

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, April 14, 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 Heather Stewin  
Councillor Dusty Smith

**Council Members Absent:** Councillor Angela Skoglund

**Staff Present:** John Fortoloczky, CAO  
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services  
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development  
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

**Others Present:** 11 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 April 14, 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 March 24, 2025, be adopted, as presented.  
**CARRIED.**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

There were no Delegations.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

**(a) Report dated April 7, 2025 from the Director of Corporate Services  
Re: Purchasing Policy Amendment**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Purchasing Policy amendment be adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.  
**CARRIED.**

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

## **7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **(a) Letter of Support to the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior**

#### **Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council issue a Letter of Support to the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior Grant Review Committee regarding continued funding for the Community Futures Sun Country Regional Business Liaison position. **CARRIED.**

#### **Mayor Smith Reported:**

- He spoke regarding U.S. tariffs, the effects they are having on Canadian consumers and companies, and the need to show solidarity. He added that he has seen more U.S. visitors in Hope in the last three weeks than ever before and that we should not alienate the U.S. tourists coming to Canada this summer.
- He took part in a speed carving demonstration at the Fraser Hope Lodge along with chainsaw carvers Randy Swope, Hannu Yliruuse, and Shae Larking.
- He announced that the \$1.8 million Othello Road project will be moving forward thanks to a \$1.66 million grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. He thanked staff for their continued work in applying for grants and noted that Council is committed to being fiscally responsible as the community continues to grow.

#### **Councillor Smith Reported:**

- He announced that the Silver Creek School courtyard is being cleaned up to facilitate the installation of two pickleball courts as part of a project by AdvantageHOPE, Communities in Bloom, and School District 78. He added that the courts should be open in May.
- He noted that works have restarted on Richmond Hill, and that he has received positive comments from the public. He added that the contractor and District Staff have done a great job communicating and reporting updates.
- He advised that he has been approached by multiple members of the public regarding Air BnB zoning and licensing in the community and noted that he would like to have a Committee of the Whole discussion regarding the topic.
- He noted that he spoke with the contractor working on Silver Skagit Road, and was told that they hope the road will be open for use after the May long weekend. He added that users of the road should be cautious, as there is currently a significant amount of truck traffic.

#### **Councillor Stewin Reported:**

- She attended the Hope Inclusion Project meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>, where they discussed the curriculum project from schools in Hope which continues to focus on anti-discrimination and anti-oppression.
- She noted that she will be presenting at a workshop regarding diversity and inclusion in Local Government.

#### **Councillor Newbigging Reported:**

- She noted that an All-Candidates Meeting is being hosted by the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Centre.

- She noted that the 2025 By-Election voting will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at District Hall.
- She noted that Earth Day is being hosted by the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce, Communities in Bloom, and the Hope Standard and will take place on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Memorial Park along Wallace Street from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She added that those interested can check the District's website or the Hope Standard for more information on what can be recycled.
- She announced that the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce will begin installing white lights on members' businesses to brighten the downtown area. Businesses interested in joining the chamber can find more information on their website.

**Councillor Newbigging Reported, on Behalf of Councillor Skoglund:**

- She announced that Kal Tire will be taking part in Earth Day by collecting scrap passenger vehicle tires (no commercial or farm vehicle tires), with hot dogs given out for every set of four tires brought in. She added that \$50.00 Kal Tire coupons will be given out for any invoice for work over \$300.00.
- She announced that Kal Tire is hosting a Women's Information Session on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7pm to provide details on their vehicles, vehicle maintenance, and general knowledge about vehicles. She added that there has been a great response so far with a potential second session in the Fall and urged those interested to register in advance.

**Councillor Medlock Reported:**

- He attended the Cedar Strong Board meeting as a Council liaison on March 31<sup>st</sup>, noting that the [www.cedardstrong.org](http://www.cedardstrong.org) website will be soft launched soon. He added that they are looking for two new Board members to replace those whose two-year terms are expiring. He noted that the Ryder building, which is operated by Cedar Strong, is currently at capacity with a waitlist.
- He noted that an All-Candidates Meeting is being hosted by the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Centre. He added that the 2025 By-Election voting will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at District Hall.
- He noted that General Voting for the Federal Election will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- He will be attending an AdvantageHOPE Board Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- He announced that the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Silver Creek Elementary.

