

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, June 9, 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
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 1 member of the Public

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 9, 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 May 26, 2025, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

There were no Staff Reports.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

(a) Letter dated May 26, 2025 to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Re: Proposed Changes to the South Coast Highway Patrol Service

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Council authorize the Mayor issue a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General expressing the District of Hope's concerns regarding the proposed changes to the South Coast Highway Patrol Service Model. **CARRIED.**

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He noted that Trash to Treasure will be taking place on Saturday, June 14th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He added that any items that are not picked up by 4:00 p.m. should be brought back inside as they will not be collected by Communities in Bloom or the District.
- He toured the Richmond Hill Multiuse Pathway Project, Flood Falls Homeless Camp, Hope & District Chamber of Commerce White Lights Project, and chainsaw carving repairs with MLA Tony Luck.
- He introduced Ben Hooper, owner of BFG Welding, to businesses in the District. He noted that it is nice to have a welding shop in the community, and that they are working on creating a steel inventory.
- He noted that beginning on July 1st, the Fraser Valley Regional District will begin taking infant car seats for recycling. He added that Canadian Mattress Recycling in Hope already provides this service for \$15.00, while other communities charge \$20.00.
- He attended a Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness meeting, noting that as of May 15th 61% of normal snowpack remained, which is slightly higher than last year. He advised that there is currently a low risk of flooding because of early snow melt and elevated drought levels in northeast BC.
- He noted that Citizens on Patrol is being reestablished by Rudy Pushman.
- He noted that the Richmond Hill Multi-use Pathway Project is nearing completion. He added that with the new barriers installed, Council may want to look at increasing the speed limit from Highway 1 Exit 170 to the bottom of Richmond Hill in Silver Creek to 60 km/h.

Council briefly considered the feasibility of raising the speed limit, with discussion including challenges with speeding vehicles, speed limits near schools in other communities, safety concerns, and increased pedestrian traffic on the new pathway. Council noted that they welcome a staff report, upon the completion of the Pathway Project, with speed limit recommendations.

Moved/Seconded

THAT Council direct Staff to bring a report to Council regarding the impacts of increasing the speed limit from Highway 1 Exit 170 to the bottom of Richmond Hill in Silver Creek to 60 km/h. **CARRIED.**

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She will be attending a Hope Inclusion Project meeting on June 10th at 3:30 p.m.
- She attended a School District #78 Board Meeting, noting that they were shown a presentation regarding the Hope Secondary Name Fusion Project. The project, originally started by student Tristen Kelly, involves a proposal to rename Hope Secondary School to Shxwelis te Ts'qó:ls – Spirit of Hope Secondary School. A short video regarding the project was played for those in attendance.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She noted that the Farmer's Market is now taking place every Friday in Memorial Park from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- She noted that as part of the Downtown Revitalization Project, a total of 10 businesses will have white lights installed by the weekend.

Councillor Graham Reported:

- She attended an AdvantageHOPE marketing presentation on June 2nd, noting that as part of the hiring process for the marketing position Amanda Figlarska delivered a 20-minute presentation regarding her vision for AdvantageHOPE. She added that the AdvantageHOPE Board has not reached a decision on the position at this time.
- She noted that the Hope and District Arts Council has finished painting the white and green stenciled art signs directing visitors from the downtown area to the art gallery.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She noted that the Hope United Church will be celebrating its 90th anniversary, which will include music and a birthday cake. She added that the church will be closing its doors on October 12th, and that the congregation is currently at 11 people.

Councillor Medlock and Councillor Smith had nothing to report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

There were no Permits or Bylaws.

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated June 9, 2025, be received.
CARRIED.

(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – April 2025

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of May 1-31, 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, June 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:26 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held June 9, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services