

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 6
March 16, 2021

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

CHRIS IRVIN – MAYOR
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR
JOHN DEVRIES – COUNCILOR
THOMAS SLAGER – COUNCILOR
ERIN LABONTE – COUNCILOR

PUBLIC
J. Carlson
P.McLeod
S.Russo
J/L Bruce

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Irvin.

AGENDA

MOTION 021-06-38

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Devries
that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to include:

Kidney cancer awareness month.

-CARRIED –

MINUTES

MOTION 021-06-39

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

The minutes be adopted from the last Committee of the Whole meeting of March 2, 2021 as presented.

-CARRIED –

ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE

MOTION 021-06-40

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$147,022.93 be paid.

-CARRIED –

BY-LAWS

MOTION 021-06-41

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

By-Law 21-03, being a By-law to set the property tax rate for the year 2021 be introduced for Third & Final Reading.

-CARRIED-

Councilor Labonte addressed vacant properties and recommended an increase from the \$600.00 annual tax rate. Administration provided statistics on a survey that was done which concluded there is only a total of 10 vacant lots in the community. Councilor Labonte suggested to continue with an increase of at least \$25.00.

MOTION 021-06-42

Moved by Councilor Labonte
that:

By-Law 21-03, be amended that the minimum tax on vacant property for the year 2021 be increased to \$625.00.

-MOTION DENIED-

Opposed: Councilor Labonte

REPORTS

Administration provided an update on the 2020 Audit that was recently completed by BDO and there were no errors found. It was suggested that Special leave be recorded going forward as a liability on the financial statements. There is an estimate of approximately \$600,000 surplus. A draft of the 2020 Financial statements will be made available to Council in the upcoming weeks.

Administration informed Council that vacant Commercial properties fall into a different tax category and YG is working on putting the properties that do not comply with their building commitment restrictions back into the inventory to be put on the market.

The engineering report that was done on the Recplex roof repairs was addressed. The price has increased from an original cost estimate of \$3.7 million to the last cost of \$10 million. The report has been sent back for more discussion due to the potential cost increase.

The Landfill report that was prepared by Sperling Hanson reported that the landfill has a 126-year life expectancy, so there is no requirement to expand the footprint. The closure costs remained the same, there was no change.

NEW & UNFINISHED

ASSET MANAGEMENT
POLICY#2021-01

MOTION 021-06-43

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

The Asset Management Policy #2021-01 be approved.

-CARRIED -

Council discussed the Asset Management Policy that was provided to them. The purpose of the policy is to set guidelines for implementing organization-wide asset management processes within the Town of Watson Lake.

Councilor Slager addressed accounting and the depreciation of assets and questioned how the Town complies to ensure that adequate provision is made for long term planning to manage assets? Administration advised the plan is to set monies aside every year with revenue that is generated both by taxes and user fees.

Councilor Labonte recommended that the policy be sent for public consultation. Administration advised that the policy is a guiding document for the CAO to create a process to ensure it is incorporated into relevant job descriptions for staff.

Councilor Labonte motioned to amend the Asset Management Policy #2021-01 with the addition of Section 3.1 (h) that there be consultation with the community.

MOTION 021-06-44

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

More discussion is needed on this topic and agreed to table the Asset Management Policy #2021-01 to the April 6th Council meeting.

-CARRIED-

TANGIBLE CAPITAL
ASSET POLICY #2021-02

Administration provided an explanation of the Tangible Capital Asset Policy #2021-02 and the purpose for providing direction to recognize and record Tangible Capital Assets. The policy defines the thresholds and provides an appendix of the various assets & life ranges.

MOTION 021-06-45

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

Council approve Tangible Capital Asset Policy #2021-02 as presented.

-CARRIED-

ADMIN BUILDING
CONCEPT LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Council reviewed the Watson Lake Administration Building concept landscape design and provided the following comments.

- Concerns with potential firesmart issues with the trees being located too close to the building, also the potential that tree roots could eventually cause damage to the building.
- Gravel is not a good option for the pathways as garbage tends to collect and can be difficult to remove from gravel.
- Drainage issues could pose a situation with runoff draining into the water source.
- The cost is excessive and needs to be re-evaluated.
- Snow removal may create a concern in the winter months
- Council appreciates the future Wye Lake Trailhead and connection to the park.
- Council agrees there were several good features provided in the landscape design and this is a good starting point.

WL SCHOOL COUNCIL
STREET LIGHTS

Council discussed a letter from WL School Council requesting a review of street lights on Ravenhill Drive be done in light of safety concerns with children walking to school and the minimal lighting in the school zone. Council addressed the concerns and provided various options. It was suggested this matter be discussed further with Atco Electric, the Department of Education, and the Yukon Hospital Corporation for a solution to improving the street lighting in this area.

KIDNEY FOUNDATION
PROCLAMATION

Councilor Hanchar addressed World Kidney Month and suggested the Town of Watson Lake proclaim the month of March as Kidney Month and April 7th as Green Shirt day in memory of Logan Boulet.

MOTION 021-06-46

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

Council proclaim March as Kidney month and support April 7th as green shirt day
to assist in the promotion and registration of organ transplantation.

-CARRIED-

**RCMP POLICING
REPORT**

Council reviewed the RCMP Policing Report for February. Administration informed Council that the new Sergeant will be arriving mid-month. Administration also informed Council of an annual award that has been given to a member of the RCMP for handing out the most impaired driving convictions. As the award is not being presented this year, it was suggested that the Town of Watson Lake publicly recognize the member of the RCMP for this achievement.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received a request from BMC Minerals for a letter of support from the Town of Watson Lake to accompany their application to YESAB for their Kudz Ze Kayah Project.

MOTION 021-06-47

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

Council provide a letter of support to BMC Minerals.

-CARRIED-

Opposed: Councilor Labonte

**COUNCILOR
OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Hanchar expressed concerns with the snowbanks at the intersections that are a potential safety issue. Administration advised that there has been discussion on this matter with YG Department of Highways as this is their mandate.

Councilor Labonte expressed concern with the loss of staff at the Watson Lake Hospital and suggested a letter be sent to Minister of Health addressing this concern.

MOTION 021-06-48

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

Council provide a letter to Minister of Health.

-CARRIED-

The question was raised as to when the job posting for a Public Works supervisor will be advertised. Administration advised this is still under review.

Mayor Irvin provided a comment to acknowledge the late Archie Lang and the significant loss to the Yukon and to pay condolences to his family.

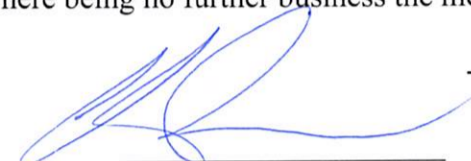
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 021-06-49

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 pm.

- CARRIED -



Chris Irvin – Mayor



Terri Close – Municipal Clerk