

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2024
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Heather Stewin (departed at 7:37 p.m.)
Councillor Dusty Smith

Council Members Absent: Councillor Zachary Wells

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer
Gurvinder Sodhi, Communications and Network Analysis Advisor

Others Present: 7 members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the February 26, 2024 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 February 12, 2024 be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Report dated February 12, 2024 from the Chief Administrative Officer Re: Flag Raisings and Flag Protocol Policy

Council requested two changes to the draft Flag Raisings and Flag Protocol Policy:

- The definition for Courtesy Flagpole under section three be amended to read “Means the flagpoles located at District facilities for Courtesy Flag raisings.”
- Section four, bullet point four be amended to read “Requests for Courtesy Flag Raisings will be considered for:”

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council adopts the attached Flag Raising and Flag Protocol Policy, as amended, for use by the District of Hope;

AND THAT Council directs staff to create the appropriate application form and processes in place to operationalize the policy by April 1st, 2024. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated February 14, 2024 from the Chief Administrative Officer**
Re: Statutory Consent Request – Fraser Valley Regional District Hope and Electoral Area B Arena and Swimming Pool Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1717, 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council, on behalf of the municipality, consents to the adoption of the *Fraser Valley Regional District Hope and Electoral Area B Arena and Swimming Pool Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1717, 2023*;

AND THAT Council direct staff to communicate this to the Fraser Valley Regional District via means of a certified resolution. **CARRIED.**

- (c) **Report dated February 14, 2024 from the Chief Administrative Officer**
Re: Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre Ownership – Transfer to the Fraser Valley Regional District

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approves the transfer of ownership of the Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre building to the Fraser Valley Regional District;

AND THAT Council direct staff to execute the Transfer Agreement. **CARRIED.**

- (d) **Report dated February 15, 2024 from the Director of Corporate Services**
Re: Declassify Land Purchase of 901 Old Hope Princeton Way

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council declassify the February 12, 2024 In Camera resolution:

THAT Council declassify the District's purchase of 901 Old Hope Princeton Way for the purposes of installing flood prevention and mitigation works;

AND THAT Council declassifies that this property is to be further transferred to the Fraser Health Authority. **CARRIED.**

- (e) **Report dated February 15, 2024 from the Director of Community Development**
Re: FVRD Regional Growth Strategy

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council accept the *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No.1706, 2023* in accordance with section 436 of the *Local Government Act*. **CARRIED.**

**(f) Report dated February 20, 2024 from the Director of Community Development
Re: Housing Legislation Overview**

Council inquired as to whether setbacks that limit the number of dwellings on a parcel are allowable. The Director of Community Development advised that the Zoning Bylaw must allow for the three or four units, but you are allowed to consider local context with regards to transit, parking availability, and local character of the area. He added that rationale for any deviations must be provided to the Province.

Council inquired as to whether previous multi-dwelling projects that were not approved can now move forward if the new criteria is met. The Director of Community Development advised that the District has not designed the specific bylaw text yet, but the assumption is that because multiple units would be allowed in order to comply with legislation, these types of developments would be able to move forward. He added that there is an increase in requests to build secondary suites and duplexes, and that the Community Development department is advising applicants of the legislative changes coming in June and offering them the choice of waiting until they are in effect.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council receive the report regarding the Housing Legislation Overview on the *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act* and *Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act*, as information. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He welcomed Michelle Blaschuk, who started working on events and programs at the Hope Recreation Centre last week.
- He attended the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on February 13th and 14th, noting that the biggest challenge faced by municipalities is to achieve sufficient infrastructure upgrades while keeping housing within people's reach. He added that the government has set a timeline of four months to have the necessary changes made by municipal staff and Councils.
- He attended the Fraser Valley Regional Library planning session, noting that they covered a lot of new items coming to our local library. He added that 70% of the total budget goes towards staffing, with all aspects of the library service being heavily dependent on it.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She thanked the Hope Fire Department for their work on the Skagit Motel fire.
- She thanked the Operations Department for their work during the windstorm on February 25th.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He announced that the Station House was successfully moved to its new location on Water Avenue on February 15th.

