

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, August 11, 2025
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Bonny Graham
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Dusty Smith
Councillor Heather Stewin

Council Members Absent: Councillor Scott Medlock

Staff Present: 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

Others Present: 12 members of the Public and 1 Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:22 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 August 11, 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 July 14, 2025, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

(b) Special Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Special Regular Council Meeting held July 24, 2025, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

**(a) Report dated July 29, 2025 from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Republic of China (Taiwan) Flag**

The Mayor read a brief statement on the history of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the District's position.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council recognizes the importance of fostering inclusivity, respect and cultural diversity within the community;

AND THAT Council acknowledges the presence and contributions of residents and visitors with heritage from both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan);

AND FURTHER THAT in addition to the display of the People's Republic of China flag, Council direct staff to reinstate the Republic of China (Taiwan) flag on the Memorial Park flag post. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Report dated August 5, 2025 from the Director of Finance
Re: Signing Authority on Financial Accounts**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council delegate signing authority to the following seven individuals:

- Mayor Victor Smith
- Councillor Scott Medlock
- Councillor Pauline Newbigging
- John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
- Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
- Michael Olson, Director of Finance
- Linda Goglin, Deputy Director of Finance

AND FURTHER, that signing authority consist of one Council member and one management staff member;

AND FURTHER, that necessary financial institutions be advised accordingly. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He announced that the spray park bottle drive fundraiser arranged by Isabelle Wright raised \$3,460.60, which includes \$600.00 in cash donations.
- He attended the First Annual Laidlaw Day, noting that it included a pancake breakfast, car show, pony rides, and local market vendors.
- He announced that the Hope Chainsaw Carving Competition will be taking place from August 14th to 17th, adding that carvings will be auctioned off and thanked volunteers in the community for their efforts to make the event possible.
- He attended the Chawathil First Nation new Council swearing-in ceremony, noting that they are looking to continue building a solid foundation for their community.

- He attended the opening of Camp Hope with newly elected Chawthil First Nation Chief Aaron Pete.
- He noted that Danielle Laporte, the District of Hope's Communications System Analysis Advisor, met with Samantha Piper, the Fraser Valley Regional District's Manager of Communications, where they planned to meet quarterly to improve communications between organizations.
- He met with the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Fraser Valley, Dr. James Mandigo, to discuss improving course offerings at the Hope campus.
- He noted that the RCMP have conducted boat patrols on Kawkawa Lake and will be conducting two more patrols during the summer.

Councillor Graham Reported:

- She attended the Fundraiser on the Fraser on July 19th, noting that it was well attended and raised almost \$15,000 for the Park Street Manor.
- She attended Concerts in the Park on August 8th, noting that over 1,000 people attended and thanked the Hope and District Arts Council (HDAC) for their work.
- She attended the Sunshine Valley Car Show on August 10th.
- She noted that she appreciates the work that the Windsor Motel has done to improve their building.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She attended the Fundraiser on the Fraser on July 19th, noting that it was well attended.
- She announced that the HDAC will be holding a garage sale on September 13th.
- She thanked the Hope Fire Department and BC Wildfire Service for their work in attending the fire behind the Silver Creek Travel Centre.
- She congratulated Councillor Graham and Councillor Newbigging who both have daughters getting married on the weekend.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He took part in the Sunshine Valley Car Show, noting that it was organized by a small group and featured 100 cars. He added that over 300 people attended the event which included local market vendors, and that a total of \$2,000 was raised for the Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department.
- He acknowledged the hard work that Mayor Smith and other volunteers have contributed to the Hope Chainsaw Carving Competition and encouraged the public to attend.
- He noted that Hope Brigade Days will be taking place on September 5th to 7th with an amazing entertainment lineup, including the Hope Motorsports Group. He added that Brigade Days is organized by a small group of volunteers.
- He advised the public to practice water safety following the incident at the Othello Tunnels, and to stay aware of rockslides and other environmental hazards following the rockslide at Silver Lake.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended the Fundraiser on the Fraser on July 19th, noting that a total of \$14,500 was raised for the Park Street Manor to pay for a new roof and heat pumps.

Councillor Stewin had nothing to report.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

**(a) Report dated July 31, 2025 from the Planner II
Re: Short-Term Rental Zoning Bylaw Text Amendment**

Council inquired as to whether carriage homes are included in the short-term rental regulations. The Director of Community Development advised that carriage homes are not permitted in the regulations but added that Council can direct Staff to add them if they feel it would be a positive addition. The Director of Corporate Services advised that if Council wishes to move forward with an amendment to include carriage homes, a new Public Hearing will need to be held due to the change.

Following discussion, Council noted that they would like to proceed with the bylaw without modifications to keep the process moving forward. The Deputy CAO advised that Staff would monitor feedback from the community to keep Council informed and determine if any further changes to the regulations are required.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Bylaw Amendment No. 1603, 2025* be given third reading
AND THAT Council direct staff to notify the Province that the District of Hope would like to opt in to the Provincial Short-Term Rental Registry requiring operators to have a business license as of January 1, 2026. **CARRIED.**

**(b) Report dated July 29, 2025 from the Planner II
Re: Development Variance Permit for 733 7th Avenue**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with notification for a Development Variance Permit for the following Zoning Bylaw variances for 733 7th Avenue:

Part 10.1.5.1 (Setbacks) to reduce the minimum south-east interior lot line setback from 1.2 m to 0.3 m for a garage addition to an existing one family residence. **CARRIED.**

(c) Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1602, 2025

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1607, 2025*, be read a first, second, and third time this 11th day of August, 2025. **CARRIED.**

**(d) Report dated July 2, 2025 from the Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Re: Records Management Bylaw**

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Records Management Bylaw No. 1605, 2025*, be read a first, second, and third time this 11th day of August, 2025. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated August 11, 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, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

13. RECESS TO IN-CAMERA MEETING AT 7:53 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 8:31 p.m.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:32 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held August 11, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services