

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 27, 2025  
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office  
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

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

**Staff Present:** John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer  
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development  
Thomas Cameron, Fire Chief  
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer

**Others Present:** 7 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 January 27, 2025, 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 January 13, 2025, be adopted, as presented.  
**CARRIED.**

### 4. DELEGATIONS

#### (a) Cedar Strong Prevention & Intervention Society

Gerry Dyble was in attendance to present to Council regarding the Cedar Strong Prevention and Intervention Society branding background and new identity. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- The Hope and Area Transition Society started in the community in 1994 as a transition house and Society providing services to women and children
- The Society now provides a broad suite of community, family, and individual support services, advocacy and education
- Beginning in 2023, a branding initiative was undertaken to reflect their expanded breadth of service and embrace what they do in the community, which resulted in the new Cedar Strong Prevention & Intervention Society name

- Eyémstexw, a tagline provided for the Society by Chawathil First Nation, means to make it strong, him, her or them strong in Halq'emeylem
- The branding colors are green, slate, and bark, to represent their themes that are rooted and grounded in the earth
- The Society is moving forward with a new name and a new look that elevates their philosophy, breadth, and the people they serve
- The Society's House Post, introduced in October, features a bear, fish, and eagle

Council inquired as to whether the Society will be utilizing a new website and social media to reflect the new name. Ms. Dyble advised that the Hope and Area Transition Society website is still online and will display a message directing visitors to the new page when it is completed.

## 5. STAFF REPORTS

- (a) **Report dated December 18, 2024 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 27th day of January 2025. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated January 2, 2025 from the Fire Chief**  
**Re: 2025 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council supports the District of Hope application to the 2025 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for grant funding up to the amount of \$40,000 to improve the efficiency of the District of Hope Emergency Support Services through the provision of equipment required for training and implementation of a new District of Hope Emergency Support Services Activation Plan; and

FURTHER THAT Council commit the District of Hope to provide overall grant management. **CARRIED.**

- (c) **Report dated January 22, 2025 from the Fire Smart Coordinator/Assistant Chief**  
**Re: FireSmart Program Update**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council supports the allocation-based grant application to UBCM's Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2025/2026 FireSmart Community Funding with a resolution indicating support for the current proposed activities, and willingness to provide overall grant management; and

FURTHER THAT Council receives this report for information regarding the current status of the Hope FireSmart program. **CARRIED.**

**(d) Report dated January 22, 2025 from the Planner III  
Re: Mines Act Permit Referral – Hope Ready Mix – Quarry Expansion**

Council inquired as to the difference between this response prepared by staff to the Hope Ready Mix expansion, and the response in Item 7(a) prepared based on input from Council. The Director of Community Development advised that the District receives referrals on Provincial initiatives which primarily relate to zoning and access. The CAO advised that the content of both responses have been harmonized to give the same message. Council inquired as to whether a rezoning application would be brought forward before or after the Mines Act Permit has been approved. The Director of Community Development advised the District is requiring that the rezoning takes place, but noted that the Province has the ability to override municipal zoning for mining activities. He added that the District will follow the application process to see how it progresses.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council endorse the staff comments on the proposed expansion of the Hope Ready Mix sand and gravel quarry and direct staff to respond to Front Counter BC referral 175692297 – 005. **CARRIED.**

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

**7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**(a) Letter regarding the Hope Ready Mix Sand and Gravel Quarry**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council issue a letter to Hope Ready Mix and the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation including feedback and recommendations regarding the proposed sand and gravel quarry expansion. **CARRIED.**

**Mayor Smith Reported:**

- He advised that the Rambo carving is being moved into the Visitor Centre on January 28<sup>th</sup>, where it will stay until it is reinstalled on Wallace Street in the spring. He added that this will provide another attraction for visitors in the winter months.
- He noted that it is budget time for the Fraser Valley Regional District with 114 unique budgets to be completed for the many service areas that it covers.
- He attended Bud Gardner's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration alongside Councillor Newbigging and Councillor Stewin where they unveiled the chainsaw carving bench. He noted that there was a good turnout, and that the bench will be displayed permanently in the spring after more protective coats have been applied.
- He attended the Golden Agers meeting, noting that attendees expressed their appreciation for the Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest grant funding to upgrade their lighting system.
- He met with a group that included Hope Communities in Bloom, the Hope & District Chamber of Commerce, AdvantageHOPE, the Hope Recreation Centre, and the Hope Standard to compile a list of community events and create a calendar.
- He noted his appreciation for the District's work in elevating the Emergency Support Services and FireSmart programs, as well as ongoing improvements to

fire equipment and training. He added that the District has received \$1.3 million in grant funding, and that Hope has one of the largest volunteer firefighter groups.

