

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, June 23, 2025  
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office  
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

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

**Council Members Absent:** Councillor Dusty Smith

**Staff Present:** John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO  
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services  
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development  
Mike Olson, Director of Finance  
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

**Others Present:** 5 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 June 23, 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 June 9, 2025, be adopted, as presented.  
**CARRIED.**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

**(a) Living With Foundation**

Megan te Boekhorst and Andriana Lanji were in attendance to present to Council regarding the Hope Walk 'n' Roll Project. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Hope Walk 'n' Roll
  - Promoting active transportation
  - Reducing morning traffic congestion
  - Raising road safety awareness
  - Strengthen community connections within schools and the community at large

- Funded by the BC Vision Zero Road Safety Grant
- Benefits of Active School Transportation
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Improved learning
  - Environmental health
  - School zone safety
  - Fun and play
- Why Behind the Wheels
  - 48% of Grade 6 students get to school by car
  - 32% wish they could walk, bike or roll
  - 49% report a medium to low sense of belonging at school
  - Active transportation builds confidence, connection, and community
  - Safety and congestion concerns
- What's Rolling Out
  - Coquihalla Elementary and Silver Creek Elementary will each host two Walk 'n' Roll Weeks
  - Pilot active transportation activities to get kids walking, biking and rolling
  - Road safety education to build lifelong habits
  - Community outreach events to raise awareness
- Long-Term Community Benefits
  - Free safety gear
  - Funding for PAC discretion
  - Community outreach events
  - School Active Travel Maps
  - Community report
  - Timeline
    - Summer 2025
      - School Walk About
      - Community Needs Assessment
    - Fall 2025
      - October 6-10
      - Distribute safety gear
      - Pilot Walk 'n' Roll Week
    - Spring 2026
      - February and March
      - Community Outreach Events
      - Walk 'n' Roll Week
- Let's Roll Together
  - Active transportation works best when the whole community is involved
  - Feedback is being gathered to help shape the Active School Travel Maps
  - The public is encouraged to get out and cheer on the bike bus
  - Collaboration on road safety improvements is encouraged
  - Volunteers are needed to help the project succeed

Council inquired as to whether parents will have the opportunity to participate in the

education sessions. The delegation advised that information pamphlets will be distributed for parents to review and added that the resources will be tailored to the needs of the community. Additionally, there will be opportunities for parents to take part through positive ticketing campaigns and cheering on students. Council inquired as to whether there will be support for low-income families who may not be able to afford a bicycle for their child. The delegation advised that while the free safety gear will help low-income families, they will be looking to the public to support the provision of bicycles as the grant does not provide enough resources to accomplish this.

## **5. STAFF REPORTS**

- (a) **Report dated June 11, 2025 from the Director of Corporate Services**  
**Re: AdvantageHOPE Board New Nominee for 2025**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council endorse Nate Brown's appointment to the AdvantageHOPE Board, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2025. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated June 19, 2025 from the Director of Finance**  
**Re: 2024 Annual Report**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council approves the 2024 Annual Report. **CARRIED.**

- (c) **Report dated June 16, 2025 from the Director of Corporate Services**  
**Re: 2024 Statement of Financial Information**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council approves the 2024 Statement of Financial Information. **CARRIED.**

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

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

**Mayor Smith Reported:**

- He reminded the public that we are entering wildfire season, and that the north-eastern area of the Province is already seeing large fires. He added that everyone should do their part to be FireSmart and report any suspicious fires.
- He worked with Dr. Aseem Grover, Fraser Canyon Hospital, and Kristine Pérez de León, Hope Mountain Centre, on a video to attract medical personnel to the Fraser Canyon Hospital.
- He attended the Senior Living Event at the Hope Legion Hall, noting that he worked to connect people and services available both locally and in Chilliwack.
- He attended the AdvantageHOPE AGM on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- He attended the retirement of Gerry Dyble from her position of Executive Director of the Cedar Strong Prevention & Intervention Society (formerly HATS).
- He attended the retirement of Dr. Joan MacLean from her position of President and Vice Chancellor of the University of the Fraser Valley.

- He announced that the Communities in Bloom judges will be coming to the District on July 9<sup>th</sup>. He added that Operations and Communities in Bloom volunteers are working on projects to improve the community, including the relocation of the concrete replica of the 1958 BC Centenary Celebration sign to the berm by the Hope Lookout trailhead.

**Councillor Graham Reported:**

- She attended the AdvantageHOPE AGM on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- She attended the Indigenous Day event on June 21<sup>st</sup> in Memorial Park, noting that it was well attended by younger people and included singing, dancing, beading, and other events. She added that the event was a collaboration between Bands in the area, and that they are planning a Powwow in October.

**Councillor Skoglund Reported:**

- She attended the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration of the Hope United Church on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, noting that it was standing room only.
- She noted that she has received concerns from the public regarding overnight campers in the District park located at the end of Olson Avenue. She added that the entrance on Golf Course Road has signage regarding parking and camping, but that the Olson Avenue entrance does not.

