

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, May 26, 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  
Mike Olson, Director of Finance  
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development  
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer

**Others Present:** 4 members 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 May 26, 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 12, 2025, be adopted, as presented.  
**CARRIED.**

**(b) Public Hearing Record**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Record of the Public Hearing held May 12, 2025, be received. **CARRIED.**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

**(a) BC Transit**

Rob Ringma was in attendance to present to Council regarding the BC Transit Fare Review. In the presentation, the following topics were discussed:

- Funding and Decision Authority
  - Funding is cost-shared between the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and BC Transit in partnership with the District of Hope
  - Transit services are also provided to Indigenous communities through a Transit Service Agreement between each Nation and the FVRD, including

- the Seabird Island Band, Yale First Nation and Chawathil First Nation
- Decisions on fare changes are made at the discretion of the FVRD in collaboration with the District of Hope and other partners
- Costs are shared between the FVRD (53%) and BC Transit (47%), with 100% of the transit revenue remaining with the District
- Fare reviews take place every five years, with the last review taking place in 2020
- Fare Review Objectives
  - Utilize BC Transit's recommended Fare Strategy to account for inflation and operational costs
  - Align fares across the region
  - Increase ease for passengers
  - Boost ridership
  - Get the most out of existing electronic fare collecting technology (Umo)
- Transit Revenue
  - Effective October 1, 2024, BC Transit stopped selling legacy scratch-off passes in favour of Umo enabled alternatives
  - From October to December of 2024, 76% of fares were single ride cash purchases, and the remaining 24% were Umo purchases
  - 30-day pass sales have increased since the introduction of Umo
- Affordability Programs – BC Government Funded
  - BC Bus Pass
    - Universal bus pass for low-income seniors and persons receiving disability assistance
    - Unlimited access on a scheduled BC Transit bus
    - \$45.00 for low-income seniors, and free for those receiving disability assistance
  - Free Transit for 12 and Under
    - Children aged 6 to 12 are able to ride conventional and handyDART buses for free
    - Children aged 5 and under must be accompanied by someone 12 years or older and must board and depart at the same stop as their guardian
- Hope Transit System
  - Hope fares have remained the same since the route was established in 2017
  - Ridership is approximately 6,243
  - Cost recovery for the 2023/24 Fiscal Year was 11%
- Transfers Versus Automatic DayPASS
  - The current policy allows riders to travel on the next connecting bus within 90 minutes of trip departure without an additional fare
    - Cash users will receive a paper transfer, while Umo users have a transfer automatically applied
    - Difficult to validate for drivers
  - The proposed policy is an automatic DayPASS which provides users with

unlimited rides all day for the cost of two Single Ride fares

- Provides increased value and ease of use for riders
  - Umo fare capping automatically applies the DayPASS
  - Cash users can purchase a paper DayPASS from the driver
  - 10-Rides and pre-purchased DayPASS products would be phased out
- Fare Review – Options Analysis
  - Option 1
    - Unchanged single-ride fare
    - Increased 30-day passes to 20 times the single-ride fare
    - Gradual decrease of the concession discount over time to approach the recommended 15% discount
  - Option 2
    - Gradual increase to 30-day passes starting in year 1
    - Single-ride fare increases to \$2.75 in year 2
  - Option 3
    - Fully aligned with BC Transit fare guidelines
    - Increases 30-day passes in year 1
    - Single-ride fare increase to \$2.75 in year 2
    - Monthly passes increase by \$6.00-\$8.00
  - Option 4
    - Single-ride fare increase to \$2.75 in year 1
    - 30-day passes increase by \$12.00-\$13.00 in year 1
    - 30-day passes increase by a further \$2.00 in year 3
- Summary of Proposed Adjustments
  - Introduce Fare Capping to boost ridership
  - Simplify product offerings
  - Select a fare increase schedule, with options 2-4 aligning with other systems in the Fraser Valley by year 3
- Fare Review Timeline
  - Winter 2025 – BC Transit prepares fare change options that Staff may wish to pursue
  - Spring 2025 – Initial fare review options presented and discussed
  - Spring 2025 – FVRD Transportation Working Group with FVRD, Mission, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack to discuss alignment across the region with other systems
  - Spring/Summer 2025 – BC Transit will seek endorsement with each related Council
  - Fall 2025 – Marketing campaign to notify riders
  - October 1, 2025 – Fare changes in effect

Council inquired as to whether forecasted impacts on ridership, as noted in the options section of the presentation, are being considered as part of the fare review. Mr. Ringma advised that the forecasted impacts do not take into account other factors such as convenience and service level improvements. He added that BC Transit will continue to monitor ridership and bring forward any concerns regarding statistically significant changes.

Council inquired as to whether bus schedules can be advertised physically at bus stops. Mr. Ringma advised that BC Transit maintains a small marketing fund that could be used for signage improvements. He added that the Umo mobile application can be used to check schedules and track the live progress of buses but acknowledged that some people like to see the rider's guide when they get to the stop.

