gassing of fire damaged materials, noxious odors and the appearance of the property. Council asked how the District will recover costs related to remediation. The Director of Corporate Services advised that all costs, plus an administrative fee, are invoiced back to the property owner. She added that if the property owner fails to pay the invoice, the amount owing is added to their property taxes.

Council briefly discussed other areas of the community and the types of situations that would require remedial action. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the *Community Charter* lists specific requirements for remedial actions.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council, under the authority provided in Section 73 & 74 of the *Community Charter* and after viewing the photographs of the property, declares that the property located at 280 Hudson Bay Street with the following legal description:

- PID: 009-565-230, Lot 1 Section 9 Township 5 Range 26 West of the 6th Meridian Yale Division Yale District Plan 39133;

is a hazardous condition and a nuisance to the community and neighbourhood, and as a result, is a "hazard" and "declared nuisance" that requires remedial action to demolish the burnt house, remove any accumulation of debris and discarded materials, and level the lands on the property;

AND FURTHER THAT Council imposes the remedial action upon the registered property owners, Joseph Mark Louie Mercier and Diane Ellen Mericer, in respect of the property noted above, to demolish and remove the entire structure and any discarded materials, as well as level the lands;

AND FURTHER THAT Council, under the authority provided in Section 79 of the *Community Charter* and after viewing the photographs which displays the proximity of the neighbouring house declare that there is a significant risk to the health and safety of the neighbours to ensure the works are completed due to the possibility of summer temperatures causing the release of noxious odours to the neighbours;

Municipal Action at Defaulter's Expense:

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes staff to take all appropriate actions in accordance with Section 17 (Municipal Action at Defaulter's Expense) of the *Community Charter* to ensure the property is brought into compliance with the Remedial Action specified above provided that:

- a. The property owner has not fully complied with the remedial action order on or before the compliance date specified in the applicable Council resolution; and
- b. That all costs incurred by the District to bring the property into compliance shall be at the expense of the property owner and, as per Section 17 of the *Community Charter*, these costs shall be treated as a debt owed to the District of Hope.

Compliance & Notice Time Limit Recommendations:

AND FURTHER THAT Council sets the time limit for compliance with all of the above remedial actions at 30 days commencing June 8, 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT Council sets the time limit for a notice of a request for Council to reconsider the remedial action requirement be set at 14 days, commencing June 8, 2026.

CARRIED.

- (c) **Report dated May 29, 2026 from the Director of Community Development
Re: BC Building Code and Building Bylaw Contraventions at 21015 Swallow Place, Hope, B.C.**

Council asked whether the District received a complaint regarding the unauthorized secondary suites at 21015 Swallow Place. The Director of Community Development advised that the District received a complaint in 2025 regarding work being completed without a permit, and that Staff met with the property owner who agreed to stop the work. In Spring 2026, it came to the attention of Staff that the property was listed for sale and advertised as including two unauthorized secondary suites.

Moved / Seconded

THAT a Notice in the Land Title Office pursuant to Section 302 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 57 of the *Community Charter* be registered on title against the property legally known as: Lot 4 District Lot 4 Yale (Formerly Hope) Division Yale District Plan 35374; PID #001-499-602, civic address 21015 Swallow Place, Hope BC for a *BC Building Code* and Building Bylaw contravention.

CARRIED.

- (d) **Report dated June 2, 2026 from the Director of Finance
Re: District of Hope 2025 Annual Report**

Council noted minor edits to the Elected Officials Biography section.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council receive the District of Hope 2025 Annual Report for information.

CARRIED.

- (e) **Report dated June 2, 2026 from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Funding Request – Purchase of Flail Mower Head**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council authorize the purchase of one Shear Force FM1100 Flail Mower Head in the amount of \$11,724.27, including tax, with funding to come from the Public Works Vehicle and Equipment Reserve.

CARRIED.