**8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

**(a) Report dated April 4, 2025 from the Planner II**

**Re: Development Variance Permit Application at 661 Maple Street**

The Director of Corporate Services noted that the District received a petition from neighbouring properties that they are in favour of the development; a copy has been provided to Council.

The agent for the applicant advised that he was in attendance for any questions from Council or the public.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council approves 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.**

**(b) Report dated April 4, 2025 from the Planner II**  
**Re: Temporary Use Permit – 62870 Flood Hope Road**

The Director of Corporate Services noted that three written were received; JMH Industries (Mr. Ken Hall), Marilyn Wiens and the Fraser Valley Regional District

The Mayor called for any questions or comments from the public regarding the proposal.

Ken Hall, owner of JMH Industries at #1-63370 Flood Hope Road, opposed the proposal citing concerns regarding availability of existing land zoned for the proposed use, a lack of equity in property taxation, a lack of demand that would require a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) to be issued, and concerns regarding disruptions to adjacent residential properties. He added that he currently has 7 acres that are level and ready to go and his lands are closer to the truck stop with easy access to the highway.

Terri Jo Lavallee, resident 62790 Flood Hope Road, opposed the proposal citing concerns regarding the conduct of operations during a previous TUP and disruptions to neighbouring properties.

Rod Dyck, site supervisor of the project, noted that works on the property would take place during regular working hours, with only drop-off, unwrapping and bracing of modular buildings taking place. He added that the site was chosen for its accessible location near the highway and that work would begin mid-June and be completed by the end of August, if no delays occur.

Council inquired as to whether a property is taxed on its best possible use, including when it is operating under a TUP. The Director of Community Development advised that BC Assessment would need to assess the property for the classification to change how they assess the property, and that an 8-month period would likely not be enough time for this to occur. Council inquired as to whether the potential operator of the subject property inquired about any other properties in the District to conduct their work. Mr. Dyck advised that he looked at three other properties, and that the subject property was the best suited for their needs.

Council inquired as to how often a property owner can apply for a TUP. The Director of Community Development advised that an owner could apply two times up to a maximum of three years. He added that should this second TUP be approved, that the owner would need to rezone the property if they wished to change its zoning in the future. Council noted that the applicant could still apply to rezone their property if the TUP is defeated, allowing them to continue working with Mr. Dyck.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council approve 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. **DEFEATED.**

(c) **Report dated April 4, 2025 from the Planner II**  
**Re: Redesignate and Rezone – 19623 Silver Skagit Road**

Council noted that they are happy to see the notification area expanded to include all properties along Silver Skagit Road. Council also noted that as Silver Skagit Road is becoming heavily trafficked with an increasing number of industrial properties, the District should consider installing street lighting for safety.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1598, 2025* be given first and second readings to change the Official Community Plan land use designation from Country Residential to Light/Service Industry for the portion of the property west of Silver Skagit Road at 19623 Silver Skagit Road; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*; and -

FURTHER THAT Council approve and adopt the consultation strategy outlined in the Report to Council dated March 10, 2025, for *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1598* which includes referral to the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, the District of Hope Director of Finance, and the District of Hope Director of Operations.

**CARRIED.**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1599, 2025* be given first and second readings to change the zoning from Country Residential (CR-1) to Light/Service Industrial (I-2) for the portion of the property west of Silver Skagit Road at 19623 Silver Skagit Road; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*.

**CARRIED.**

**9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **For Information Correspondence**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated April 14, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED.**

(b) **Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – March 2025**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of March 1-31, 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 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

*Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held April 14, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.*

*Original Signed by Angela Skoglund*

**Acting Mayor**

*Original Signed by Donna Bellingham*

**Director of Corporate Services**