**Councillor Medlock Reported:**

- He attended the AdvantageHOPE AGM on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- He attended the Cedar Strong AGM yesterday.
- He noted that he will be attending the Community Futures AGM on June 24<sup>th</sup> with the Mayor.
- He noted that the First Blood Trail Grand Opening Weekend will take place from June 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, with a pre-ride party on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Mountainview Brewing, trail riding on June 28<sup>th</sup>, and family day at the Hope Bike Park on June 29<sup>th</sup>. He added that a lot of people are eager to see the trail open, and that more details can be found on the Hope Cascades and Canyons website.

**Councillor Stewin Reported:**

- She attended the Tillicum Centre Open House, noting that the Lion's Club hosted a barbeque, and that there was cake and lots of activities. She added that the Executive Director expressed concerns regarding a tree on District property and a low-hanging wire that was difficult to see.
- She noted that applications for the Canada Disability Benefit are now available, adding that this can help individuals with disabilities who will receive up to \$200.00 per month.
- She attended the final Hope Inclusion Project meeting before the summer, noting that the group thanked the District for flying the Pride Flag for the month of June, and that they are looking to host a Pride event at the end of August.
- She noted that the Hope Inclusion Project will be meeting in September to look for ways to reenergize the committee, and that she is personally looking at ways to move forward with Truth and Reconciliation. She added that she would like to hear

from other members of Council.

- She attended the Hope Secondary School Graduation Ceremony, noting that it was well attended and over \$80,000 in scholarships were distributed. She thanked the community for their generosity in supporting the graduates.

**Councillor Newbigging Reported:**

- She reminded the public that the Farmer's Market takes place in Memorial Park every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. from June until the end of August.
- She noted that crews will be installing white lights on two more buildings as part of the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce Downtown Revitalization Project.
- She announced that the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser on the Fraser will be taking place on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., with all proceeds going to the Mount Hope Senior Citizen Housing Society. She added that there will be a live band and food, and those attending are reminded to bring chairs for a great evening on the Fraser.

**8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

**(a) Report dated June 16, 2025 from the Planner II**

**Re: Development Variance Permit Application at 919 Water Avenue**

The Mayor called for any questions or comments from the public in attendance.

Bud Gardner, owner of a business on Water Avenue that neighbours the subject property, expressed concerns regarding the proposal including competition with existing restaurants, the trailer currently being used as the Visitor Centre, unfair taxes paid by other businesses, and both existing and future issues with parking.

Council inquired as to whether there are any drawings which show where parking spaces may be located on the property. The Director of Community Development advised that as the applicant requested a variance for no parking spaces they do not currently have any drawings that include parking. He added that the most likely place for parking would be at the back of the building along Fraser Avenue, but that decision is ultimately up to the applicant. Council inquired as to whether the parking spaces will be paved. The Director of Community Development advised that it is Staff's recommendation that the parking spaces are paved.

Council inquired as to how the number of parking spaces required for a restaurant is determined. The Director of Community Development advised that the amount is based on the number of seats in the restaurant, and that the 15 required parking spaces were based on estimates of restaurant size from the applicant. Council inquired as to what the applicant intends to do with the space currently occupied by the temporary Visitor Centre trailer, and whether any parking stalls are reserved for tourism. The Director of Community Development advised that he is unsure of the plans for the trailer location but noted that the applicant expects visitors to utilize street parking spaces along the front of the building.

The Director of Community Development advised that multiple options have been presented to Council as the applicant has a strict timeline with regards to the utilization of funding and would like to move the project forward.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council approves the following Zoning Bylaw variance for the redevelopment of the Old Station House at 919 Water Avenue into a museum and restaurant:

- **Part 5.8.2** to allow an accessibility ramp to project 3.0 m into the exterior side yard.
- **Part 6.12.1** to allow off-street parking spaces to be accessed directly from a highway or street.
- **Part 6.19.2 and 6.19.3** to reduce the minimum number of parking spaces provided for a:
  - restaurant use from 15 to 8.
  - civic use (museum) from 4 to 2.
- **Part 13.2.3.3** to increase the maximum floor area for an accessory restaurant use from 70 m<sup>2</sup> to 82 m<sup>2</sup>. **CARRIED.**

**OPPOSED: Councillor Newbigging, Councillor Skoglund**

**(b) Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1602, 2025**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1602, 2025*, be read a first, second, and third time this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2025. **CARRIED.**

**9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) For Information Correspondence**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated June 23, 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, July 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**13. RECESS TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AT 7:55 P.M.**

**14. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:09 p.m.

**15. RECESS TO IN-CAMERA MEETING AT 8:10 P.M.**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Section 90(1)(c) [labour relations or other employee relations] of the *Community Charter* and adopting closed meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

**16. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:36 p.m.

**17. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

*Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held June 23, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.*

*Original Signed by Victor Smith*

**Mayor**

*Original Signed by Donna Bellingham*

**Director of Corporate Services**