

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

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

Council Members Absent: Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Zachary Wells

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Thomas Cameron, Fire Chief
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer

Others Present: 8 members of the Public and 1 Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order 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.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the October 15, 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 September 9, 2024, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) First Journey Trails & Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association

Thomas Schoen, representative from First Journey Trails, was in attendance to present to Council regarding the Mount Hope mountain bike trail network. In their presentation, the following topics were discussed:

- While the success of the Hope Bike Park was widely known, a lack of local mountain biking trails in Hope was identified.
- First Journey Consulting was hired in 2023 to develop a comprehensive trail

master plan to guide the community for the next 10 years. This included trail network goals, phased implementation, stakeholder involvement, environmental and cultural considerations, and budget and resource planning.

- Funding was received and the project began with the development of a signature trail that highlights the local topography and community and will later be developed into a network of interconnected trails.
- The signature trail, named Columbia, was hand-built and was created to be more difficult than the machine-built flow trails found elsewhere.
- As an expert downhill mountain biking shuttle trail, it is hoped that it will attract the hardcore mountain biking community due to its difficulty level and uniqueness compared to other trails.
- The trail is accessed through a forest service road off Highway 3 and includes multiple entry points and a short hiking trail that leads to a waterfall.
- 2024 Trail Construction Highlights:
 - 5,044 meters in length
 - 21 total construction weeks
 - \$416,450 budget
 - 7 full-time trail builders
 - 11 total full-time jobs created
 - Over 400 hours invested by local volunteers
- Economic and Social Benefits
 - Tourism boost
 - Local economic boost
 - Healthy lifestyle promotion
- Plans for 2025
 - Grand opening & ribbon cutting
 - Media blitz
 - Local awareness strategy

Council inquired as to how the public typically finds out about these new trails. Mr. Schoen advised that many people in the mountain biking community have already heard about the trail, with significant interest being displayed at conferences and on social media. He also noted that some people have been utilizing the trail even before its official grand opening.

(b) Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning

Representatives from the Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning were in attendance to provide Council with an update regarding completed trail works and their 2025 plans. In their presentation, the following topics were discussed:

- Education
 - School programs
 - Public programs & events
 - Indigenous Youth Outdoors
 - Manning Park Interpretive Programs
 - Trail signage

- Conservation projects
- Conservation
 - Grizzly Bear Monitoring
 - Black Bear Committee
 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - Leave No Trace
 - World Rivers Day
 - Friends of the Skagit
 - Trail signage
 - Program content
- Summer Trail Crew Work - 2024
 - A total of 16 trails were improved, including:
 - HBC Trail
 - Hope Bike Park
 - Tikwalus Trail
 - Serpent's Back Trail
 - Hope Lookout
 - Thacker Mountain
 - Landstrom Ridge
 - Spirit Caves
 - Mount Hope Summit
 - Wells Peak
 - Flood Falls Trail
 - Hope-Nicola Valley
 - Goat Bluffs Trail
 - Thunderbird Trail
 - Dewdney Trail
 - Centennial Trail
 - The range of work included:
 - Clearing brush and logs
 - Staircase, trail tread and footbridge repair
 - Bench, toilet and water bar installation
 - Directional and interpretive sign installation
 - Painting, staining and raking
 - Garbage removal
- 2024 Financial Contributions
 - \$40,000 was contributed by the District of Hope
 - A total of \$121,898 in funding was leveraged from the initial contribution
- Volunteer Contributions
 - A total of 724 volunteer hours were contributed across a variety of trails
 - \$12,308 in volunteer hours at minimum wage value with no cost to supporters
- 2024 Trail Statistics

- The Serpent’s Back Trail parking lot activity was captured on a trail cam, which showed:
 - 107 cars in two weeks
 - Based on an average of 3.2 people per vehicle, a total of 171 people visited the trail per week
 - Averaged across the full year, an estimated 8,890 hikers and trail runners utilize the trail each year
- Trails of Hope Brochure
 - 10,000 copies printed in March
 - 10,000 copies printed in August
 - Widely distributed at local businesses, visitor centres, trade shows, outdoor stores, and special events
- Goals for 2025
 - Continue maintaining local trails
 - Complete repairs to the HBC Trail
 - Complete interpretive signs for the Serpent’s Back Trail
 - Complete the new “Thunderbird Trail” connecting Flood Falls to Serpent’s Back

In addition to their presentation, the Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning requested \$40,000 in annual funding from the District of Hope for the next three years. The Director of Finance noted that this amount has also been included in the District’s 2023-2027 Financial Plan.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approve the Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning request for \$40,000 in annual funding for a period of three years to be included in the 2025, 2026, and 2027 budgets. **CARRIED.**

5. STAFF REPORTS

- (a) **Report dated September 25, 2024 from the Deputy Corporate Officer**
Re: Telephone Poll of Council for the Hope Golf & Country Club’s Application to the New Horizons Grant Opportunity

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council ratify the telephone poll of September 11, 2024:

