

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 22, 2024  
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office  
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

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

**Staff Present:** John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO  
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development  
Mike Olson, Director of Finance  
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer

**Others Present:** 4 members of the Public and 1 Media

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

### 2. RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING AT 6:33 P.M.

#### **Moved / Seconded**

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Sections 90(1)(g) [litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality], 90(1)(k) [negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public] and 90(2)(c) [a matter that is being investigated under the *Ombudsperson Act* of which the municipality has been notified under section 14 [*Ombudsperson to notify authority*] of that Act], of the *Community Charter* re: Gardner Drive, and adopting closed meeting minutes.

**CARRIED.**

### 3. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting 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.

### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#### **Moved / Seconded**

THAT the April 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as amended to include item 12(a), regarding a Letter of Support for the New Pathways to Gold Society.

**CARRIED.**

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**(a) Regular Council Meeting**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 8, 2024, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

**(a) Retirement Gift**

Mayor Smith presented Ellen Forsey, RCMP Detachment Clerk, with a retirement gift and thanked her for her service to the community over the last 33 years.

**(b) TRUE Consulting**

Representatives from TRUE Consulting were in attendance to present to Council regarding the Silver Creek pedestrian crossing. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Background
  - As part of the future Intensive Transportation Master Plan, the Flood Hope Road corridor is proposed to be upgraded to an arterial classification.
  - The Silver Creek pedestrian bridge was struck by an industrial vehicle in October 2023 and the crossing span was removed due to structural concerns.
  - No delineated crossing had been provided at this location, with the nearest being at-grade crossings located at Owl Street and Silverhope Road.
  - The existing crossing was grade separated when Flood Hope Road was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and traffic volumes were significantly higher.
- Functional Requirements
  - Pedestrian desire lines are crucial when selecting a crossing as they reflect the actual behaviour and preferences of pedestrians.
  - By aligning with desire lines, the risk of jaywalking is reduced and safer pedestrian behaviour is promoted.
- Design Criteria
  - The Transportation Association of Canada Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition was used to evaluate the appropriate crossing design.
  - Pedestrian crossing control is required, with painted pavement markings, back-to-back mounted signage, and advanced warning signage due to intersections and visibility.
  - Due to the proximity to Silver Creek Elementary School, reclassification of Flood Hope Road from Collector to Arterial, and increased volumes of industrial and commercial traffic, the installation of white 'Briteside' panels and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons in both directions is recommended.
  - Traffic calming features and an offset crossing are recommended due to the characteristics of the corridor.

- Conceptual Locations
  - Marv Cope Way
    - Street lighting nearby
    - Wider crossing distance (3 lanes wide)
    - Close proximity to existing Beacon Road crossing location (95m away)
    - No suitable landing area on the South side
    - Does not align with pedestrian desire lines
  - Peter Street
    - Better aligned with pedestrian desire lines
    - Suitable landing area along Peter Street
    - Ability for center median island refuge inclusion
    - Street lighting present nearby
    - Wider crossing distance (>2 lanes wide)
    - Not comparable to grade separated overpass
  - Marie Street
    - Better aligned with pedestrian desire lines
    - Suitable landing area along Marie Street
    - Ability for center median island refuge inclusion
    - Wider crossing distance (>2 lanes wide)
    - Not comparable to grade separated overpass
    - No street lighting present nearby
- Recommended Crossing Option
  - Between Marie Street and Peter Street
    - Aligned with pedestrian desire lines
    - Suitable landing area with connectivity to both Marie Street and Peter Street through separated pathways
    - Center median refuge allowing for reduced crossing distances, pedestrian refuge, better visibility and traffic calming
    - Located mid-block
    - Not comparable to grade separated overpass
    - No street lighting present nearby

Council inquired as to whether there will be accessibility features integrated into the pedestrian crossing. The consultant advised that the crossing will be timed to accommodate those who may take longer to cross, such as seniors or individuals in wheelchairs and will feature tactile strips and audible crossing signals to aid the visually impaired. He added that the entire crossing will be at grade and will have suitable room to have many people, wheelchairs, bicycles, and strollers.

Council inquired as to whether parking signage will be installed to deal with the commercial vehicles that currently park on the side of the Flood Hope Road, as sight lines from the crossing may be blocked. The Director of Operations advised that a concrete roadside barrier will be installed along the multi-use pathway on the north side of the road as well as the south side that will prevent parking mid-block between Marie Street and Peter Street. He added that the challenges with commercial vehicles have been happening further to the east, and noted that this issue is currently being handled

by Bylaw Enforcement.

Council inquired as to whether any cost estimates have been completed for the project. The consultant advised that they are currently working on the functional design to include with the Richmond Hill Multi-Use Pathway project and will complete a cost estimate for the most updated drawing package.

