

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, February 9, 2026
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

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

Council Members Absent: Councillor Bonny Graham

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 9 members of the Public and 1 Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:37 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 February 9, 2026, 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 January 26, 2026 be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) RCMP

Inspector Mike Greenway, and Staff Sergeant Mike Sargent were in attendance to present the Annual Policing Report. Inspector Mike Greenway briefly introduced himself, noting that he has 25 years of policing experience across multiple units. In the presentation, the following items were discussed:

Current State

- 14 Municipal Members
- 5 ME Staff
- 1.5 Victim Services Staff
- Minimum of 2 members working at all times, with an average of 3-4 due to optimal staffing levels

- Year in Review
 - Majority of files are in the District, with 19% located in Provincial areas
 - Priority 1 Calls are at their highest level in the last five years
 - Crimes Against Persons have dropped by 7% overall
 - Property Crime is has dropped by 25% overall
 - Break & Enter Other and Residence has increased, but the majority of these are repeated cases involving vacant buildings
- Top Call for Service
 - Check Well-Being
 - Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Occurrence
 - Traffic – Other Moving
 - Cause a Disturbance
 - Property – Lost
- Hope's Hot Spots
 - Fraser Canyon Hospital
 - Silver Hope Motel
 - Coquihalla Motel
 - Flying J's
 - House of Hope Emergency Shelter
- Traffic Enforcement
 - 661 Violation Tickets/Warnings issued in 2025, with 111 issued in August
 - 150 Collisions/Impaireds/Prohibited Drivers investigated on Provincial Highways, with the BC Highway Patrol investigating 183
- In the Community
 - Project CREVO has been running since July 2025
 - Increased patrols and visibility
 - Partnerships with other agencies
 - Proactive enforcement with chronic offenders
 - Traffic enforcement
 - Getting community engaged
 - Monitoring of unhoused camps
- Mental Health Calls
 - 258 Mental Health confirmed related calls for service in 2025, compared to 260 in 2024, 284 in 2023, and 308 in 2022
 - 668 Check Well-Being Complaints in 2025, compared to 571 in 2024 and only 434 in 2023
- Looking Ahead to 2026
 - Continued engagement with youth
 - Targeted investigations on wire thefts, drug trafficking, and property crime
 - Impacts of new supporting housing building
 - Continued boat patrols on Kawkawa Lake and backcountry enforcement
 - "Keep Hope Clean" initiative
- UFVRD Strategic Plan Updates

- Enhance Community Safety
- Strong Partnerships
- Enhance Communication
- Support Our People/Organizational Excellence
- UFVRD Updates
 - Surrey RCMP shutdown
 - Body worn camera program implementation delayed
 - BC Highway Patrol
 - Allocations of new members from the Province

Council inquired as to whether the RCMP have received calls regarding racism or hate in the community, and whether they have statistics on those calls. Staff Sargeant Sargent advised that records are kept regarding these calls, and that he encourages anyone who experiences these issues to make a report. He added that any hate related crimes are addressed by a specialized team at the RCMP Headquarters in Surrey. Council inquired as to what methods the public can use to report these issues. Staff Sargeant Sargent advised that while the RCMP do have an online reporting tool, it is not intended for issues that require follow-up. He added that members of the public can work with the RCMP to find a reporting method that makes them comfortable, including working with partner agencies and local supports.

Council inquired as to whether there are any plans to reintroduce the DARE program for schools. Staff Sargeant Sargent advised that while he is unsure if that program will be reintroduced, the Hope Detachment has motivated members who are interested in engaging with youths regarding drug use, alcohol, and criminality. He added that if there is local need and want for this type of program that it could be accommodated.

5. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Report dated January 19, 2026 from the Director of Community Development Re: **BC Building Code and Building Bylaw Contraventions at 67401 Jason Road**

Council inquired as to whether the District will be following up with this property to ensure future compliance. The Director of Community Development advised that the District does not intend to take any further action beyond registering the Section 57 notice on title of the property as it absolves the District of responsibility and advises any parties interested in the property that issues exist. Council inquired as to whether any fines will be issued or if other cost recovery will be pursued. The Director of Community Development advised that while the District could issue fines, Staff believe that the Section 57 notice is the right course of action. He added that the District will be responsible for registering the notice on title, but the property owner will be responsible for removal of the notice if the property is brought into compliance.

Moved / Seconded

THAT a Notice in the Land Title Office pursuant to Section 302 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 57 of the *Community Charter* be registered on title against the property legally known as: Legal Subdivision 3, Section 18, Township 5, Range 25, West of the 6th Meridian, Yale Division Yale District Except Plan 17677 and EPP7491; PID #014-059-720, civic address 67401 Jason Road, Hope BC.

