

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 8, 2024
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

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

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer
Gurvinder Sodhi, Communications and Systems Analysis Advisor

Others Present: 9 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 AT 6:31 P.M.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Sections 90(1)(i) [the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose] of the *Community Charter* re: Gardner Drive, and adopting closed meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

3. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting 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 April 8, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 25, 2024, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

6. DELEGATIONS

(a) Blue Triton

Dr. Andreeanne Simard was in attendance to present to Council regarding Blue Triton's annual monitoring data from 2023 for the facility in Hope. In the presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Blue Triton has been conducting environmental monitoring in Hope for 20 years and shares data with the municipality and various interested stakeholders.
- Based on 20 years of ongoing long-term monitoring of aquifer levels and spring flow rates, results show that Blue Triton groundwater use in Hope continues to be sustainable.
- Biological Monitoring
 - Routine biological monitoring indicates the aquatic habitat remains in good condition.
 - Water quality, invasive plant, and benthic macroinvertebrate sampling and analysis was last completed in 2022, with the next assessment planned for 2024.
 - Results have indicated that all assessed watercourses continue to have optimal conditions to support aquatic flora and fauna.
 - Other than an increase in species richness at all sampling points between 2019 and 2022, results have been consistent since 2008.
 - A fish habitat assessment was completed in 2020, with the next assessment scheduled for 2025.
- Blue Triton Brands in Hope
 - Employing 68 employees at the Hope facility.
 - Over 70% of employees live in Hope, with a majority of the remainder living within the Fraser Valley region.
 - The Hope facility consistently pays hourly wages about the living wage for this area of BC.
 - The Hope facility was the first Canadian Blue Triton factory to be Alliance for Water Stewardship certified.
 - In 2023, renewed their relationship with Hope Secondary School with a career mentoring opportunity.
 - Restarted the Hope Mountain Centre grade 4 & 5 student visits and factory tours.
- Blue Triton Brands Community Support
 - Funded \$10,000 to support the “Young Stewards of our Wetlands” and “Young Stewards of our Watersheds” with the Hope Mountain Centre.
 - Donated \$4,000 to Communities in Bloom to support the community garden solar powered watering system and the Bee habitat.
 - Renewed their sponsorship with the world-famous Hope Chainsaw Carving Festival.
 - Donated \$3500 to the Hope Secondary School to provide their athletics program with a tent for their sports teams.
 - Renewed their commitment to the Hope Chamber of Commerce.

- Awarded a Hope Secondary School scholarship to a student annually for almost 20 years.
- Supported the Hope Mountain Centre since 2009 with funding for the wetlands and watershed programs
- Support Hope Community Services with over \$8,000 in staff contributions and employer matching programs.
- Provincial and Local Water Donations and Support
 - Donated almost half a million bottles of water to local community organizations, flood, fire relief and first responders in BC in 2023.
 - Participates in several local community initiatives annually through product donations.

7. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Report dated March 26, 2024 from the Chief Administrative Officer Re: FVRD Macro Health Grant Application – Letter of Support

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council endorses and fully supports efforts regarding the goals of the proposed Regional Rural Transit Needs Assessment;

AND THAT Council directs staff to forward the endorsed Letter of Support in the earnest hope the Assessment is completed. **CARRIED.**

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He worked with Communities in Bloom to clean up both sides of Richmond Hill.
- He noted that there was a great turnout on the weekend for the Skagit cleanup, thanking Ryan Smith, Peter Adamo, EAM, Tri-West Contracting, Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest, Pazmac and Jag Landscaping, among others, for their help.
- He attended the 50th anniversary of the University of the Fraser Valley held at the Hope Campus, where he shared the stage with Chief Norman Florance. He noted that they spoke about the growth of communities through better education.
- He met with the Hope Arts Gallery to discuss updating the chainsaw carving map to reflect recent changes.
- He announced that April 20th will be the District's Earth Day Cleanup, noting that pesticides, paint, metal, and household batteries will be accepted.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She commended those who took part in the Skagit cleanup.
- She noted that members of the public had raised concerns regarding a homeless camp along the Coquihalla River that is growing in size.

- She announced that the Hope Arts Gallery will be holding a garage sale fundraiser on April 20th and noted that people can stop by while they are downtown to drop items off for Earth Day.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He noted that he will be attending the AdvantageHOPE meeting on April 18th.
- He noted that Coquihalla Canyon and Othello Tunnel repair work is underway.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He announced that 75 kids took part in the Hope Minor Softball session last week and thanked the organizers for their effort. He noted that they will be meeting every Wednesday from April to May.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She announced that she took part in the 102nd Annual Chilliwack Plowing Match, noting that she did not win or place but was part of the Politicians Class.

Councillors Stewin and Wells had nothing to report.

10. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

There were no Permits and Bylaws.

11. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated April 8, 2024, be received.
CARRIED.

12. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

There was no other Pertinent Business.

13. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

14. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:25 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held April 8, 2024 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith
Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham
Director of Corporate Services