

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 27, 2024
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

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

Council Members Absent: Councillor Zachary Wells

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Thomas Cameron, Fire Chief
Dave Hick, Assistant Chief/FireSmart Coordinator
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer

Others Present: 3 members of the Public and 1 Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Section 90(1)(e) [the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality] of the Community Charter re: Road closure and adopting closed meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

3. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Meeting of Council 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 May 27, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as amended, to include item 12(a), rise and report to declassify the May 27, 2024 In-Camera resolution regarding the Fifth Avenue Improvement Proposal and Road Closure. **CARRIED.**

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 13, 2024, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

6. DELEGATIONS

(a) Tour de Cure

Chris Cook, Director of Mass Participation Events and Development for the Tour de Cure, was in attendance to present to Council regarding the 2024 Tour de Cure event in Hope. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Tour de Cure 2024
 - Takes place on August 24-25, 2024.
 - Will follow the same route as 2023, beginning in Cloverdale, with an overnight stop in Chilliwack, and finally ending in Hope.
 - The event perimeter will remain the same, with riders finishing on Wallace Street.
 - Closures will be sought for 3rd Avenue between Park and Wallace, 4th Avenue between Park and Wallace, and Wallace between 3rd and 4th Avenue.
 - 24-hour security will be on site starting the morning of August 23rd.
 - A dedicated medical tent, buses for rider transportation, and transport trucks will be on-site.
 - The first riders will arrive at 10:00 a.m. with the remainder arriving throughout the course of the day until 4:00 p.m.
 - Riders will dismount their bikes to be loaded onto the transport trucks on 3rd Avenue to be transported back to the start line and Chilliwack post-ride.
- Site Overview
 - All equipment will be delivered on August 23rd and secured by fencing on 3rd Avenue near the tennis courts.
 - Equipment includes a forklift, lighting tower, and golf carts.
 - Set-up will commence on August 24th at 8:00 a.m. and be completed the same day by 8:00 p.m.
 - Teardown will be completed by the end of day August 25th.
- Amenities
 - Hot showers
 - Port-a-potties
 - Secure bike storage
 - Food and beverage garden
 - Beer garden
 - DJ at the finish line

Council inquired as to whether parking in the downtown area will be an issue with the additional event equipment on-site. The CAO advised that he has been working with the planning committee, and discussions have taken place with the school district regarding the utilization of the vacant school lot on 4th Avenue for equipment and parking.

(b) FireSmart Program Update

District of Hope Fire Chief Thomas Cameron and Assistant Chief/FireSmart Coordinator Dave Hick will be in attendance to present to Council regarding item 7(a), FireSmart Program Update. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Context
 - The Community Resiliency Investment program was announced in 2018 and is intended to reduce the risk of wildfires and mitigate their impact on B.C. communities.
 - The District of Hope was granted \$199,790 in funding from the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports Stream in March 2024 following the assessment as a High-Risk area of the province.
 - The funding stream is designed for providing funding to local governments and First Nations in BC to increase community resiliency to wildfire, and undertaking FireSmart planning and activities.
- FireSmart
 - Founded on seven principles:
 - Legislation & planning
 - Education
 - Development considerations
 - Vegetation management
 - Emergency planning
 - Training
 - Inter-agency cooperation
 - These disciplines help to educate and prepare residents, their homes, neighbourhoods, critical infrastructure and vital natural resources from wildfire.
- Funding Requirements
 - To become eligible for ongoing, multi-year funding under this program, the District must achieve three foundational outcomes in the first year:
 - Hire and train a qualified FireSmart Coordinator to manage the program locally.
 - Create and adopt a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.
 - Join and participate in a regional Wildfire Resiliency Committee.
- FireSmart Roadmap and District Progress
 - Foundational Elements
 - The Hope Fire Department has hired a FireSmart Coordinator.
 - Local FireSmart Representative training is completed.
 - The department is hosting Wildfire Mitigation Specialist training in June, allowing them to support the full spectrum of FireSmart programs available.
 - The FireSmart Coordinator has published a RFP seeking vendors to help complete the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan with delivery slated for 2025.
 - FireSmart Hope has joined the Regional Wildfire Resiliency

Committee.

