

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, January 12, 2026
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
Councillor Bonny Graham
Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: John Fortolczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Thomas Cameron, Fire Chief
Branden Morgan, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 12 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 January 12, 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 December 8, 2025 be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

(b) Public Hearing Record

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Record of the Public Hearing held December 8, 2025, be received. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) Hope Golf & Country Club

Steve Wilson, President of the Hope Golf & Country Club Society, was in attendance to present to Council regarding support to address flooding and damage to the Golf Course. In his presentation, the following items were discussed:

- 2021 Flood Impacts
 - Approximately 30% of the golf course was affected
 - Over 50,000 m³ of material was deposited
 - Significant erosion occurred on fairways #7 and #8
 - Volunteers undertook extensive restoration
 - Some compensation was provided by the Province for donated labour and materials
- 2025-2026 Conditions
 - The river has further eroded fairways #4, #5 and #8
 - A new channel has been created behind the #4 green and through the now-isolated fairway #7
 - Approximately 40% of the river flow now passes through this new channel
 - The newly completed irrigation pond has been filled with silt and sand
- Protecting the Golf Course
 - Met with Nova Pacific Environmental for advice and feedback on proposed plan
 - Construct angled rock spurs inland from the river that will deflect water force back into the river
 - Inland construction negates the need for environmental permitting, but third-party oversight will still be involved to ensure all environmental specifications are met
- Proposed Access to Isolated #7 Green
 - A seasonal bridge is proposed to facilitate access by golfers, mowers, and irrigation lines
 - Installed during golf season and removed in the winter
 - A permanent bridge is deemed impractical and expensive due to the shifting channel
- Interior Course Repairs Needed
 - Address erosion on fairways #4 and #5
 - Clean sediment from the irrigation pond
 - Repair and replace damaged irrigation infrastructure
 - Goal is to reopen on March 1, 2026
- Long-Term River Solution
 - Above measure are stopgaps that require work to restore the original river channel
 - The large island that has formed in the river is creating eastward pressure against the course
 - Removing the island would straighten flow towards the Fraser River and reduce erosion along the Rotary Trail and Golf Course

- Community Importance
 - The course is an asset to Hope and the surrounding areas
 - The course attracts visitors from outside of the District
 - 47% of rounds are played by members, and 6% of rounds are played by youth and students
 - More than 50 volunteers attended the volunteer work party to help with debris cleanup on December 30th following the windstorm
- Support for Recovery
 - A donation portal will be established for community contributions
 - The District's assistance is requested to lobby Provincial and Federal governments for permission and funding to control and contain the Coquihalla River downstream of the Golf Course Bridge

Council noted that all members of the Hope Golf and Country Club Society should submit letters to Minister Greene of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness requesting that the Province remediate damage from flooding and implement preventive measures.

The CAO noted that it is important to remember the Golf Course is located on Provincial Crown Land and, as the landowner, the Province needs to take action. He added that the Golf Course provides regional benefits, is community-run, and is adjacent to and protects First Nations land from erosion and flooding. He recommended that a letter to Minister Green be drafted outlining concerns and requesting that the Province takes action.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council issue a letter to Minister Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness requesting that the Province take action to remediate issues related to the Coquihalla River at the Hope Golf and Country Club and to implement erosion protection measures utilizing recommendations from Nova Pacific Environmental.

CARRIED.

5. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Report dated December 8, 2025 from the Director of Corporate Services
Re: AdvantageHOPE Board New Nominee for 2026

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council endorse Dean Werk's appointment to the AdvantageHOPE Board, this 12th day of January 2026.

CARRIED.

(b) Report dated December 8, 2025 from the Fire Chief
Re: Fire Department Paid-On-Call Rates Policy Amendment

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Fire Department Paid-on-Call Rates Policy be adopted, as amended, this 12th day of January 2026.

CARRIED.