Council inquired as to whether BC Transit collects any data regarding reasons that people use transit, and whether riders would be impacted by increased fares. Mr. Ringma advised that BC Transit conducts a survey called Voice of the Rider which poses questions regarding transit, noting that respondents believe convenience and reliability are the biggest priorities while price is not mentioned.

Council inquired as to where they should direct their ideas or concerns regarding transit to. Mr. Ringma advised that they should be directed to Staff so that they can be brought forward to the FVRD. Council inquired as to whether the 30-day pass can be used in any BC transit system. Mr. Ringma advised that the passes can only be used in the system in which they were purchased, to ensure that the revenue stays with the system.

## **5. STAFF REPORTS**

- (a) **Report dated May 20, 2025 from the Director of Community Development**  
**Re: Building Bylaw Code Contraventions at 564 Thacker Avenue, Hope, B.C.**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council direct staff to file a Notice in the Land Title Office pursuant to Section 302 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 57 of the *Community Charter* against the property of 564 Thacker Avenue, legally known as: LOT 30, District Lot 14 (formerly Hope) Division Yale District Plan 6046, PID: 010-220-399. **CARRIED.**

- (b) **Report dated May 21, 2025 from the Planner II**  
**Re: Short-Term Rental Registration Letter**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council endorse the attached letter to the Ministry of Housing requesting a temporary exemption from the requirement for short-term rental (STR) operators in the District of Hope to register with the Province of British Columbia. **CARRIED.**

- (c) **Report dated May 20, 2025 from the Chief Election Officer**  
**Re: 2025 By-Election Results**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the report dated May 20, 2025 from the Chief Election Officer regarding the 2025 By-Election results be received for information. **CARRIED.**

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

## **7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

- (a) **Council Appointments & Committees**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Council Appointments & Committees for January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, be adopted, as amended. **CARRIED.**

**Mayor Smith Reported:**

- He attended the Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) meeting on behalf of Councillor Newbigging, noting that the 2026 budget process has started and will be completed by December. He added that the District of Hope has the highest percentage of library card holders within the FVRL.
- He announced that Trash to Treasure will take place on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; an event where residents can leave items that they no longer need on the curb to be picked up by others. He added that any items that are not picked up should be brought back inside after 4:00 p.m.
- He advised that Randy and June Young have offered to donate a concrete replica of the 1958 Gateway to Holiday sign to the District. The replica was originally intended to be placed at the Canyon Shell Gas Station, but the owners are looking to retire and would like to ensure that the item is preserved and properly displayed. He added that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has agreed to allow the sign to be placed on the berm by the Hope Lookout trailhead, near the sign's original location.

Council inquired about the ongoing maintenance costs associated with the sign. The Mayor advised that Communities in Bloom will be responsible for maintenance of the sign, like they are for the Mile 0 marker of the Crowsnest Highway. Council inquired as to which entity will have ownership of the sign. The Mayor advised that the District would have ownership of the sign. Council inquired as to whether the sign will be placed in a spot where visitors can safely view and take pictures. The Mayor advised that there is space to safely park and walk around the sign.

**Moved/Seconded**

THAT Council approve the transfer of the concrete replica of the 1958 BC Centenary Celebration sign from Randy and June Young to the District of Hope. **CARRIED.**

**Councillor Stewin Reported:**

- She attended a Hope Inclusion Project meeting, noting that they discussed the curriculum program, grant funding, and the upcoming Pride Month. She added that the meeting minutes were shared with Council.

**Councillor Newbigging Reported:**

- She attended the Hope Accessibility Committee meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>, noting that they reviewed the results of the Accessibility Survey which received 79 responses. She added that the Committee would like Staff to review the results to provide feedback on sidewalk and crosswalk locations.

**Moved/Seconded**

THAT Council direct Staff to review the Accessibility Committee's survey results to determine the feasibility of proposed sidewalk and crosswalk locations and report back to the Accessibility Committee. **CARRIED.**

**Councillor Graham Reported:**

- She attended the Hope Accessibility Committee meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>, noting that the survey responses focused on the Kawkawa Lake and Silver Creek areas.

**Councillor Skoglund Reported:**

- She attended the Hope and District Arts Council (HDAC) meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, noting that they commended the increased social media presence of the District.
- She noted that the HDAC discussed the District's Facilities Master Plan Survey question regarding the movement of the Arts Gallery.
- She announced that the HDAC Mugs n' Munchie event on June 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., where attendees can choose a pottery mug with refreshments and treats for \$25.00.