- Engagement Phase
 - FireSmart Hope has started to deliver Home Ignition Zone Assessments for residents of the District. To date, four have been completed and residents have been delivered reports detailing recommendations.
 - The FireSmart Coordinator, alongside officers from the Hope Fire Department, attended the 2024 Wildfire Resiliency Summit and FireSmart Coordinator Zone Meetings in Prince George in April.
 - Five Neighbourhood Hazard Assessments have been completed.
 - FireSmart Hope will present to the Hope Gardening Society in June.
- Initiative Phase
- Integration Phase
- Expansion Phase
- Next Steps
 - FireSmart Hope will attend a minimum of 12 community events, including weekly farmers markets and Brigade Days.
 - Neighbourhood Hazard Assessments will continue in order to facilitate both the Neighbourhood Recognition Program as well as the Home Ignition Zone Assessments and Home Partners Programs.
 - Creation of a rebate program, utilizing existing funding, to help defray costs to residents for wildfire mitigation work conducted on their properties, with up to \$500 for 50% of costs incurred.
 - Critical Infrastructure Assessments to be completed to become eligible for mitigation funding in the next round.
 - Update the District website with program information.

Council inquired as to whether there is a plan going forward to provide information to every household in the District, including those that may not have access to social media. Mr. Hick advised that the current plan is to target specific neighborhoods, but that a broader information dissemination plan is something they can look at in the future. Council inquired as to whether it is better for residents in a neighborhood to get together and reach out to the Fire Department, or to allow the surveys to be completed and the Fire Department to determine areas of priority. Mr. Hick advised that home and neighborhood assessments can be booked by residents who reach out to the department, and there will be a website with more information online soon.

Council inquired as to whether these assessments could be used to reduce insurance premiums, and if a negative assessment would cause premiums to rise. Mr. Hick advised that insurance premiums cannot rise due to the assessments, but noted that FireSmart has an agreement with insurance agencies that gives homeowners measurables to complete which can qualify for reduced insurance premiums from some providers. Council inquired as to who has access to the assessment once it has been completed. Mr. Hick advised that the homeowner will receive a copy, and the Fire Department will maintain a copy of the record in their system.

Council inquired as to how the Fire Department is managing risk from communities of the unhoused that are located in forested areas adjacent to property owners. Mr. Hick advised that the Fire Department has visited some of these areas, noting that they are still under the protection of the District, and noted that time will be spent on mapping, gauging response times, types of responses, and planning for events.

7. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Report dated May 17, 2024 from the Fire Chief Re: FireSmart Program Update

The Fire Chief provided Council with updates on current initiatives being undertaken:

- The Fire Hall 1 office space renovations are almost complete, with the Deputy Fire Chief now moved over to the building and the Fire Chief soon to follow.
- Eight applications for Volunteer Firefighters were received.
- The Hope ESS Committee will meet for the first time on May 29th and begin utilizing grant money and undertaking planning.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the report dated May 17, 2024 regarding the FireSmart Program Update be received by Council for information. **CARRIED.**

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended tee-ball at the 6th Avenue ballpark on May 22nd and thanked those who stepped up and organized the event.
- He attended the Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) 2025 budgeting meeting, noting that the FVRL serves over 800,000 across 25 libraries, making it the largest in BC. He also attended the Hope Library Heat and Wildfire safety presentation put on by Fraser Health.
- He noted that the Hope Golden Agers have been looking for grant opportunities to upgrade the lighting in their hall to make it more efficient and improve brightness.
- He announced that the Farmers Market on 3rd and Wallace will be starting on June 7th, running from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June through August. He noted that 70% of the vendors are seniors showing their talent.
- He noted the Trash to Treasure event will take place on June 8th.
- He attended the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the District of Hope and Chawathil First Nation on May 16th. He added that both parties will display a plaque to commemorate the event.
- He asked that Council support a motion to issue a Letter of Support to the Mayor and Council of the City of Abbotsford regarding their request for the federal government to look at diking for the Upper Fraser Valley, noting that this issue has stalled and there is growing concern with each year.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council of the District of Hope issue a letter of support for the City of Abbotsford Mayor and Council for their request to the Federal Government to look at diking in the Upper Fraser Valley. **CARRIED.**

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the District of Hope and Chawathil First Nation Memorandum of Understanding signing event, noting that there were many people in attendance as witnesses on May 16th.
- He attended the Indigenous Map Open House at Coquihalla Elementary School on May 28th.
- He attended the Relay for Life at Hope Secondary School on May 24th, noting that over \$34,000 was raised.
- He noted that he will be attending the upcoming AdvantageHOPE AGM on June 11th.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He noted the difference he has seen with the Hope Fire Department in the community, and congratulated Fire Chief Cameron and his team on their efforts.
- He announced that the Hope Mountain Trail Network is becoming a reality, with a grant of \$424,065 from the Economic Diversification Fund being approved. He noted that he was approached four years ago regarding trail network development, and that this project is big for tourism, economic development, and the community.
- He noted that he will be attending the upcoming AdvantageHOPE AGM on June 11th. and added that there is a very strong board that is making meaningful progress.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended the District of Hope and Chawathil First Nation Memorandum of Understanding signing event on May 16th.
- She attended the Indigenous Map Open House at Coquihalla Elementary School on May 28th.
- She attended a Hope Inclusion Project meeting on May 14th, noting that a group will be doing work in the community to put resources together and help people who are marginalized to access resources. She added that the Pride Day event will take place from noon to 6:00 p.m. on June 22nd at the New Hope Cinema.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She attended the Accessibility Committee meeting on May 27th, noting that the second suggestion box has now been installed at the Rec Centre.
- She attended her first Hope and District Arts Council meeting on April 23rd, noting their upcoming hot dog sale on June 15th at the Hope Arts Gallery. She added that the Arts Council has raised concerns regarding drug use behind their building, adding that there is increased risk due to their afterschool programs.
- She noted that Cathy Harry will be taking part in her 7th Tour de Cure alongside

