

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 11, 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 Zachary Wells  
Councillor Pauline Newbigging

**Staff Present:** John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mike Olson, Director of Finance  
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations  
Thomas Cameron, Fire Chief  
Nick Crosman, Director of Community Development  
Richard Zerr, Acting Director of Community Development  
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer/EA

**Others in attendance:** 16 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 September 11, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as amended, to swap the positions of item 4(b), regarding the House of Hope, and item 4(c), regarding the Strengthening Hope Project. **CARRIED.**

### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#### (a) Regular Council Meeting

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held August 14, 2023, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

#### (b) Public Hearing

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Record of the Public Hearing held August 14, 2023, be received. **CARRIED.**

### 4. DELEGATIONS

#### (a) Mayor Smith to present Marianne Brueckert, Victim Assistance Program Coordinator, with a retirement gift

Mayor Smith presented Marianne Brueckert with a carving and thanked her on behalf of Council and the District of Hope for her 32 years of service.

**(b) Strengthening Hope Project**

Representatives from the Strengthening Hope Project were in attendance to present their final report to Council. In their presentation, the following points were discussed:

- Homelessness Evening Outreach – HATS
  - Team consisted of two people who worked from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. connecting with those who were living rough and unsheltered.
  - Proactive in their efforts to create relationships with people experiencing homelessness and general community members.
  - Accomplishments include:
    - 797 connections made
    - 486 items of food and water distributed
    - 223 harm reduction kits distributed
    - 159 clothing and hygiene kits distributed
    - 122 hazards cleared
    - 11 overdoses prevented through wellness checks
- Capacity Building & Training – Fraser Health
  - In partnership with local non-profit Community Justice Initiatives Association, four train-the-trainer sessions were held:
    - Working Through Conflict – Restorative Communication & De-Escalation
    - Supportive Communication and Embodying Curiosity
    - Cultivating Safe Spaces – Decolonizing, Vicarious Trauma & Resiliency
    - Recognizing & Transforming Shame, Fear and Guilt
- Assessment of Services and Community Engagement – UWBC
  - Consultations completed include:
    - Publishing reports and articles
    - Surveys of Hope residents
    - Input from persons with lived/living experience
    - Interviews from representatives of 35 organizations and agencies
    - Two community dialogue sessions
- Homelessness rates are trending upwards, with 19 in 2004 and 93 in 2023.
- Work by HATS in response to homelessness include:
  - Five research studies highlighting the need for housing
  - Funding for the first outreach workers in 2008
  - H.O.P.E Project in 2013-2016
  - Thunderbird Motel Project
  - Shelter bed increase funding in 2019
  - Supporting housing proposal in 2019-2020
  - Situation Table
  - Community Action Table
  - Hope Transition House
  - House of Hope Emergency Shelter
  - Colonial 900
  - Extreme weather shelter

- Work by Fraser Health in response to homelessness include:
  - Integrated Homelessness Action Response Team
  - Substance Use Services Access Team
  - Rapid Access to Addiction Care
- Recognizing housing provided in Hope:
  - Coquihalla Inter-care Society
  - Mount Hope Senior Citizens Housing Society
  - Fraser Hope Lodge
  - Riverside Manor
  - Stalo Seniors Housing
  - Anhart – The Ryder
  - MQHS – Riverstone
  - Fraser Inclusive and Supportive Housing Society
- Recognizing support services in Hope:
  - Hope and Area Transition Society
  - Hope Community Services
  - Hope Ministerial
  - Care Transit
  - First Responders
  - Read Right Society
  - RCMP
  - Free Rein Associates
- Context of the unfolding homelessness crisis:
  - Cancellation of Canadian Social Housing Policy in early 1990's
  - Drug epidemic from late 1980's
  - Deinstitutionalization of the 1980/1990's
  - Government policy and funding lagging behind
- Complex nature of contemporary homelessness:
  - Poverty
  - Unemployment
  - Abuse
  - Neglect
  - Trauma
  - Mental health
  - Substance use
- Housing is the platform for service delivery and care, and housing with supports facilitates community integration.
- Integrated models of care increase:
  - Communication
  - Cooperation
  - Trust
- Survey results
  - Improved mental care – Strongly agree
  - More abstinence – Somewhat agree
  - More harm reduction – Strongly agree
  - Housing first – Strongly agree
  - Increase in homelessness – Strongly agree