**Councillor Medlock Reported:**

- He attended an AdvantageHOPE meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, noting that the Visitor Centre is now open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days a week. He noted that the First Blood Mountainbike Trail will be opening on June 28<sup>th</sup>, and that events are being planned at the trailhead. He added that a youth event will be held the next day at the Hope Bike Park.
- He noted that other AdvantageHOPE initiatives include the BC Backroad Mapbook, video and images of the Fraser Canyon, ads in the Hope Standard, radio and newspaper campaigns both digital and published.
- He attended the Hope Lions Club Mutt Gala on the grounds of the Fraser Canyon Hospital. He noted that the Hope Secondary School leadership class ran the event while the Lions provided food and collected donations. He added that 20 dogs were registered, and that many residents of the Fraser Hope Lodge attended.
- He attended the Cedar Strong Prevention & Intervention Society meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>, noting that it was Gerry Dyble's last meeting as Executive Director following 29 years with the organization. He advised that Mandy Paisley, previously the Manager of Human Resources, will be filling the role moving forward. He added that there was discussion regarding the provision of waste containers for homeless camps in the District to help keep the area clean.

**Councillor Smith had nothing to report.**

**8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

**(a) Report dated May 16, 2025 from the Planner II**

**Re: Development Variance Permit Application at 19422 Silver Skagit Road**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council approves a Development Variance Permit for the following *Zoning Bylaw* variances for 19422 Silver Skagit Road:

- Part 9.4.5 (setbacks) to reduce the minimum north interior lot line setback for an addition to a one family residence from 5 m to 2.1 m. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Report dated May 16, 2025 from the Planner II**

**Re: Development Variance Permit Application at 919 Water Avenue**

Council inquired as to whether the reduction in required parking spaces is due to the size of the lot and parking availability in the area. The Director of Community Development advised that there is public parking in the area, and that providing the required number of parking stall could impact functionality and aesthetics of the property. Council inquired as to whether there will be any issues with the Hope Search and Rescue building and parking stalls. The Director of Community Development advised that if issues arise, Staff can

consider implementing signage and parking time limits in the area.

Council inquired as to whether the public, including those businesses in the area whose parking may be impacted, will have the opportunity to provide feedback. The Director of Community Development advised that notification will be provided in a 50-metre radius to invite public submissions. He added that the recommended resolution is to allow Staff to proceed with notification, and that more information will be provided in the Report to Council when the item returns for Council's approval.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with notification for a Development Variance Permit for the following Zoning Bylaw variances for 919 Water Avenue:

- Part 6.9.1 to exempt the development from providing a bicycle storage rack.
  - Part 6.19.2 and 6.19.3 to reduce the minimum number of parking spaces provided for a:
    - restaurant use from 15 to 0.
    - civic use (museum) from 4 to 0.
  - Part 13.2.3.3 to increase the maximum floor area for an accessory restaurant use from 70 m<sup>2</sup> to 82 m<sup>2</sup>.
- CARRIED.**

**(c) Report dated May 21, 2025 from the Planner III**

**Re: OCP and Zoning Amendment Application for Croft Island (20600 Landstrom Road, PID: 032-158-998, Lot A District Lot 10 Yale Division Yale District Plan EPP134031 (the "Croft Island"))**

Council inquired as to whether the applicant will be able to apply for the same item again, The Director of Community Development advised that the *Council Procedure Bylaw* allows the applicant to reapply after one year. Council inquired as to whether a re-submitted application would require any changes. The Director of Community Development advised that Staff would provide the applicant with recommended changes at the time of application before it is brought to Council but noted that it is ultimately the applicant's decision to proceed.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT Council deny the request to amend the OCP and Zoning Bylaw to create an RV campground and holiday park on Croft Island located at 20600 Landstrom Road.

**CARRIED.**

**9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) For Information Correspondence**

Council noted that they would like item 19, a letter from the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals, to be removed from the For Information Correspondence List and instead be received as a separate item.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated May 26, 2025, be received, as amended, to remove item 19, a letter from the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals.

**CARRIED.**

The Mayor read the letter from the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals regarding the

proposed expansion of Hope Ready Mix Ltd.'s Cemetery Pit in full.

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the letter dated May 21, 2025, from the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals regarding the proposed expansion of Hope Ready Mix Ltd.'s Cemetery Pit, be received.

**CARRIED.**

**(b) Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – April 2025**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing for the period of April 1-30, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED.**

**10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS**

There was no other pertinent business.

**11. QUESTION PERIOD**

Dean Werk, resident of Dogwood Valley, raised concerns regarding Council's decision in item 8(c) to deny the request to amend the OCP and Zoning Bylaw to create an RV campground and holiday park on Croft Island located at 20600 Landstrom Road. Mr. Werk spoke regarding economic stimulus opportunities, the applicant's contributions to the community, permitting with other levels of government, and significant infrastructure investments that have already been made on Croft Island.

Council thanked Mr. Werk for his input but highlighted the importance of applicants ensuring they adhere to proper process.

**12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, June 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**13. RECESS TO IN CAMERA MEETING AT 8:34 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 relation] of the *Community Charter* and adopting closed meeting minutes.

**CARRIED.**

**14. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 9:22 p.m.

**15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Moved / Seconded**

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

*Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held May 26, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.*

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services