

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, March 24, 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 Heather Stewin

Council Members Absent Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Christian Parr, Planner II
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 10 members of the Public and 1 Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:12 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 24, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as amended, to add item 5(b), rise and report from the Committee of the Whole for the adoption of the Integrated Transportation Master Plan. **CARRIED.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 10, 2025, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) Honour House

Allan De Genova, President of Honour House Society was in attendance to share information with Council regarding an Honour House subscription. In his presentation he showed two short videos, one on who the Honour House is and the second on about Honour Ranch. The following items were discussed:

- Honour House Society and Vancouver House
 - they are a charitable non-profit society who serve all types of emergency services (military, police, fire, ambulance etc.)
 - they opened the Honour House in the lower mainland about 15 years ago and they have provided over 16,500 night stays at no cost to their members and their families

- they have two paid staff and the rest is done by volunteers
- they operate all year long
- they operate through subscriptions, donations and fundraising
- they offer treatment and therapy to their members
- Honour Ranch
 - The ranch is located just south of Ashcroft on 120 acres; it is a working ranch
 - The ranch offers treatment and group therapy to their members at no cost for both serving and retired first responders
 - The ranch offers a retreat for healing

Mr. De Genova asked for Council to consider obtaining a subscription to Honour House Society and he provided brochures of information to Council for their consideration.

5. STAFF REPORTS

- (a) **Report dated March 19, 2025 from the Director of Finance**
Re: Travel & Expense Policy Amendment

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approves the increase to the meal allowances in the Travel Expense Policy, this 24th day of March 2025. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated March 19, 2025 from the Director of Finance**
Re: Integrated Transportation Master Plan

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approves the Integrated Transportation Master Plan, as presented.

CARRIED.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended a local government roundtable discussion regarding tariffs and the Provincial government as it navigates fast-moving changing targets. The government is looking to start a task force on agriculture and they are continuing discussions on BC softwood.
- April 26, 2025 is Earth Day and it will be running from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Memorial Park; items to recycle include: paint, spray paint, fluorescent lights, metal, batteries, electronics, smoke alarms, eye glasses, cell phones and more. Kal Tire will be accepting tires at the Hope location.
- The By-Election general voting will be taking place on April 26th in Council Chambers.
- He attended a meeting regarding Get Care Now. This is a Fraser Health initiative whereby people can speak with a registered nurse virtually from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. 7 days a week. The District will post information about this on our web site, as Council is committed to helping with better health care in the District of Hope.

- He attended the Local Government Leadership Academy Conference in Richmond, where they talked about getting more out of ministry meetings and the mounting legal costs that municipalities face in these challenging times.
- He met with Rubicon Organics; new owners of the Canna Farms property. They have been operational for about ten years and they are working to open in Hope very soon. Their CEO, Margaret Brodie, was Entrepreneur of the Year in 2024 and the company made their first international shipment to Poland earlier this month. We look forward to having them operate in Hope.
- Timbro Contracting will be back to restart the Richmond Hill Pathway Project in early April. The District and our contractor have just finished up on the rock scaling as result of resent rock slide.
- He had a meeting with the Golden Agers and they provided him with an update on future building upgrades they hope to complete.
- He attended the Chawathil Community Engagement event, noting that they have completed a number of amazing home repairs and they are planning to start on new homes for Ross Road to address a housing shortage.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She attended the March 20th Hope and District Arts Council Meeting, highlighting that they will be holding their AGM on April 15th, their Garage Sale on April 12th and accepting donations for the sale, and they have nine concerts confirmed for the summer Concerts in the Park.
- She attended an Accessibility Committee meeting today.
- Kal Tire will be participating in the April 26th Earth Day activities; accepting tires at their storefront.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended an Accessibility Committee meeting today and noted that the committee is finalizing a survey which will be coming out next week, seeking public input for locations of sidewalks and crosswalks throughout the community.

Councillors Medlock & Stewin both had no reports.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) Public Notice Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Public Notice Bylaw No. 1590, 2025*, be adopted this 24th day of March, 2025. **CARRIED.**

(b) Application Procedures Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*, be adopted this 24th day of March, 2025. **CARRIED.**

(c) Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1600, 2025*, be adopted this 24th day of March, 2025. **CARRIED.**

(d) Report dated March 13, 2025 from the Planner II

Re: Flood & Erosion Hazard Development Permit - 61705 Yale Road

Moved / Seconded

THAT a Flood and Erosion Hazards Development Permit be approved for the property at 61705 Yale Road, for the construction of an accessory building 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 and Erosion Hazard Development Permit and required covenant documents.

CARRIED.

(e) Report dated March 17, 2025 from the Planner II

Re: Development Variance Permit – 661 Maple Street

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with notification for a Development Variance Permit for the following *Zoning Bylaw* variances for 661 Maple Street:

- Part 10.1.5.1 (height) to increase the maximum height for an accessory building from 5.0 m to 6.5 m.

CARRIED.

(f) Report dated March 17, 2025 from the Planner II

Re: Temporary Use Permit – 62870 Flood Hope Road

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approve the preparation of an 8-month Temporary Use Permit to allow for the third-party storage of up to 48 modular building modules and the preparation of those modules at 62870 Flood Hope Road; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize staff to proceed with public notification that a Temporary Use Permit for 62870 Flood Hope Road will be considered at a future Council meeting in accordance with District of Hope Bylaws and Provincial legislation.

CARRIED.

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated March 24, 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, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 24, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services