- Services adequate – Strongly disagree
- Supportive housing is needed
- Improvement in addiction treatment/rehab/mental health
- In general, stakeholders want to be part of solutions that:
  - Facilitate community integration
  - Address antisocial behavior
  - Counter alienation from the community
  - Reduce tension, stress and conflict
  - Address public safety concerns
- Suggested solutions:
  - Improved mental health care
  - Addictions treatment
  - Improved access to health care in general
  - Drop-in Centre
  - Housing
  - Youth Homelessness Prevention Centre
  - Employment support
  - Steps to mitigate impact
  - Food support
  - Improved communication and community dialogue
  - Transportation
  - Family Centre
- Next steps for the community:
  - Mayor, Council and Project Partners to work through the report as a matter of priority.
  - Mayor, Council and Project Partners to assign priority to address without much delay the concerns of residents highlighted in the report.
  - Mayor, Council and Project Partners to create a community task force to develop a community action plan guided by collaboration, innovation, ongoing community engagement and community education.
  - The community action plan must include plans and assign timelines relating to the needed service improvements contained in the report.

**(c) House of Hope**

Representatives from BC Housing were in attendance to present to Council regarding an extension to operate the House of Hope. In their presentation, the following points were discussed:

- BC Housing and HATS are looking for an extension to operate the House of Hope Shelter until July 1, 2025, at which time the new centre on the Fraser Health property is expected to be completed.
- Terms are being finalized with Fraser Health for a 20 year lease on the property, and the project team has been procured.
- The 2023 homeless count in the Fraser Valley Regional District rose to 1,081 from 895 in 2020.
- If an extension to operate is not granted, the individuals currently sheltering at the House of Hope will have nowhere to go, as other shelters in the area are at capacity.

Council inquired as to the dates that the previous extension to operate were approved for. The CAO advised that the current extension was granted on September 27, 2021

and expires in October, 2023. Council inquired as to whether other supportive housing projects in the area have received similar extensions to operate. The BC Housing representative advised that the Colonial has received an extension to operate until 2026.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council grant an extension to BC Housing to operate the House of Hope at 650 Old Hope Princeton Way until July 1, 2025. **CARRIED.**

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

- (a) **Report dated August 29, 2023 from the Director of Corporate Services  
Re: Appointment of Election Officials for the 2023 By-Election**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT pursuant to Section 58 (1) and (2) of the *Local Government Act*, Branden Morgan be appointed Chief Election Officer, effective immediately, for conducting the 2023 By-Election, with power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of the 2023 By-Election;

AND FURTHER THAT Donna Bellingham be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2023 By-Election. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated September 1, 2023 from the Director of Corporate Services  
Re: Approving Officer Appointment**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council rescind the appointment of Richard Zerr as Approving Officer;

AND THAT Council appoint Nick Crosman as Approving Officer for the District of Hope pursuant to the terms of the *Land Title Act*. **CARRIED.**

- (c) **Report dated August 31, 2023 from the Fire Chief  
Re: Emergency Management Update**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the report dated August 31, 2023 from the Fire Chief regarding the emergency management update, be received for information. **CARRIED.**

- (d) **Report dated September 5, 2023 from the Fire Chief  
Re: FireSmart Program**

Council inquired as to whether the funding is for a one-time program or if it will be provided on an on-going basis. The Fire Chief advised that the funding has been on-going since 2018 and continues to be well supported by the Province.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council supports the grant application to UBCM's Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2023 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports to establish a FireSmart program for the District of Hope. **CARRIED.**

- (e) **Report dated September 5, 2023 from the Director of Operations  
Re: Richmond Hill Multi-Use Pathway Grant Application**

Council inquired as to the intended start date of the project as it is currently fully funded regardless of the grant application outcome. The Director of Operations advised that there is no firm start date yet as the project has not been tendered, but that will take

place in March 2024. He added that they expect to break ground no later than May 2024. Council inquired as to the expected completion date of the project. The Director of Operations advised that they anticipate completion will occur within 2024 calendar year.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council support the District of Hope application to the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program for the Richmond Hill Multi-Use Pathway Project;

AND THAT the local share of funding is available and supported, the project is a municipal priority and is intended to be complete within the required timeline;

AND FURTHER THAT the proposed project is “shovel ready” according to the criteria in Section 3 of the Infrastructure Application. **CARRIED.**

**(f) Verbal Report from the Acting Director of Community Development  
Re: On-site Operations at 61934 Estell Road**

The Acting Director of Community Development provided an update to Council regarding the on-site operations at 61934 Estell Road. In that update, the following items were discussed:

- Efforts have been underway to rectify the noise, lighting, and dust pollution situation.
  - Some piles of material have been moved to the rear of the property.
  - Discussions have taken place regarding the placement of a shipping container barrier on the East side of the property to block wind and light pollution.
  - A number of issues are being discussed with the operator.

Council inquired as to whether both properties are in compliance with their current zoning, as it appears that there are piles of rocks on both properties. The Acting Director of Community Development advised that both properties are acting in compliance with their zoning. He added that Staff are looking at the Good Neighbor Bylaw to amend the exemptions for commercial and industrial users.