- He attended an AdvantageHOPE Board Meeting on February 15th, noting that Richard Halbe has been hard at work creating marketing plans, budgeting, and planning events. An information session and breakfast will be taking place on February 28th at the New Hope Cinema for hotel and motel owners and managers. He added that a second session will be taking place on March 13th for all business owners.
- He announced that AdvantageHOPE is already collecting signatures for the renewal of the Municipal & Regional District Tax (MRDT) program, which expires in October. He noted that Richard Halbe has been working with local businesses and already has the necessary signatures. He added that there is a big focus on helping motels understand what it will be like post-pipeline and the importance of the MRDT in keeping their businesses profitable.
- He thanked the Operations Department for their work following the windstorm on February 25th.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He thanked the Director of Community Development for his update regarding the upcoming changes to Housing Legislation. He added that while these changes will be broadcasted in public consultation, it will be tough for Councils in British Columbia when it comes to changes in the community without Public Hearings.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended a Hope Inclusion Project meeting, noting that they received a \$48,000 grant from Heritage Canada that has to be used by the end of March. She noted that they will be hosting several events in a very short period of time. She added that their curriculum on anti-oppression and anti-ableism is going well.
- She announced that the Hope Pride Committee events will be taking place on June 22nd.
- She attended a presentation regarding immigration, noting that one of the people on the committee that helps new immigrants in the Chilliwack and Hope area recently held a Day of Awareness to help get information out to those in need.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She announced that the District's Accessibility Committee held its first meeting today with five members, two Councillors, and CAO John Fortoloczky. She added that an Indigenous representative, Bonnie Graham, has also joined the committee. She noted that the committee will meet once a month to share ideas.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

- (a) **Report dated February 21, 2024 from the Director of Community Development**
Re: *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1573, 2024*

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No.1573, 2024* in order to amend the definition of a Hotel, Motel, or Motor Inn to include the requirement for an on-site overnight caretaker and to amend the minimum lot area for a parcel for hotel, motel, or motor inn within the Downtown Commercial (CBD) Zone from 1,000 sq meters to 550 sq meters, be given third reading. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Report dated February 20, 2024 from the Director of Community Development
Re: Development Variance Permit – 320 Fort Street**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approve the preparation of a Development Variance Permit to vary the required off street parking stalls for the commercial component of the mixed-use building to eight (8) parking stalls for the property legally described as Lot 2 Section 9 TWP 5 RGE 26 W6M YDYD Plan 753; PID 012-083-399; 320 Fort Street; and

FURTHER THAT in accordance with the *District of Hope Procedures Bylaw 13/93*, the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*, authorize staff to issue a notice of intent to consider the approval of the Development Variance Permit to the neighbouring property owners including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. **CARRIED.**

**(c) Report dated February 15, 2024 from the Director of Community Development
Re: Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit – 66422 Othello Road**

Moved / Seconded

THAT a District of Hope Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit be approved for the property legally described as Lot 3 Section 11 TWP 5 RGE 26 W6M YDYD Plan EPP42543, PID 029-675-961, 66422 Othello Road, in order to construct a new single family dwelling subject to the District of Hope receiving a satisfactory certified report from a qualified professional confirming a site-specific safe building envelope; and

FURTHER THAT the Director of Community Development be authorized to endorse the Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit and required covenant document; and

FURTHER THAT for purposes of the Development Permit validity period, the conditions of the Development Permit shall expire on February 26, 2026; and

FURTHER THAT for the purposes of Section 504 of the *Local Government Act*, “substantially start any construction” shall mean the issuance of a valid District of Hope Building Permit. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated February 26, 2024 be received. **CARRIED.**

(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – January 2024

Moved / Seconded

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

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

(a) Letter of Support for the Hope Mountain Centre and Tashme Historical Society

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council of the District of Hope issue a letter of support to the Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning and the Tashme Historical Society for the construction of a wrap around deck on the Hope Station House. **CARRIED.**

11. QUESTION PERIOD

A resident of Fraser Valley Regional District Area B raised concerns regarding the transfer of ownership of the Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre including upkeep and maintenance costs, information sessions, and the new funding formula.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

13. RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING AT 7:37 P.M.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Section 90(1)(g) [litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality] of the *Community Charter*. **CARRIED.**

14. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:26 p.m.

(a) Declassification of In Camera Resolution

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council declassify the February 26, 2024 In Camera resolution that:

THAT Council commits to working towards paving Gardner Drive through to the end of the road up to and including the existing gravel turnaround adjacent to 65771 Gardner Drive; and

FURTHER THAT Council directs Staff to report back with options and costs that are in keeping with the current paved road, and the option for a minimum acceptable standard no later than April 8, 2024. **CARRIED.**

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:27 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held February 26, 2024 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services