**(f) Report dated June 2, 2026 from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Award Recommendation – Supply of One (1) New Rubber Tire Backhoe**

The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer noted that Staff are familiar with CAT equipment and have existing snowplow attachments and diagnostic software. He added that while this was a Request for Proposal and not a tender, which does not require Council approval under the Purchasing Policy to consider bids that are not the lowest, the report was brought forward for transparency.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council award RFP#PW2026-01 to Finning (Canada), for the supply of one (1) 2026 CAT 420 Backhoe, as their proposal represents the best overall value and most operationally suitable option for the District's needs. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He met with CN Rail to discuss ongoing projects, adding that they spoke about funding a bus stop at the Station House to be used by Ebus and other services.
- He attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference along with the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. He noted that federal funding and the West Coast Corridor Resiliency Partnership were topics of discussion.
- He attended a Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Capital Project Working Group meeting, noting that it was the first meeting since April 2022.
- He has three meetings with Fraser Health staff.
- He attended the Lower Mainland District Mayor's Forum at the RCMP "E" Division Head Office. He noted that concerns raised included Hope Detachment members conducting highway patrol and the need for more communication.
- He attended a presentation by Enbridge regarding their upcoming Sunrise Expansion Program, noting that work will begin on July 2nd and continue into 2028. He added that the work will include approximately 100 staff, and that an information session will be held on June 10th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Blue Moose Coffee House.
- He attended the Purple Lights unveiling of the Skoda artwork on the wall of the Midtown Mall along with Councillor Stewin, Staff Sergeant Mike Sargent, the Hope Eagles, Pastor Jeff Kuhn, and others. He noted that presenters spoke about how domestic violence has no place in our community.
- He attended the Highway 3 Mayor's meeting, noting that most projects are focused in the Kootenay area, but improvements to the Hope-Princeton Highway are on the agenda. He added improvements to cell service are also being requested.

Councillor Graham Reported:

- She noted that the AdvantageHOPE Annual General Meeting is taking place on June 15th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.
- She noted that Concerts in the Park begins on July 3rd and runs through August 28th.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She attended a Career Fair at the Spirit of Hope Secondary School, noting that there was limited participation from local businesses.
- She noted that Concerts in the Park begins soon and features a variety of music.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He took part in Tim Hortons' Smile Day as Acting Mayor, noting that approximately \$80,000 was raised across all communities with Hope being one of the highest-raising locations. He added that the Fraser Canyon Hospital Auxiliary is one of the recipients of raised funds.
- He reminded the public to be patient and welcoming as tourist season begins.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She noted that a Hope Inclusion Project meeting will take place on June 9th.
- She attended a webinar from the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner regarding systemic discrimination in the workplace, noting that it included strategies for addressing the issue.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She noted that all nine holes at the Hope Golf and Country Club are open. She added that a realtor took photos of the golf course with a drone and that the photos are available online.

Councillor Medlock had nothing to report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) Election Procedures Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Election Procedures Bylaw No. 1631, 2026*, be adopted this 8th day of June, 2026.
CARRIED.

**(b) Report dated June 1, 2026 from the Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Re: Election Sign Bylaw**

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Election Sign Bylaw No. 1632, 2026*, be read a first, second and third time this 8th day of June, 2026.
CARRIED.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Sign Amendment Bylaw No. 1633, 2026*, be read a first, second and third time this 8th day of June, 2026.
CARRIED.

- (c) **Report dated June 1, 2026 from the Planner I**
Re: Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit Application - 66422 Othello Road
Moved / Seconded

THAT a Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit be approved for the construction of a single-family dwelling at 66422 Othello Road, subject to the District of Hope receiving a satisfactory report from a qualified professional that meets the Development Permit Area conditions; and

FURTHER THAT the Director of Community Development be authorized to endorse the Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit and required covenant documents. **CARRIED.**

- (d) **Report dated June 3, 2026 from the Planner I**
Re: Flood & Erosion Hazard Development Permit Application – 19422 Silver Skagit Road
Moved / Seconded

THAT a Flood & Erosion Hazard Development Permit be approved for an addition to the one family residence located at 19422 Silver Skagit Road, subject to the District of Hope receiving a satisfactory report from a qualified professional that meets the Development Permit Area conditions; and

FURTHER THAT the Director of Community Development be authorized to endorse the Flood & Erosion Hazard Development Permit and required covenant documents. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) **For Information Correspondence**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated June 8, 2026, be received. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – May 2026**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of May 1-31, 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, June 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held June 8, 2026, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services