CARRIED.

**(b) Report dated February 5, 2026 from the Director of Corporate Services
Re: Email/Telephone Poll of Council for the Hope Golf Course**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council ratify the email poll of February 5, 2026;

THAT Council approve the allocation of \$14,933.10 from the Infrastructure Reserve for the purpose of preparing a detailed proposal for undertaking urgent flood protection and mitigation works at the Hope Golf Course, as a result of the December 2025 Atmospheric River to:

1. Carry out a site review of flood damage including drone reconnaissance and mapping production;
2. Prepare a conceptual design of flood reconstruction works;
3. Prepare the scope of work for hydrotechnical/river engineering, geotechnical bridge foundation engineering, structural bridge engineering, surveys, and environmental permitting/monitoring;
4. Additional scoping site reviews with the assistance of experts, if required;
5. Discussions with District of Hope concerned agencies and the Hope Golf and Country Club Officials;
6. Preparation of an environmental permit/monitoring plan; and
7. Preparation of a presentation and engineering/environmental budget for flood engineering/environmental services for flood damage reconstruction for the Hope Golf Course at a future District of Hope Council Meeting. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended the grand opening of FreeForm Physio and Pilate on Wallace Street, noting that the AdvantageHOPE team and other guests toured the bright and clean facility.
- He met with the Economic Development Collaboration Group.
- He met with Harrison Hot Springs Councillor Michie Vidal to discuss Local Government Leadership Academy issues and her appointment as President in May.
- He noted that the Fraser Valley Regional District Board has started budget work, adding that there are 118 budgets to review and 24 voting seats on the Board.
- He noted that some of the chainsaw carvings in the District have been brought inside for repairs, and that work will begin on February 18th. He added that the Grinch has been put away and that Rambo will return to his spot on Wallace Street in April.
- He met with BC Hydro to discuss their Community ReGreen Program, adding that funding would help for community planting and that the funding intake is in the fall.
- He attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities workshop on Green Municipal Fund with Arnice from Community Futures Sun Country. He noted that the fund works on urban forestry plans and studies.

- He noted that the Chilliwack Jets will be playing the Langley Trappers at the Recreation Centre on February 16th.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She attended the Hope Secondary Grad Class Meat Draw at the Legion, noting that they raised over \$1,500.
- She noted that the Hope and District Arts Council Meat Draw will take place on March 7th.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended a Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC) webinar on Empowering Community Events, noting that they covered safety tips and environmental risks. She added that MIABC webinars can be viewed on their website under the resource page.
- She attended the Hope Legion meeting for the Mount Hope Senior Citizen Society, adding that she became a Legion member. She noted that it is the 100th anniversary of the Legion and that memberships are free this year, adding that those interested should join and show their support.
- She announced that the District is now an active participant in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a free book gifting program that provides books to children up to five years old. She added that the books and fulfillment coordination are provided by the Imagination Library while local partners can provide funding to support the program.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended the Hope Secondary Grad Class Meat Draw, noting that it was one of the largest they have had.
- She attended the Hope Icebreakers game, noting that the energy was great and that she hopes everything is back next season.

Councillor Medlock and Councillor Smith had nothing to report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1618, 2026*, be adopted this 9th day of February, 2026. **CARRIED.**

(b) Municipal Ticket Information Amendment Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Municipal Ticket Information Amendment Bylaw No. 1619, 2026*, be adopted this 9th day of February, 2026. **CARRIED.**

(c) Pool Hall Repeal Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Pool Hall Repeal Bylaw No. 1620, 2026*, be adopted this 9th day of February, 2026. **CARRIED.**

- (d) **Report dated February 5, 2026 from the Director of Community Development
Re: Official Community Plan – Third Reading and Adoption**

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1617, 2025* be read a third time this 9th day of February 2026. **CARRIED.**

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1617, 2025* be adopted, this 9th day of February 2026. **CARRIED.**

- (e) **Report dated February 4, 2026 from the Planner I
Re: Development Variance Permit Application at 21301 Lakeview Crescent**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with notification for a Development Variance Permit for the following Zoning Bylaw variances for 21301 Lakeview Crescent:

- Part 8.9.1 e: Variance in the permitted size of a detached accessory dwelling unit to allow up to 135 m² (~1,453 ft²), enabling the preservation of the existing dwelling on the property. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) **For Information Correspondence**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated February 9, 2026, 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, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

13. RECESS TO IN-CAMERA MEETING AT 8:27 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.**

14. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:35 p.m.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held February 9, 2026, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services