three family members, adding that each person has to raise \$2,500 to take part and that they will be doing a silent auction and raffles in addition to accepting donations.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended the Accessibility Committee meeting on May 27th, noting that they are looking for more ideas and suggestions from the public, and urged people to drop off their ideas in one of the boxes located at District Hall and the Rec Centre.

10. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

**(a) Report dated May 22, 2024 from the Director of Community Development
Re: Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Zoning Bylaw Update**

Council inquired as to whether any response had been received regarding the District's application for an extension in the Kawkawa Lake and Silver Creek areas. The Director of Community Development advised that no response has been received yet, but noted that the Province has set up a technical committee to review requests. He added that the hope and expectation is that it will be approved, and the plan is to move forward and adjust if necessary.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1580, 2024* be given first, second, and third readings to update District of Hope Zoning Bylaw No. 1324 to comply with Bill 44, 2023 Housing Statutes (Residential Development). **CARRIED.**

**(b) Report dated May 13, 2024 from the Director of Community Development
Re: Re-Designate and Rezone the Properties at 19652 & 19683 Silver Skagit Road**

Council inquired as to what notification process will be undertaken for the neighbouring properties, as the rural properties in the area are quite large and the typical radius may not cover them. The Director of Community Development advised that signage will be installed on the property, ads will be placed in the newspaper, and properties within 50 metres will be sent a notification. Council asked that Staff increase the notification area to the ten properties in either direction of the subject properties in order to capture residents in the area. The Director of Community Development confirmed that he can undertake that notification process based on Council's direction.

Council inquired as to whether this proposal is the District bringing the properties into compliance or if the proponent has approached the District to get ahead of the situation. The Director of Community Development advised that the proponent initiated this process.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No.1581, 2024* be given first and second readings in order to redesignate the land use designation in the Official Community Plan for the properties legally described as Lot 2 & 3 District Lot 1601 Yale Division Yale District Plan 5302; PID 008-814-015 and PID 008-780-684; 19652 and 19683 Silver Skagit Road from Country Residential to Light/Service Industry; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures and Public Hearing/Information Meeting Procedural Bylaw No. 13/93*, the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*; and

FURTHER THAT the Council of the District of Hope has considered the duty to consult regarding *Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No.1581, 2024* and concurs with the Director of Community Development that consultation be undertaken with 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. 1582, 2024* be given first and second readings in order to rezone the property legally described as Lot 2 & 3 District Lot 1601 Yale Division Yale District Plan 5302; PID 008-814-015 and PID 008-780-684; 19652 and 19683 Silver Skagit Road from Country Residential (CR-1) to Light/Service Industrial (I-2); and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures and Public Hearing/Information Meeting Procedural Bylaw No. 13/93*, the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*. **CARRIED.**

11. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated May 27, 2024, be received. **CARRIED.**

(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – April 2024

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period dated April 1-30, 2024, be received. **CARRIED.**

12. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

(a) Rise and Report out of Closed Meeting

Re: Fifth Avenue Improvement Proposal and Road Closure

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council rise and report to declassify the resolution out of the May 27, 2024 In-Camera meeting:

THAT Council agrees to undertake a road closure and transfer of the required Fifth Avenue Roadway lands to the Proponent in exchange for all the improvements proposed; and

FURTHER THAT the Proponent agrees to transfer the required portion of land from 1040 – 5th Avenue to the District in order to amalgamate it into a new ‘turn around’ terminus of Fifth Avenue; and

FURTHER THAT Council agrees the value of the proposed Fifth Avenue Road Closure lands will offset the proposed improvement works in their entirety; and

FURTHER THAT Council agrees that a portion of the proposed closed Fifth Avenue Roadway would be offered to CN Rail; and

FURTHER THAT final approval of the proposed land transfers will be made upon satisfactory development proposals to, and further confirmation by District Staff.

CARRIED.

13. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

14. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

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

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held May 27, 2024 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services