

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, December 8, 2025
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 Heather Stewin

Council Members Absent: Councillor Bonny Graham
Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: John Fortolczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Branden Morgan, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Danielle Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 8 members of the Public and 1 Media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 December 8, 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 November 24, 2025, be adopted, as presented.
CARRIED.

(b) Public Hearing Record

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Record of the Public Hearing held November 24, 2025, be received.
CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) BC Hydro Project Team

Representatives from the BC Hydro Project Team were in attendance to present to Council regarding a powerline project for Westcoast Energy's Othello Facility. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- The project includes the construction of a new 5.5 km overhead 69 kilovolt powerline that will be built over the existing 25 kilovolt powerline
- Current poles are typically 50 feet tall, new poles will be 75 feet tall on average and will be wood structures
- The Hope Substation will be upgraded with two new capacitor banks to store and release electrical energy and to stabilize the power grid by regulating voltage
- Geotechnical Survey
 - February 2026 – Two new boreholes in the Hope Substation and five boreholes along the powerline route
 - Drill sites will avoid environmentally sensitive areas and known archaeological sites
 - An environmental plan will be prepared
 - Drilling will identify areas of differing geological material and inform design
- Environmental Field Studies
 - Will be informed by project design
 - Dates to be determined
- Project Schedule
 - 2025 – Confirm scope, desktop studies, preliminary design, First Nations consultation, community engagement
 - 2026 – Complete design, permits, order materials, detailed engineering, secure construction resources
 - 2027 – Receive materials, vegetation management, construction start
 - 2028 – Construction complete, clean up, project close-out

The CAO inquired as to whether any new poles will be installed in the Coquihalla River Park. Anré McIntosh, Project Manager, advised that the work will only replace existing poles. Council inquired as to whether the transition will interrupt power service and whether the work will assist with power stability. Ms. McIntosh advised that the intent is to use live-line construction to eliminate the need for interruptions, but that the design process will identify any potential need for outages or traffic interruptions.

Council inquired as to whether BC Hydro is working with property owners about right-of-way for the powerline route. Ms. McIntosh advised that BC Hydro has actively engaged with property owners along the route to make them aware of the work. Judy Dobrowolski, Stakeholder Engagement, advised that the 35% design drawings will be shared with District Staff when completed to show preliminary pole placement.

(b) Hope Splash Park Volunteer Committee

Representatives from the Hope Splash Park Volunteer Committee were in attendance to present to Council regarding the Splash Park Project. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- The dream is to open a splash park in Hope for summer of 2027
- Goals for the December 8th meeting
 - To determine the level of interest of the Council in this project
 - To ask for Council approval to create a public awareness and input campaign if the level of interest of the council is high
- Questions from Residents
 - Is this a Council approved project?
 - Where would the splash park go?
 - What is the timeline for construction?
 - When would the target opening date be?
 - What is the initial cost estimate of this project?
 - What are annual start up, water and maintenance costs?
 - Is there budget allocation or room in the five-year financial plan for a spray park for re-occurring costs?
- Donations and Fundraising
 - A total of \$48,500 has been raised
 - \$20,000 donation from Blue Triton in April 2024
 - Local Youth Initiatives by Isabelle Wright including the Silver Chalice Fundraiser, bottle drive, and hot dog sale
- Print and Social Media
 - The Hope Standard ongoing coverage
 - District support through a Press Release in April 2024
 - Fraser Valley Current article
 - Social media attention beginning in 2017
- The Details
 - Cost estimate of \$300,000-\$500,000
 - Water permitting application process
 - Costs of annual startup, maintenance, and water
 - Vandalism or misuse of the splash park
 - Background work completed by the Committee includes research and discussions with other communities, exploring designs, costing, timelines, and obtaining tentative proposals, and establishing a core committee
- Positive Community Impact
 - Family-friendly Recreation
 - Community Engagement
 - Economic Boost
 - Tourism Appeal
 - Health and Wellness
 - Aligns with the official community plan goals

- Public Involvement
 - The Committee is proposing a public awareness campaign to include a page on the District website for a public survey, community feedback, and Q&A such as a community hub and a social media page
 - Includes support from The Hope Standard, AdvantageHOPE, and Communities in Bloom
- Future Fundraising
 - Memorial Park Summer Gala
 - Water-themed fundraising concert
 - Three-tiered sponsorship program to target larger donations
 - The project already has local business support from Dent Construction and Hope Ready Mix

Brittany Fandrich, representative for the Committee, noted that she would like to create a survey containing questions for community input to be posted by the District. Council advised that they would like to ensure that the Spray Park is accessible and asked that the Accessibility Committee be consulted during the design process. Council noted that the Committee has spoken to an individual who worked on the Agassiz Spray Park and inquired as to whether they provided any information regarding the startup process. Ms. Fandrich advised that while this individual was not involved in the process during construction, they provided information regarding maintenance and upkeep.

