

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 8, 2023
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 Angela Skoglund
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Zachary Wells

Council Members Absent: Councillor Crystal Sedore

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Richard Zerr, Acting Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer/EA

Others in attendance: 10 members of the public and 1 media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened by acknowledging 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 May 8, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted as amended, to include item 5(a), regarding the 2022 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements.

CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 24, 2023 be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) FortisBC

Kim Halowski, Community Relations Manager with FortisBC, was in attendance to present to Council regarding energy and low carbon transition plans. In her presentation, the following points were discussed:

- Partnering with communities
 - Working together to meet climate change goals
 - Discuss the unique needs of each community

- FortisBC Services
 - Provides electricity, renewable natural gas, natural gas, LNG, and propane to 1.2 million customers
 - Serve 135 communities across BC and 58 Indigenous communities across 150 traditional territories
 - Directly employs 2700 British Columbians
 - Own and operate four hydroelectric dams
 - Own and operate 7,000 kilometers of electric transmission and distribution power lines
- The importance of gas and electric systems working together to meet demand
 - Recent studies conducted by the University of Victoria state that electrical capacity in the province is insufficient to meet electrical needs of the future
 - The creation of a diversified pathway and resilient energy future is at the forefront of FortisBC's decarbonization efforts
- 4 Pillars of our Clean Growth Pathway to 2050
 - Energy efficiency
 - Renewable and low-carbon gases
 - Zero and low-carbon transportation
 - Global Liquid Natural Gas
- Renewable Gas
 - Derived from organic sources using existing carbon
 - Biogas is captured from decomposing organic waste in landfills, agriculture, waste-water treatment facilities and cleaned to create renewable gas
 - Renewable gas has the lowest emissions of available energy sources
 - Cost of \$0.0784kWh compared to \$0.0950-\$0.1408 for BC Hydro electricity
 - Up to 18 million gigajoules, equivalent to the Site C Dam or enough renewable gas to heat 320,000 homes is available
- Proposed Renewable Gas Program
 - All NEW residential gas connection customers to receive 100% renewable gas for the life of their buildings
 - All EXISTING customers will receive a blend of renewable gas starting in 2024
 - Continuation of voluntary blends up to 100%
- Tomorrow's Hydrogen System
 - Hydrogen emits no carbon dioxide when burned
 - It can be produced by electrolysis or separated with methane
 - Development of hydrogen hubs throughout the province

(a) KPMG

Sean Reid, representative from KPMG, was in attendance to present the Audit Findings Report for the year ended December 31, 2022. In his presentation, the following points were discussed:

- KPMG confirmed that they are independent with respect to the District up to the date of this report.

- As of today, the audit of the financial statements is complete, with the exception of:
 - Completing discussions with Council
 - Obtaining the signed management representation letter
 - Obtaining evidence of Council's approval of the financial statements
 - Completing subsequent event review procedures up to the date of the Council's approval of the financial statements
- Areas of Audit Focus
 - Municipal taxation revenue
 - Transfers from other governments
 - Tangible capital assets
- Materiality
 - Uncorrected and corrected misstatements were found, but they were not material
 - Materiality threshold for 2022 stands at \$420,000, compared to \$380,000 for 2021
 - No significant risks of material misstatement were identified
- Significant Risk
 - KPMG has rebutted the presumed risk of fraud from revenue recognition due to the primary sources of revenue including tax revenue and government grants having a low risk of fraud
 - No significant issues were noted in testing
- Municipality Tax Revenue
 - Municipal taxation accounts for 49% of revenue for the District
 - No issues were noted in testing
- Transfers from Other Governments
 - The District recognized a total of \$1.6 million into government transfers from Federal, Provincial, and Local Governments
 - In the current year, the District received a grant for \$2.5 million related to interim flood support, which remains in deferred revenue as at December 31, 2022
 - No significant issues were noted in testing
- Tangible Capital Asset (TCA) additions
 - The District continues to expand and invest in property, buildings, road, water and sewer related infrastructure
 - The District acquired and constructed \$4.44 million in capital assets in 2022, compared to \$355,000 in 2021 which was a significant increase
 - No issues were noted in testing

Council thanked Director of Finance Mike Olson and his team for their successful completion of the audit. Mr. Reid noted that there is an accounting standards change effective for 2023 regarding asset retirement obligations; this will be implemented and involve accruals for things such as removal of asbestos out of District owned buildings.

