

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 11, 2023
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Heather Stewin (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)
Councillor Zachary Wells
Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations (departed at 7:08 p.m.)
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Thomas Cameron, Fire Chief (departed at 7:08 p.m.)
Richard Zerr, Acting Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer/EA
Gurvinder Sodhi, Communications and Systems Analysis Advisor
(arrived at 7:08 p.m.)

Others in attendance: 4 members of the public and 1 media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. OATH OF OFFICE

Moved / Seconded

The Deputy Corporate Officer administered Councillor-Elect Dusty Smith's Oath of Office.
Councillor Dusty Smith joined the Council table at 6:02 p.m.

3. RECESS TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AT 6:02 P.M.

4. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING AT 7:08 P.M.

Mayor Smith reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 7:08 p.m. and opened by acknowledging 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.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the December 11, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held November 27, 2023 be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

7. DELEGATIONS

(a) Trans Mountain

Leah Caldwell, representative for Trans Mountain, was in attendance to provide Council with an update regarding the pipeline expansion project. In her presentation, the follow points were discussed:

- Trans Mountain Expansion Project
 - 98 % complete, with 987 km of pipe in the ground and 4km left to install.
 - Facilities are more than 98% complete.
 - Mechanical completion and first oil are expected in Q1 of 2024, subject to change.
- Spread 5B
 - 89km of pipeline construction, including 16km in the District of Hope.
 - 29 technically challenging areas, 11 watercourse crossings, and 40 trenchless crossings.
 - 98% complete with 88km of pipe in the ground and 1km left to install.
 - Crews are currently working on Mountain 3, winter/spring preparedness, leak detection and hydrotesting.
- Construction Highlights
 - Six general contractors worked on the pipeline, facilities, and camp construction.
 - More than 1.2 million worker days spent on site.
 - More than 225,000 worker nights spent at the camp community.
 - Approximately 56,000 m³ of soil processed for archaeology.
 - More than 200,000 artifacts identified.
 - More than 500 short full closures of the Coquihalla Highway executed to support Mountain 2 scaling and blasting.
- Reclamation
 - Road repairs – Repairs of access roads in consultation with local authorities.
 - Private lands – Landscaping and fencing/structures.
 - Restoration – Trails and parks.
 - Public lands – Recontouring, seeding, and revegetation.
- Next Steps
 - Workforce projections – 650 workers in December, reducing to 450 workers in January prior to contractor demobilization from the region in March 2024.
 - Temporary sites – Demobilization is underway at the Hockin and Skagit yards, with Liske, Laidlaw and Popkum yards being used to support Spring 2024 work.

- Camps – Ohamil Camp Community closed October 31, 2023.
- Spread 5B Community Benefits
 - \$500,000 Community Benefit Agreement to support the Richmond Hill Mutli-Use Pathway project in the District of Hope.
 - \$150,000 Community Benefit Agreement to support community projects in the FVRD.
 - \$1.6 million invested into upgrades of Othello Road.
 - Support to local communities, organizations and initiatives from Trans Mountain and Spread 5B contractors.
 - Increase in local property tax payments each year once the new pipeline is in service.
- Transition to Operations
 - Trans Mountain will maintain a presence in the Coquihalla-Hope region.
 - Trans Mountain is hiring for skilled positions throughout the pipeline corridor.
 - The Public Inquiries phone line and email will remain active.

Council inquired as to the reasoning for the placement of logs on the right-of-way. Ms. Caldwell advised that the wooded debris keeps people off of the right-of-way, attracts animals back into the area, and helps to prevent erosion. Council inquired as to how long it will take for the reclamation work to be completed. Ms. Caldwell advised that the reclamation work will be undertaken by smaller crews until the end of 2024 and potentially into 2025. She added that there will also be a five year monitoring period to ensure that the seed takes and the area is brought back to the same condition or better than it started. The CAO inquired as to the maximum number of workers on the pipeline at the peak of the project, Ms. Caldwell advised that it was approximately 3,500 workers in the region.

8. STAFF REPORTS

- (a) **Report dated December 4, 2023 from the Chief Administrative Officer
Re: AdvantageHOPE Board New Nominee – December 2023**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council endorse Heather Fader for appointment to the AdvantageHOPE Board.
CARRIED.

- (b) **Report dated December 4, 2023 from the Director of Corporate Services
Re: Approving Officer Appointment**

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council rescind the appointment of Richard Zerr as Approving Officer;
AND THAT Council appoint Robin Beukens as Approving Officer for the District of Hope pursuant to the terms of the *Land Title Act*.
CARRIED.