## 7. STAFF REPORTS

- (a) **Report dated April 16, 2024 from the Director of Corporate Services  
Re: Gardner Drive Construction Completion**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council rise and report the April 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole resolution:

THAT Council directs Staff to proceed with Option #1, completing the Gardner Drive Road construction that fronts 65751 and 65771 Gardner Drive, to match the standard of the adjacent developer works. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated April 16, 2024 from the Director of Community Development  
Re: Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Extension Request for Silver Creek and Kawkawa Lake**

Council inquired as to whether the December 2030 deadline will be enough time for the District to upgrade water system infrastructure in order to comply with the implementation of Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing. The Director of Operations advised that he is hopeful that these connections will be completed as outlined in the Water Master Plan before the deadline and noted that the District is often dependent on senior level grant funding which takes time. He added that the District has a healthy water reserve that can be utilized as well.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council approve the submission of an extension application for the implementation of Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing under the *Housing Statutes (Residential Development Amendment Act, 2023* in the Silver Creek and East Kawkawa Lake areas until such time as the water system infrastructure in these areas is upgraded to ensure that the addition of new housing units will not constitute a risk to public safety. **CARRIED.**

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

## 9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

**Mayor Smith Reported:**

- He advised that there will be a temporary road closure on Fraser Avenue and King Street on April 24<sup>th</sup> for work on the Gateway Sign Construction Project.
- He attended a meeting for the Hope Area Flood Management Plan Project with regional partners and Ebbwater Consulting.
- He attended a Hope RCMP ceremony with CAO John Fortoloczky, noting that he met with a new member who lives in Hope. He added that Council glad to see more members residing in the Hope area.

- He toured the community with representatives from Blue Triton on April 9<sup>th</sup>, thanking them for their \$20,000 contribution towards a splash pad as part of the Hope & District Chamber of Commerce Downtown Revitalization Project.
- He announced that Fraser Health has completed a new roof for the Fraser Hope Lodge, noting that a new air system and elevator upgrades were also completed last year.
- He announced that Earth Day on April 20<sup>th</sup> was a success, noting that paint, batteries, scrap metal and tires among other materials were collected. He added that Assistant Fire Chief Josh Wescott spoke about the Fire Smart Program and 100 pairs of glasses were collected for the Lions Club.
- He noted that 11 fires were started over the weekend in the Cariboo Region with 10 of them were started by humans. He advised people to be cautious and respectful of their surroundings and added that the Hope Fire Department is working with the Haig Fire Base to exchange information and be better prepared.

**Councillor Wells Reported:**

- He thanked Blue Triton for their generous donation towards the Splash Park, something that will improve our town.

**Councillor Skoglund Reported:**

- She attended the Accessibility Committee meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- She noted that Kal Tire collected tires on Earth Day, with truck loads coming in from community members who collected from their neighbors who could not bring them in.
- She noted that she will be attending her first Hope and District Arts Council meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Councillor Medlock Reported:**

- He attended an AdvantageHOPE meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> where they had a presentation from Carlyle and Company regarding marketing and visitor tracking through anonymous cell phone data. He noted that this information could be utilized for more effective targeted marketing to increase tourism.
- He noted that the Municipal & Regional District TaxProgram application is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>, with 19 or 20 signatures received so far along with letters of support.
- He noted that AdvantageHOPE attended the Franchise Show at the beginning of April to hand out brochures to prospective business owners who may consider Hope.

**Councillor Smith Reported:**

- He helped host a car show fundraiser for the family of an individual who was recently involved in a motorcycle accident at Lake of the Woods. He noted that they had 121 cars registered and over 800 people in attendance, with donations totaling over \$23,000 being received from the community and around the province to help the family cover the costs of bills and time off of work.
- He reminded the community to practice motorcycle awareness as summer weather approaches.

**Councillor Stewin Reported:**

- She attended a Hope Inclusion Project meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, where they discussed curriculum project, anti-oppression, and the Pride Event that will take place on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. She added that she has received questions regarding the installation of a house post at District Hall.
- She attended the Scholastic Book Fair at Coquihalla Elementary.
- She attended the launch of the curriculum at Coquihalla Elementary on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, where books and successes were shared.
- She had an opportunity to be a co-presenter with Cathy van der Mark at the School Trustee Association on the BC Accessibility Act and noted that she had great discussions on how the Act is affecting our schools. She added that there were 33 motions at the meeting regarding accessibility, emergency management, and the publishing of personal information during elections.

**Councillor Newbigging Reported:**

- She attended a Fraser Valley Regional Library meeting, noting that the Hope Library is getting ready for the summer reading program.
- She attended the Accessibility Committee meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, advising that a suggestion box has been installed at District Hall for the community to provide feedback and suggestions. She added that another box will be installed at the Rec Centre.
- She thanked Emil Anderson and Ogilvie Mountain Holdings for providing equipment to clear the billboard at the Highway 3 and 5 junction, noting that the funding from the billboard will be used to pay for a website for the Hope & District Chamber of Commerce.

**10. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

**(a) *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 read a first, second, and third time this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2024. **CARRIED.**

**11. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) For Information Correspondence**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated April 22, 2024, be received. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – March 2024**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of March 1-31, 2024, be received. **CARRIED.**

**12. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS**

**(a) Letter of Support for the New Pathways to Gold Society**

**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 Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund for work on the 1926 Alexandra Bridge Rehabilitation Project. **CARRIED.**

**13. QUESTION PERIOD**

Jeremy Feltren, resident of Gardner Drive, requested clarification on the Gardner Drive Construction Completion project. Mr. Feltren inquired as to the timeline of the project. The Director of Operations advised that TRUE Consulting is working on the road design, and that it will likely take place in the Fall as the Richmond Hill project is the current priority. He added that Staff will maintain communications with Mr. Feltren regarding the survey process. Mayor Smith confirmed that Staff and Council are in agreement regarding the completion of Gardner Drive to the end of the road.

Mr. Feltren noted that he does not want the cul-de-sac to interfere with the existing gate and fence on his property and added that he has measured other cul-de-sacs in town and does not believe it will be an issue. He asked that a copy of the survey be provided when it has been completed. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that he will send Mr. Feltren a copy of the survey.

**14. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

*Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held April 22, 2024 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.*

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services