

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, October 14, 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 Dusty Smith
Councillor Heather Stewin

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 Director of Corporate Services
Daneille Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 11 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 October 14, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as amended, to include item 5(d), a verbal report regarding a resolution for the District of Hope Long-Term Wastewater Infrastructure Plan grant application. **CARRIED.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held September 8, 2025, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

**(a) Report dated October 3, 2025 from the Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Proposed Thunderbird Trail**

Council noted that the proposed trail provides an opportunity to connect two popular trails and increase recreational opportunities and inquired as to whether staff have identified any concerns with regards to trail maintenance. The CAO advised that the District does not officially maintain the existing Flood Falls trail at this time, and that he does not see a need for that to change with any license agreement aside from maintaining the safety of the trail.

He added that as part of the investigative process the District can look at options for trail maintenance, which would include the Hope Mountain Centre.

Kelly Pearce, Trails Director for the Hope Mountain Centre, advised that if the trail is approved, the Hope Mountain Centre could continue to maintain the trails with the support it receives from the District. He added that there are ongoing conversations with local First Nations who are cautiously supportive of the project but have concerns which can be addressed during the design of the trail. He noted that the land under the proposed trail and the existing Flood Falls trail belong to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and asked whether the District can explore opportunities to enter into a license agreement for both the proposed and existing trails.

Council inquired as to the proximity of the proposed trail to homeless encampments in the area. The CAO advised that while there are unhoused individuals all through the area, the encampment is approximately 600 feet away from the proposed trail. Council inquired as to whether the Hope Mountain Centre foresees any issues working on the trail with this encampment in the area; Mr. Pearce advised that he does not see any issues due to the distance from the proposed trail.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council endorses staff to continue working with the Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning (HMC), the Province of British Columbia, the Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest (CLCCF), and local First Nations to investigate the potential development of the proposed Thunderbird Trail;

AND THAT once this investigation is complete, bring back a report to Council for final decision as to authorizing and funding such a trail. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Report dated October 5, 2025 from the Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Station House Archaeological Update and Funding Decision**

Council engaged in discussion regarding Station House Archaeological Update and Funding Decision. In their discussion, the following topics were noted:

- The \$300,000-\$400,000 estimate provided by Stantec Consulting applies only to the removal and screening of site materials during the alteration phase and does not include basement construction costs
- Grants that the Tashme Historical Society has received total approximately \$2.6 million with 20% held back until the final report is provided; must be used within strict timelines, and cannot be used for archaeological purposes
- Tashme Historical Society can contact grant providers to secure extensions to grant timelines to accommodate the extended archaeological phase
- While there may be other options for private funding, it will be difficult to secure without the project moving forward in a meaningful way or first gaining certainty about archaeological requirements
- Due diligence was completed before moving the Station House to the current property, but archaeological issues were not identified at that time
- Other projects in the Fraser Valley have seen significant cost and time increases due to archaeological findings
- The project is not feasible if it does not include a full basement for museum storage, AdvantageHOPE office space, and other District initiatives, as well as restarting the

project planning process for a building without a basement

- The risk of costs continuing to increase and resulting in further taxpayer spending
- Reserve funds could be re-allocated to other projects in the District
- Should the project not continue, the District would have difficulty selling the land as archaeological issues would be identified as part of due-diligence and costs taken into account by buyers
- The possibility of utilizing the Station House Reserve to fund the \$73,413.96 in additional archaeological testing and pre-field work preparations to determine the extent of required material removal and screening
- The possibility of new heritage grants being made available following the ongoing Provincial Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project

Council noted that by approving additional funding in the amount of \$73,413.96 from the Station House Reserve to complete additional archaeological testing and pre-field work preparations, they can make a more informed decision on the continuation of the project and the allotment of additional funding.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council endorses the continuation of the Station House development project as presented by the Tashme Historical Society;

AND THAT Council endorses a further \$73,413.96 be allocated from the Station House Reserve to cover these newly identified additional archeological costs;

AND FURTHER THAT Council acknowledges that further archeological costs could be incurred dependent upon any further archeological materials that are found. **CARRIED.**

OPPOSED: Councillor Newbigging, Councillor Skoglund

- (c) **Report dated October 3, 2025 from the Deputy Director of Corporate Services**
Re: Records Management Policy and Procedures

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Records Management Policy and Procedures be adopted this 14th day of October, 2025. **CARRIED.**

- (d) **Verbal Report from the Director of Operations/Deputy CAO**
Re: District of Hope Long-Term Wastewater Infrastructure Plan

The Director of Corporate Services advised that UBCM requires an updated resolution for the District's application for grant funding to develop a Long-Term Wastewater Infrastructure Plan. It was noted that the original resolution, passed at the September 8, 2025, Regular Council meeting was missing a statement concerning cost overruns.