THAT Council issue a Letter of Support for the Hope Golf & Country Club application to the New Horizons grant opportunity in order to replace two rooftop air conditioning units. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated September 25, 2024 from the Deputy Corporate Officer**
Re: Telephone Poll of Council for the Riverside Manor’s Application to the New Horizons Grant Opportunity

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council ratify the telephone poll of September 10, 2024:

THAT Council issue a Letter of Support for the Riverside Manor’s application to the New Horizons grant opportunity in order to build a raised vegetable garden. **CARRIED.**

- (c) **Report dated October 3, 2024 from the Planner III**
Re: Strata Conversion at 21088 Lakeview Crescent
Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approve the strata title conversion at 21088 Lakeview Crescent, legally described as Lot A Section 11 Township 5 Range 26 West of the 6th Meridian Yale Division Yale District Plan KAP49693, PID: 018-246-842. **CARRIED.**

- (d) **Report dated October 8, 2024 from the Director of Community Development**
Re: Building Bylaw Code Contraventions at 564 Thacker Avenue

Council inquired as to what steps will follow the presentation by the property owners. The Director of Community Development advised that the owners will have an opportunity to appear before Council to make presentation relative to the filing of the Section 57 notice. Following that presentation, should Council be in favor, a notice will be placed on title of the property for a BC Building Code and Building Bylaw contravention.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the owners of 564 Thacker Ave, Karolyn Margaret Ridgeway and Krystal Marie Ridgeway, be invited to appear before the Council to make presentation relative to the filing of a Notice in the Land Title Office pursuant to Section 302 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 57 of the *Community Charter* against the property legally known as: LOT 30, District Lot 14 (formerly Hope) Division Yale District Plan 6046. PID: 010-220-399. **CARRIED.**

- (e) **Report dated October 9, 2024 from the Fire Chief**
Re: Support for Grant Funding – CEPF Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council supports the District of Hope's application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation, indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management. **CARRIED.**

- (f) **Report dated October 9, 2024 from the Fire Chief**
Re: Support for Grant Funding – CEPF Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council supports the District of Hope's application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training, indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management. **CARRIED.**

- (g) **Report dated October 9, 2024 from the Deputy Corporate Officer**
Re: Deaccession of Museum Artifacts – October 2024

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council authorize Hope Business and Development Society (A.K.A. AdvantageHOPE) to deaccession the items listed in the attached October 2024 – Hope Museum Artifacts for Deaccession. **CARRIED.**

- (h) **Report dated October 8, 2024 from the Director of Finance**

Re: Fraser Valley Regional Library Holiday Weekend Hours

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approve the Fraser Valley Regional Library Hope branch add operating hours on holiday long weekends that include Saturday and Sunday effective February 2025. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

(a) Letter from Bavilliers Mayor Éric Koeberlé

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council issue a letter of response to Bavilliers Mayor Éric Koeberlé regarding the municipal twinning request, indicating our interest and further discussion to manage expectations. **CARRIED.**

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He noted that Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services, was a guest speaker at the Corporate Officers Forum where she spoke about the District's efforts to build relationships with local First Nations and the recently signed Protocol Agreement.
- He attended the 2024 UBCM Convention which covered topics including homelessness, mental health, drug addiction, and crime that is affecting communities across BC.
- He attended the Inclusion Fair at Coquihalla Elementary School on October 3rd alongside Councillor Stewin. He noted that the community is providing many amazing services, including a hearing expert that is shared with the Chilliwack School District.
- He congratulated Mark Howard, Occupational Health and Safety Advisor, and the rest of District staff for receiving the 2024 Safety Improvement Award in recognition of continued commitment to reducing injuries, illness, disease and fatalities. He noted that these actions have resulted in a reduction in WorkSafeBC fees.
- He addressed the recent boil water advisory that took place in the District of Hope, and noted the following:
 - The District recently took ownership of the 753 Waterwork System, and is waiting for approval to do upgrades.
 - E. coli is monitored in conjunction with other indicators as part of a source-to-tap approach to producing drinking water of an acceptable quality.
 - District of Hope water systems are sampled weekly, with results being reported to District staff and the Fraser Health Drinking Water Protection Program.
 - Water supplied for domestic consumption must meet the minimum standards published by the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.
 - The maximum allowable concentration for E. coli is non detectable per

100ml, with the District's alert taking place when a sample returned a result of 1 cfu/100ml, or 1 part per million.