(c) **Report dated January 5, 2026 from the Director of Corporate Services
Re: Email Poll of Council for the Sewer Main Collapse on Kawkawa Lake Road**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council ratify the email poll of December 23, 2025;

THAT Council authorize staff to proceed with the repair of the sewer main along Kawkawa Lake Road and sole-source the urgent works to Kemano Contracting. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended a Cadet Mess Christmas Dinner at the Hope Legion Hall, noting that they have increased from 9 members to 27. He added that it was an evening of camaraderie and learning military customs.
- He announced that white lights are being installed on the Recreation Centre and Library as part of the Hope and Area Chamber of Commerce lighting initiative. He added that the Ice Arena will be the next building to receive lights.
- He attended the grand opening of the Solside Tanning Salon with the team from AdvantageHOPE. He noted that the salon received a full makeover and that they have swimsuits, robes, and other accessories available.
- He noted that the Community Futures Sun Country board, on which he and Councillor Medlock are members, will be working with the District for Disaster Business Support.
- He attended the Polar Bear Swim at Kawkawa Lake, and thanked Brian McKinney, the Hope Lions Club, the Hope Fraternal Order of Eagles, Hope Search and Rescue, and all those who participated and helped organize the event.
- He noted that he is working with the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) to start a program in which students in trades and other professions would take part in the construction of a home from start to finish each year. He added that the concept has the support of surrounding municipalities and First Nations, and that the home would be sold and moved onto another lot following its completion.

Councillor Graham Reported:

- She attended the grand opening event at the Almsgiving Hope Cinema and Performance House, noting that they are offering events and opportunities for all ages and that the new operator seems to be open to suggestions and conversations.
- She noted that she was unable to attend the Polar Bear Swim at Kawkawa Lake, but thanked Brian McKinney for his work organizing the event.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He noted that he will be attending an AdvantageHOPE meeting on Thursday.
- He noted that the Polar Bear Swim was a fantastic event.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He noted that the Hope Icebreakers play their final home games of the season on January 16th and 17th, adding that they are in first place in the Province with a 10-1 record.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended the Polar Bear Swim event at Kawkawa Lake.
- She participated in the Golf Course cleanup on December 30th, noting her appreciation for the volunteers who attended.

Councillor Skoglund and Councillor Stewin had nothing to report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1614, 2025*, to allow Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) applications for daycare uses on Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (RS-1) zoned lots, be adopted this 12th day of January, 2026. **CARRIED.**

(b) Report dated January 7, 2026 from the Planner I

Re: Application for a Temporary Use Permit at 571 Rupert Street

Council inquired as to whether Staff believe there will be any parking issues due to the property's proximity to the Coquihalla Elementary School. The Director of Community Development advised that the property is already able to be operated as a daycare facility, and that the TUP will only remove the requirement for someone to live on-site. Council noted that the TUP will provide an opportunity to see how this use fits within the area.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approves the preparation of a 3-year Temporary Use Permit for the subject property to allow daycare use only, with no residential use; and

FURTHER THAT in accordance with the *District of Hope Zoning Bylaw No. 1324, Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595*, the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*, Council authorize staff to give notice to neighbouring property owners that Council will be considering a Temporary Use Permit for the property at 571 Rupert Street; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize the notification area to be a 50m radius from the subject property. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated January 12, 2026, be received. **CARRIED.**

(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – November 2025

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of November 1-30, 2025, be received. **CARRIED.**

(c) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – December 2025

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of December 1-31, 2025, be received. **CARRIED.**

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

There was no other pertinent business.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

A member of the public inquired as to whether the building being constructed by UFV students, as noted in the Mayor's report, could be built on a private lot if one was offered. The Mayor advised that he would bring this idea forward to the University.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

13. RECESS TO IN-CAMERA MEETING AT 7:29 P.M.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Section 90(1)(c) [labour relations or other employee relations] of the *Community Charter* and adopting closed meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

14. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:13 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held January 12, 2026, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services