Council inquired as to what policies are in place to protect the neighbors of these properties in regards to buffering, noise and light pollution. The Acting Director of Community Development advised that the operations are not out of compliance with the Good Neighbor Bylaw, but Staff are working with the operator to meet other requirements such as buffering before moving to next steps of enforcement.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

**7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**(a) Black Press Media – Hope Standard Letter Regarding Bill C-18**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter to Black Press Media regarding advertising and Bill C-18. **CARRIED.**

**Mayor Smith Reported:**

- He thanked the volunteers for the successful execution of Brigade Days, noting that the event was very well done.

- He attended weekly wildfire updates with Minister Ma and Minister Kang regarding the Kookipi Creek wildfire, noting that residents who were displaced by the fire are being provided with a full range of supports as they return home. He thanked Hope Secondary School and Camp Hope for their assistance during the event.
- He noted that a cooling centre operated at the Hope Recreation Centre, was attended by eight individuals over three days.
- He, along with CAO John Fortoloczky, met with Chinese Ambassador Cong to discuss connecting different communities and the possibility of an education exchange and the trades industry.
- He announced that Blue Triton, beginning on August 31, voluntarily reduced their water consumption rates to less than 50% of the amount requested. He thanked Blue Triton for their work to help the Hope Fire Department and other projects in the community.
- He announced that the World Class Chainsaw Carving Event was a success, adding that fifteen carvers from around the world attended to create their masterpieces. He thanked all the volunteers and businesses that made it possible. He noted that the next event will take place in August, 2025.

**Councillor Medlock Reported:**

- He congratulated the organizers of Brigade Days on a successful event, thanking everyone who attended. He added that the Hope Motorsports Group had more entries this year than ever before.

**Councillor Stewin Reported:**

- She attended Overdose Awareness Day on August 31<sup>st</sup> in Memorial Park.
- She attended a Purple Lights meeting where they prepared for the kickoff event on October 1<sup>st</sup> to bring awareness to domestic violence. She added that the public should watch the newspaper for related articles and coloring sheets.

**Councillor Newbigging Reported:**

- She announced that the Chamber of Commerce wound up their successful Farmer's Market on September 1<sup>st</sup>. She added that the Chamber is looking forward to another year of the market and thanked the community for their support.

**Councillors Skoglund and Wells had nothing to report.**

**8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

- (a) Report dated August 22, 2023 from the Director of Finance  
Re: Permissive Tax Exemptions for 2024**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT *District of Hope 2024 Permissive Tax Exemption Amendment Bylaw No. 1561, 2023*, be read a first, second and third time, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

**CARRIED.**

**(b) District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1557, 2023  
Re: Rezoning the Property at 342 Hudson Bay Street**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1557, 2023*, to rezone the property at 342 Hudson Bay Street from Single Family Residential (RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1), be adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

**CARRIED.**

**(c) Report dated August 23, 2023 from the Director of Community Development  
Re: Development Variance Permit – 66532 Summer Road**

**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 6.0 metres (~20 feet) on the property legally described as Lot 37 District Lot 56 Yale Division Yale District Plan KAP17267; PID 001-536-656; 66532 Summer Road; Hope, BC in order to construct a single family dwelling; and

FURTHER THAT in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures & Public Hearing/Information Meeting Procedural 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.**

**(d) Report dated August 31, 2023 from the Acting Director of Community Development  
Re: Temporary Use Permit for 19841 Silver Skagit Road**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council approve the preparation of a Temporary Use Permit for the placement of one existing semi permanent portable residential structure and two storage containers for a caretaker on the property legally described as District Lot 1607 YDYD Lying to the North of The Northerly Limit of District Lot 1601 Except Plan A1119; 19841 Silver Skagit Road; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with *Zoning Bylaw 1324, District of Hope Application Procedures and Public Hearing/Information Meeting Procedural Bylaw No. 13/93*, the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* that Council will be considering the approval of a Temporary Use Permit for 19841 Silver Skagit Road.

**CARRIED.**

**9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) For Information Correspondence**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated September 11, 2023 be received.

**CARRIED.**

**(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – August 2023**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of August 1-31, 2023, 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**

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**13. RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING AT 8:11 P.M.**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Section 90(1)(g) [litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality] of the *Community Charter* re: litigation update, and for the purpose of receiving and adopting closed meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

**14. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING**

Mayor Smith reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:37 p.m.

**15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:38 p.m. **CARRIED.**

*Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held September 11, 2023 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.*

*Original Signed by Victor Smith*

**Mayor**

*Original Signed by Donna Bellingham*

**Director of Corporate Services**