Council noted that they are supportive of the project and added that they appreciate the Committee's approach using a mix of funding and considering costs for startup and ongoing maintenance.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council direct Staff to investigate the possibility of a Spray Park Project and produce a report including options and a feasibility study to be presented to Council.

CARRIED.

5. STAFF REPORTS

There were no Staff Reports.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He met with the HGTV crew alongside members of Council and AdvantageHOPE, noting that plans for the downtown area have been submitted as engagement continues.
- He attended the Stuff the Cruiser event at Kal Tire with Councillor Skoglund.
- He continued to work on the installation of white lights on businesses around the District.
- He attended the Trans Mountain Pipeline information session with Councillor Medlock and CAO John Fortoloczky, noting that they reviewed projects and timelines.

- He noted that the Fraser Valley Regional District is working on a Soil Dumping Bylaw.
- He met with Dermot Kelly, the new President and Chief Executive Officer of Fraser Health, where they discussed an open-door policy and inclusion in health care in the eastern Fraser Valley.
- He attended the lighting of the Christmas tree and other festivities on November 29th, noting that the event brought out the community spirit. He added that the District should be proud of the volunteers who organize these events.
- On behalf of Council and District Staff, he wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She wished Mayor Smith a Happy Birthday.
- She attended the Hope and District Arts Council meeting, noting that they have two sponsors for Concerts in the Park and that the back room at the Art Gallery is booked through 2026 and half of 2027.
- She thanked District Staff for arranging the District's Christmas party.
- She attended the Hope Community Choir Christmas Concert on November 30th.
- She took part in a phone meeting with the HGTV crew.
- She attended the Stuff the Cruiser event at Kal Tire, noting that the cruisers at Kal Tire and Save-on-Foods were both filled.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He took part in the Fog Fest Parade arranged by AdvantageHOPE and Brigade Days, noting that it was well attended and he hopes the tradition continues.
- He attended the Trans Mountain information session, noting that there will only be a small amount of work in and around the community.
- He attended the AdvantageHOPE Strategic Planning Session, noting that it was well attended and focused on attainable goals and celebrating successes.
- He attended the reveal of the Ogilvie Cup at the Silver Chalice, noting that it will be awarded to the best costume in the Polar Bear Swim at Kawkawa Lake on January 1st.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended a conference in Vancouver on Ethics in Government and Governance 101, noting that she learned about treating your organization as your ecosystem and how to take care of it so it can give back and thrive. She added that speakers included the Minister of Education and the Minister of Infrastructure.
- She will be attending a Hope Inclusion Project meeting on December 9th, noting that it is the final meeting for this year.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She noted that the lights and decorations installed in the District look beautiful and brighten the area.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

(a) Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1615, 2025*, be adopted this 8th day of December, 2025. **CARRIED.**

(b) District of Hope 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1616, 2025* be adopted this 8th day of December, 2025. **CARRIED.**

(c) Fraser Valley Inter-Municipal Business Licence Amendment Bylaw

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fraser Valley Inter-Municipal Business Licence Amendment Bylaw No. 1604, 2025*, be adopted this 8th day of December, 2025. **CARRIED.**

(d) Report dated December 3, 2025 from the Planner I

Re: Application for Zoning Bylaw Text Amendment; Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (RS-1) Zone

Council requested clarification regarding whether a residence needs to be occupied in order to operate a daycare under a Temporary Use Permit (TUP). The Director of Community Development advised that the home would not need to be lived in with a TUP.

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Bylaw Amendment No. 1614, 2025* be given third reading to allow Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) applications for daycare uses on Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (RS-1) zoned lots. **CARRIED.**

(e) Report dated December 4, 2025 from the Director of Community Development

Re: Official Community Plan – First and Second Reading

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1617, 2025* be given first and second readings; and

FURTHER THAT the public be notified in accordance with the *District of Hope Application Procedures Bylaw No. 1595, 2025*; and

FURTHER THAT Council approve and adopt the consultation strategy outlined in the Report to Council for the December 8, 2025 Council meeting for *District of Hope Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1617, 2025* which includes referral to the Agricultural Land Commission, the District of Hope Director of Finance, and the District of Hope Director of Operations; and

FURTHER THAT following second reading of *District of Hope Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1617, 2025*, Council direct staff to request the Fraser Valley Regional District Board's acceptance of the Regional Context Statement set out in the bylaw. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated December 8, 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, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

13. RECESS TO IN-CAMERA MEETING AT 7:52 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 8:04 p.m.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:05 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held December 8, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services