Council inquired as to whether staff have determined the exact value of any potential cost overruns. The Director of Operations advised that UBCM requires this verbiage to be added to the resolution as part of the application, and that no cost overruns have been identified at this time.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council support the District of Hope application to UBCM's Canada Community Building Fund Strategic Priorities Fund, Capacity Building Stream to develop a Long-Term Wastewater Infrastructure Plan for the Pollution Control Center;

AND THAT Council commit the District of Hope to provide overall grant management and cover any cost overruns. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended the 2025 UBCM Convention along with Councillor Medlock, Councillor Graham, and CAO John Fortoloczky. He noted that the District met with the Minister of Forests and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss areas of concern.
- He attended World Mental Health Day at the Hope and Area Recreation Centre.
- He noted that the Run for Hope at the Fraser Canyon Hospital had a good turnout to raise money for the hospital.
- He announced that the Auxiliary to the Fraser Canyon Hospital will be holding their annual Silent Auction at the Hope Legion Hall on November 1st at 7:00 p.m.
- He attended the Purple Lights Night kickoff event in Memorial Park on October 1st.
- He attended the opening of the Agassiz Fair on September 13th.
- He attended the Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest Annual General Meeting on September 16th, noting that most of the cuts occurred while market prices were high, and that the impacts of tariffs and other conditions have now caused a market downturn. He added that the District is not expecting a disbursement this year.
- He attended a Hope Health & Well-Being Initiative Steering Committee meeting.
- He attended the Hope Spray Park fundraiser at the Silver Chalice Pub on October 11th, noting that \$17,000 was raised with help from AdvantageHOPE and Primo Water. He added that three carvings and other items were also auctioned off, and thanked Councillor Graham and CAO John Fortoloczky for attending.

Councillor Graham Reported:

- She attended an AdvantageHOPE meeting, noting that local businesses had a successful summer with rising sales and that Fog Fest will be taking place in November. She added that the new Marketing Manager, Amanda Figlarska, has been doing a great job.
- She attended the 2025 UBCM Convention, noting that it was a good education experience and an opportunity to meet with leaders from around the province. She added that she attended sessions on local Indigenous connections, prefabricated housing and their implementations to meet housing needs, and met with the Minister of Forests and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss areas of concern.

- She attended the Hope Spray Park fundraiser at the Silver Chalice Pub on October 11th.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the 2025 UBCM Convention, noting that he made connections with Mayors and Councillors for other municipalities. He added that he attended the agricultural tour to look for ideas on how to expand the District's limited agriculture, including the potential creation of a food hub with surrounding areas. He also attended a session on outdoor recreation and economic development, noting that people are investing in the District with good outdoor recreation.
- He noted that he will be attending an AdvantageHOPE meeting on October 15th.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He announced that the Hope Icebreakers will have their first home game on October 18th, noting that a group of young individuals worked hard to bring competitive hockey back to Hope.
- He noted that the time change will happen on November 2nd.
- He noted that the Richmond Hill Multi-Use Pathway has been heavily used since it opened, adding that people should exercise safety during the darker months.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended the opening for Purple Lights on October 1st, reminding people that there is support and places to go for help for those impacted by domestic violence.
- She attended a Hope Inclusion Project meeting on October 14th, noting that the anti-depression and anti-oppression curriculum continues to be used, and that First West is supporting a grant for Hope Pride in 2026. She advised that the grant will be used for programming, film nights, workshops, support services, and other ways to help the queer community feel safe. She added that more information can be found at www.hopepride.ca.
- She noted that the Hope and Area Healthy Communities is directing subcommittees to look at what people are doing and how they can get involved, which will include a decal program, workshops, and encouraging businesses to become safe places for people to go.
- She thanked staff for their work during the recent boil water advisory in Silver Creek.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She will be volunteering at the Hope Icebreakers home opener on October 18th.

Councillor Skoglund had nothing to report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

- (a) ***District of Hope 2025-2029 Permissive Tax Exemption Amendment Bylaw No. 1611, 2025***

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope 2025-2029 Permissive Tax Exemption Amendment Bylaw No. 1611, 2025* be adopted this 14th day of October, 2025. **CARRIED.**

(b) Report dated October 1, 2025 from the Planner III
Re: OCP and Zoning Amendment – 62870 Flood Hope Road

Council inquired as to whether the District will be distributing notices to all mobile home residents within the notification area. The Director of Community Development confirmed that all residents within the area will receive a notice. Council inquired as to how staff will enforce noise regulations for the subject property. The Director of Community Development advised that noise created by any business operations will be enforced under the *Good Neighbour Bylaw*.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1609, 2025* be given first and second readings to change the Official Community Plan land use designation from Highway Commercial to Light Industrial for the property at 62870 Flood Hope Road; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*; and

FURTHER THAT Council approve and adopt the consultation strategy outlined in the Report to Council dated October 1, 2025 for *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1609, 2025* which includes referral to the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, the District of Hope Director of Finance, and the District of Hope Director of Operations.

CARRIED.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1610, 2025* be given first and second readings to change the zoning from Rural (RU-1) to Light/Service Industrial (I-2); and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*.

CARRIED.

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated October 14, 2025, be received.

CARRIED.

(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – August 2025

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of August 1-31, 2025, be received.

CARRIED.

(c) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – September 2025

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of September 1-30, 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, October 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

13. RECESS TO IN-CAMERA MEETING AT 8:07 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 8:40 p.m.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:41 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held October 14, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services