- (c) **Report dated December 6, 2023 from the Chief Election Officer
Re: 2023 By-Election Results**

Moved / Seconded

THAT the report dated December 6, 2023 from the Chief Election Officer regarding the 2023 By-Election results be received for information.
CARRIED.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

10. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

(a) Council and Committee Meeting and Acting Mayor's Schedule for 2024-2025

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Council Appointments, Committees, and Acting Mayor's Schedule for January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, be adopted. **CARRIED.**

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended the Lower Coquihalla Watershed Flood Table Meeting with the representatives from the FVRD Area B, local First Nations, as well as provincial government representatives, to work towards creating a framework for the watershed.
- He attended the District of Hope's 2024 budget meeting where Staff presented options for the 2024 budget.
- He noted that the FVRD renewed the lease of two hangers at the Air Park, and that Klop Farms have signed a 5-year lease for the West end of the runway to grow feed for their dairy cattle. He added that they are looking at other businesses to lease other land around the Air Park.
- He noted that the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital Board is working towards having yearly upgrades done to the Fraser Canyon Hospital. He added that he had discussions with Dr. Victoria Lee, President and CEO of Fraser Health, and believes that they can work together to make a difference.
- He attended an Economic Trust of the Southern Interior Joint Advisory Committee meeting to discuss project funding.
- He attended Hope Holiday Fest on December 2nd for the lighting of the tree and noted that it was well attended. He thanked the Hope Lions Club and Hope Towing for the popcorn and Santa rides to see the lights, Starbucks for the coffee and hot chocolate and the Hope & District Chamber of Commerce for the new lights.
- He noted that Councillor Newbigging, in conjunction of the unveiling of the Sword in the Stone carving, will be reading a story at the library. He added that there will be a green screen so families can get pictures taken.
- On behalf of the District of Hope Council, he wished everyone happy holidays.

Councillor Smith Reported:

- He thanked all of the 2023 By-Election candidates who stepped up and put their names forward, and also the Hope & District Chamber of Commerce and Hope Cinema for hosting the All-Candidates meeting.
- He joined the Hope & Valley Cruisers Society, noting that they are working with the Hope Motorsports Group to plan the July 1st Car Show and other meetings for the summer. He noted that they are looking to bring back the Cruise Around Town event that were performed during COVID, as there is demand from the public, as well as visits to local seniors facilities.
- He attended the Hope Holiday Fest and thanked those involved in the organization of the event.

- He noted that during his campaigning for the By-Election he met with concerned citizens regarding tents and shelters being set up in the District, and asked that Staff and Council work together to discuss and address the issue.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She welcomed Councillor Smith to the Council table.
- She attended the 2024 budget workshop.
- She noted that she will be attending a Hope Inclusion Project meeting on December 12th.
- She wished everyone a very happy holiday.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She noted that the Rotary Club is hosting a free skate on December 24th with free hot chocolate and candy canes for the kids.
- She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the 2024 budget workshop, noting that the public consultation session will take place on December 13th.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She attended the 2024 budget workshop.
- She attended the Hope Community Choir Christmas concert on December 3rd, noting that it was standing room only, and that there was a good variety of talent.
- She noted that she met with Councillor Newbigging and CAO John Fortoloczky to start the Accessibility Committee, adding that an application will be put on the website and social media to find volunteers for the committee.

Councillor Wells Reported:

- He noted that he was approached by concerned citizens regarding tents and shelters in the community.
- He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

11. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

**(a) Report dated Nov. 27, 2023 from the Acting Director of Community Development
Re: Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit – 22555 Trans Canada Highway**

Moved / Seconded

THAT a District of Hope Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit be approved for the property legally described as Legal Subdivision 12 Section 21 Township 5 Range 26 West of the 6th Meridian Yale Division Yale District Except Parcel A (N23340F); PID 014-651-530; 22555 Trans-Canada Highway in order to obtain approval for a future two lot subdivision of the property subject to the District of Hope receiving a satisfactory certified report from a qualified professional confirming a site-specific safe building envelope; and

FURTHER THAT the Director of Community Development be authorized to endorse the Geotechnical Hazard Development Permit and required covenant document; and

FURTHER THAT for purposes of the Development Permit validity period, the conditions of the Development Permit shall expire on December 11, 2025; and

FURTHER THAT for the purposes of Section 504 of the *Local Government Act*, “*substantially start any construction*” shall mean the issuance of a valid District of Hope Building Permit. **CARRIED.**

(b) Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1568, 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1568, 2023*, be adopted this 11th day of December, 2023. **CARRIED.**

(c) Fraser Valley Inter-Municipal Business Licence Bylaw No. 1569, 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fraser Valley Inter-Municipal Business Licence Bylaw No. 1569, 2023*, be adopted this 11th day of December, 2023. **CARRIED.**

12. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated December 11, 2023 be received. **CARRIED.**

13. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

There was no other Pertinent Business.

14. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

15. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

16. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:38 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held December 11, 2023 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services