- He attended the screening of “The Test” hosted by the Hope Fire Department on January 24<sup>th</sup>, noting that it was well attended.
- He attended the marketing workshop hosted by AdvantageHOPE on December 16<sup>th</sup>, noting that there were 18 people in attendance and a second workshop is being planned for February 15<sup>th</sup>. He added that AdvantageHOPE received 52 leads for new businesses in 2024, and that the 2025 Visitor Guide is being completed for the summer.

**Councillor Skoglund Reported:**

- She attended the Robbie Burns night at the Kingpin Lounge on January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- She attended the Hope Accessibility Committee meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Councillor Medlock Reported:**

- He attended the screening of “The Test” hosted by the Hope Fire Department on January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- He attended the Hope and Area Transition Society Board meeting, noting that the permissive tax exemption provided by the District for the Fraser-East Affordable Housing building has allowed the Society to start a rent subsidy program and distribute gift cards to residents during Christmas.

**Councillor Stewin Reported:**

- She attended Bud Gardner’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.
- She attended Robbie Burns night at the Kingpin Lounge on January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- She noted that she spoke with Emily Black, a UBC student studying journalism, and discussed the lack of transit availability in the Fraser Canyon and how to bring awareness to the situation. She noted that a lack of transit can lead to individuals putting themselves in dangerous situations, and that members of Council can reach out to Ms. Black to discuss the issue further.

**Councillor Newbigging Reported:**

- She attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Robbie Burns night, noting that over \$1,000 was raised for the Coquihalla Elementary School library, adding that it was the biggest turnout to date.
- She attended the Hope Accessibility Committee meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>, advising that they are now looking at sidewalks in the District and that a survey to gather community feedback will be conducted.

**Councillors Smith and Wells had nothing to report.**

**8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

- (a) **Report dated January 15, 2025 from the Planner II**  
**Re: Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit Application at 21636 and 21696 Thacker Mountain Road**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT a Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit be approved for the construction of one triplex building on each of 21636 and 21696 Thacker Mountain 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.**

- (b) **Report dated January 6, 2025 from the Planner II**  
**Re: Development Variance Permit Application at 477 Hudson Bay Street**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council considers approving a Development Variance Permit for the following *Zoning Bylaw* variances for a long-term care facility at 477 Hudson Bay Street:

- **Part 6.12.1** to allow off-street parking spaces to be accessed directly from a highway or street.
- **Part 13.2.5.1 (Setbacks)** to reduce the minimum rear lot line setback from 6.0 m to 4.5 m. **CARRIED.**

**9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) **For Information Correspondence**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated January 27, 2025, be received. **CARRIED.**

**10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS**

There was no other pertinent business.

**11. QUESTION PERIOD**

Karina Thomas, resident of Othello Road, raised concerns regarding the rezoning process to be undertaken by Hope Ready Mix, that the District has not reached out to speak to her since the January 13, 2025, Regular Council meeting, and added that she would like to see a copy of the response that Council is sending to Hope Ready Mix and the Province.

The Director of Community Development advised that staff visited the area and included comments regarding their concerns in their response to the Province. With regards to rezoning, he advised that the response contained a recommendation that two of the subject properties be rezoned but noted that the Province, as the mining authority, can choose to supersede those recommendations. That CAO advised that a copy of the letter is available in the public agenda package posted on the District's website.

Erica Ward, resident of Gordon Drive, raised concerns regarding the location of the alternate access road, ongoing monitoring of loads and traffic, and forest clearcutting that has occurred on the Hope Ready Mix properties.

The CAO advised that the District's letter speaks to the access road, but that the District will need to look at the permitting and any conditions that are applied to determine the exact location. He added that there is no way to guarantee which access Hope Ready Mix utilizes as it is private property, but that Council has made their preference known.

Karina Thomas, resident of Othello Road, advised that Jake's Construction has already started construction of the access on Othello Road and that it has been ongoing for ten days.

Christian Ward, resident of Gordon Drive, raised concerns regarding the Temporary Use Permit that Hope Ready Mix was issued by the Province during the 2021 Atmospheric River Event for the extraction of additional material, and continued extraction beyond the initial permitted allowance.

The CAO advised that staff will research the current status of the Temporary Use Permit to determine if the Temporary Use Permit is still in effect or if the increase has been made permanent.

**12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, February 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

*Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held January 27, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.*

Original Signed by Victor Smith

**Mayor**

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

**Director of Corporate Services**