- With the addition of chlorination, two consecutive samples with no detectable E. coli, and under the direction of Fraser Health, the District lifted the advisory.
- The water system in the affected area will remain chlorinated until the District is fully confident that the source of contamination has been identified and corrective action taken.
- District staff are currently undertaking a systematic inspection of the affected water system until such a time they are confident that the source of contamination is identified and mitigated. This may include permanent disconnection of inactive wells, elimination of unnecessary dead-end piping, and the addition of backflow prevention to residential water services at higher elevations.
- The District has been fortunate to supply water free of chemical disinfection but in doing so, is liable to potential events leading to boil water advisories. The District wishes to maintain our ability to distribute untreated water but remains aware that Fraser Health may order water treatment regardless.
- On any given day in BC, there are 80-100 boil water advisories in place, with many spanning multiple years.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- She attended the Hope & District Arts Council meeting on September 24th, noting that they have ongoing concerns with security, squatters, and people in the alleyway behind the gallery. She added that their application for an operating grant was denied, but they will be reapplying and have reached out to AdvantageHOPE to inquire if the Arts Council can be included in their funding or other partnership opportunities.
- She attended the Mugs n' Munchies event at the Hope Arts Machine but noted that it was poorly attended despite being well advertised.
- She attended the Hope Accessibility Committee meeting on October 15th.
- She announced that the Fraser Inclusive and Supportive Housing Society will be hosting a Halloween Dance Party and Costume Contest at the Hope Golf & Country Club on October 26th from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. She noted that this event will help support the society.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the 2024 UBCM Convention, noting that it was a good opportunity to connect with other communities and take part in informative sessions. He added that there were very few Ministry meetings due to the upcoming provincial election.
- He encouraged everyone to vote in the Provincial election by October 19th.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He organized a volunteer cleanup operation of scrap vehicles and other debris and garbage on Silver Skagit Road, which included 30 volunteers a day, 440 man-hours and equipment time over two days. In total, over 350,000lbs of garbage was removed in addition to tires, scrap metal, wood debris and over 150 propane tanks. He noted that the RCMP will be installing signage and regularly monitoring the area to ensure that the buildup does not occur again, and exercising their authority under the *Land Act* to remove people. He thanked the volunteers and businesses from the community that came forward to assist with the cleanup.
- He thanked the Hope Mountain Centre and Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association for their efforts in trail building and community programs.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended the Hope Accessibility Committee meeting on October 15th, noting that they are currently working on a project to bring more benches to Hope in areas of need. She reminded people that there are two suggestion boxes located in the lobby of District Hall and at the Recreation Centre where ideas and suggestions can be provided. In addition, emails can be sent to accessibility@hope.ca to be reviewed by the committee.
- She attended the 2024 UBCM Convention, thanking Councillor Medlock for his assistance in navigating the event.
- She thanked Councillor Smith and the community volunteers and businesses who came together to take part in the Silver Skagit cleanup.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

- (a) ***District of Hope Volunteer Fire Department Establishment and Fire and Safety Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1587, 2024***

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Volunteer Fire Department Establishment and Fire and Safety Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1587, 2024* be adopted this 15th day of October 2024. **CARRIED.**

- (b) ***2025-2029 Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 1585***

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope 2025 - 2029 Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 1585, 2024* be adopted this 15th day of October, 2024. **CARRIED.**

- (c) ***2025-2034 Permissive Tax Exemption Places of Worship Bylaw No. 1586***

Moved / Seconded

THAT *2025-2034 Permissive Tax Exemption Places of Worship Bylaw No. 1586, 2024*, be adopted this 15th day of October, 2024. **CARRIED.**

(d) Report dated October 8, 2024 from the Planner II
Re: Re-designate and Rezone 63040 Flood Hope Road

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No.1588, 2024* be given third reading to amend the land use designation for 63040 Flood Hope Road from Highway Commercial to Light/Service Industrial. **CARRIED.**

Council noted that they compared the allowable uses in the current Highway Commercial (C-2) zone and the proposed Light/Service Industrial (I-2) zone in making their decision to give the bylaw third reading.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1589, 2024* be given third reading to rezone 63040 Flood Hope Road from Highway Commercial (C-2) to Light/Service Industrial (I-2). **CARRIED.**

(e) Report dated October 8, 2024 from the Planner III
Re: Temporary Use Permit Renewal at 62870 Flood Hope Road

Council inquired as to the reasoning behind a deferment of the consideration of a renewal of the Temporary Use Permit. The Director of Community Development advised that when the extension was initially brought forward, the expectation was that Trans Mountain would be continuing to utilize the property for their operations. As the Temporary Use Permit is specific to the use, and it has been confirmed that Trans Mountain will not be extending their use of the property, it cannot be renewed at this time. He added that the property owner has advised that he may contact Enbridge regarding the use of his property for their upcoming project, but there is no use specified currently.

Council noted that a Temporary Use Permit is typically given an initial three-year period, with a three-year extension, and inquired as to whether that would still be possible with a deferment of one year. The Director of Community Development advised that the intent of the resolution is to allow an opportunity for the property owner to find a tenant with the same use and return to Council with an application for a renewal. He added that a new application will need to be submitted if the current permit expires.

The CAO advised that a delegation from Enbridge is expected in the future to provide an update on their upcoming project.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council defer consideration of a renewal of a Temporary Use Permit at 62870 Flood Hope Road for up to one year, until October 15, 2025. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated October 15, 2024, be received. **CARRIED.**

(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – September 2024

Moved / Seconded

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

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

11. QUESTION PERIOD

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:13 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held October 15, 2024 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith
Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham
Director of Corporate Services