5. STAFF REPORTS

**(a) Report dated May 4, 2023 from the Director of Finance
Re: 2022 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements**

Council inquired regarding the amount noted under “gain on sale of land held for resale”, for the sale of the property at 455 Coquihalla Street. The Director of Finance advised that the figure of \$2,131,368 shows the gain from the transaction, and that the property was sold for just under \$2.5 million.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the 2022 consolidated financial statements of the District of Hope be approved; and

THAT the Independent Auditor’s Report be received; and

THAT the Independent Auditor’s Report be attached to the consolidated financial statements of the District of Hope. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He met with Jennifer Kerr and Andreanna Simard from Blue Triton to discuss working with Communities in Bloom for a solar power water system at the community garden, as well as mason bee courses and programs with the Hope Outdoor Learning Centre.
- He attended the Hope & Area Healthy Communities Committee meeting where they discussed affordable housing and micro health grants with Fraser Health.
- He attended the Lower Mainland Local Government Association 2023 Annual Conference where he met with E-Comm 911. He noted that the Province is contributing \$90 million for E-Comm technological upgrades and \$60 million to UBCM for staffing and training, adding that the new program should include a mental health segment to take some pressure off of the RCMP. Also discussed at the conference was Code of Conducts for Council.
- He announced that Telus has agreed to pay for a new chainsaw carving in front of their Hope office as the old carving is in poor condition.
- He met with the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, Honourable Bowinn Ma, and noted that she has agreed to come to Hope for a tour of the issues being faced by the community regarding flood issues.

Councillor Skoglund reported:

- She attended the Hope Community Choir Spring Concert on May 7th, noting that it was a full house with standing room only and that the District has lots of talent within our community.
- She attended the Downtown Revitalization Meeting on April 25th.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the Downtown Revitalization Meeting on April 25th, noting that the next steps of the process begin in June with pop-up shops to ask the same questions to members of the public on the street.
- He attended an AdvantageHOPE meeting on May 4th, noting that they received good applicants for the Executive Director position and that interviews will be set up. He added that the next board meeting is on May 18th.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended Mental Health and Addiction discussion at the Recreation Centre with MLA Jackie Tegart and MLA Elenore Sturko.
- She attended a Hope Inclusion Project meeting on May 8th, noting that they discussed Pride Month and the activities that will be happening every weekend in June. She added that the Committee would host a workshop for Council on inclusion, if they are interested.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended the Downtown Revitalization Meeting on April 25th.
- She joined Ladies Golf on May 8th at the Hope Golf Club, noting that a lot of work has been done to the course and thanked the volunteers who put in the time and effort.

Councillor Wells had nothing to report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) 2023 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1553, 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope 2023 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1553, 2023*, be adopted this 8th day of May, 2023. **CARRIED.**

(b) Inter-Municipal Transportation Network Services Agreement Bylaw No. 1551, 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Inter-Municipal TNS Business Licence Agreement Bylaw No. 1551, 2023*, be adopted this 8th day of May, 2023. **CARRIED.**

(c) Inter-Municipal Transportation Network Services Agreement Bylaw No. 1551, 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Inter-Municipal TNS Business Licence Bylaw No. 1552, 2023*, be adopted this 8th day of May, 2023. **CARRIED.**

**(d) Report dated April 25, 2023 from the Acting Director of Community Development
Re: Development Variance Permit – 488 Hemlock Avenue**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approve the preparation of a Development Variance Permit in order to relax the principal building or structure front lot line setback requirement of 7.5 metres (~25 feet) to 1.5 metres (~5 feet) on the property legally described as Lot 10 Section 15 TWP 5 RGE 26 W6M Kamloops Division Yale District Plan KAP3436, PID 001-983-245; 488 Hemlock

Avenue in order to build an addition to the front of the garage; and

FURTHER THAT in accordance with the *District of Hope Development Procedures Bylaw*, 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. **CARRIED.**

(e) District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1547, 2023

Re: 65617 Kawkawa Lake Road

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1547, 2023*, to rezone eight lots of the proposed fourteen lot subdivision of the property at 65617 Kawkawa Lake Road from Single Family Residential (RS-1) to Single Family Residential with a Secondary Dwelling (RS-1S), be read a third time this 8th day of May, 2023. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of April 1-30, 2023, be received. **CARRIED.**

(a) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – April 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated May 8, 2023 be received.

CARRIED.

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

11. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

13. RECESS TO PROCEED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AT 7:37 P.M.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting recess to Committee of the Whole Meeting.

CARRIED.

14. RECONVENE THE OPEN MEETING FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 7:47 p.m.

15. RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING AT 7:48 P.M.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Sections 90(1)(c) [labour relations or other employee relations] and 90(1)(g) [litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality] of the *Community Charter* re: exempt staff recruitment, litigation update, and for the purpose of receiving and adopting closed meeting minutes.

CARRIED.

16. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:22 p.m.

17. ADJOURN

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held May 8, 2023 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith
Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham
Director of Corporate Services