

THE DISTRICT OF HOPE RECORD OF A PUBLIC HEARING

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: 17 members of the public and 1 Media

Mayor Smith called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Director of Corporate Services read the Chairperson Statement and noted that purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear input on ***District of Hope Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1617, 2025.***

• ***District of Hope Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1617, 2025:***

To designate a new Official Community Plan for the District of Hope.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that one written submission was received and included in Council's agenda package.

The Director of Community Development provided a brief overview of the proposed bylaw, noting that the new Official Community Plan (OCP) is largely driven by new legislation. He added that Staff have undertaken extensive public engagement and consultation with interest holders.

The Mayor called for any questions or comments from the public.

Karina Thomas, resident of Othello Road, raised concerns regarding heavy industry in residential areas, industrial traffic, safety concerns for residents, and a lack of language in the OCP that would allow the District to enforce regulations regarding industrial properties.

The Director of Community Development advised that the OCP is a strategic and visionary plan that provides high-level direction to inform other regulatory tools including bylaws and master plans. He noted that those regulatory tools, and not the OCP itself, would be used to regulate specific properties or roadways. He added that he is unable to discuss any specific property as this Public Hearing is for the OCP.

Arlene Webster, resident of Hope, raised concerns regarding the lack of statements regarding rock quarries, gravel pits, and other similar uses in the OCP, flood resulting from topsoil and vegetation removal, and Council's decision not to request a meeting with the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals at the 2025 UBCM Convention regarding the Hope Cemetery Pit.

The Mayor advised that Council met with the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General at the convention.

The Director of Community Development advised that there is a requirement under the *Local Government Act* for communities to identify suitable sand and gravel deposits in their OCP, and noted that the District has policies regarding surrounding land use and infrastructure. He added that he is unable to discuss any specific property as this Public Hearing is for the OCP.

The Mayor called for any further questions or comments from the public; hearing none, the Director of Corporate Services noted that no further submissions, either verbal or written, regarding the proposed bylaw can be made to Council. The Public Hearing was declared closed at 7:34 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

**Donna Bellingham,
Director of Corporate Services**