

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 2  
January 19, 2021

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

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

PUBLIC

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO  
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

**AGENDA**

MOTION 021-02-07

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

-CARRIED –

**MINUTES**

MOTION 021-02-08

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

The draft minutes be adopted from the Committee of the Whole meeting of  
January 5, 2021 as presented.

-CARRIED –

**ACCOUNTS  
PAYABLE**

MOTION 021-02-09

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$117,184.59 be paid.

-CARRIED –

**BY-LAWS**

MOTION 021-02-10

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

By-Law 20-19, being a bylaw for the establishment to collect fees & charges be introduced  
for Third & Final Reading.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 021-02-11

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

By-Law 20-20, being the Solid Waste & Recycling bylaw be introduced for Third & Final  
Reading.

-CARRIED-

Council discussed brush being brought into the landfill. Administration informed Council that the brush is being used as temporary coverage as per the recommendations of the consultant. Councilor Labonte questioned the fee associated with brush and suggested that this be dealt with during the annual spring cleanup.

MOTION 021-02-12

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

By-law 21-01, being the 2021 O/M Budget be introduced for First Reading.

-CARRIED-

There were questions and discussion on various line items;

- Collective agreement – COLA Increase 1.75%
- Gas tax monies
- Federal GIL increase
- CMG Increase
- COVID Funding

MOTION 021-02-12

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

By-law 21-02, being the 2021 Capital Budget be introduced for First Reading.

-CARRIED-

There were questions and discussion on various line items;

- Councilor Labonte questioned the purchase of various pieces of equipment and suggested the Town utilize the services of local businesses.
- Councilor Labonte addressed Wye lake cabin and identified several problems with the facility, specifically the upgrades needed. It was suggested that a plan be done of Wye Lake park including the cabin as it has significant long-term potential to support outdoor recreation.
- Councilor Devries enquired if there had been any consideration given regarding the relocation of the sani-dump. Administration advised that this is under discussion for a relocation to the former Watson Lake Hotel property.

**REPORTS**

**CAO REPORT**

Administration informed Council that the budget preparation is underway.

A meeting was held with a representative from Atco who are upgrading their standard street lights and changing its fee structure. If the Town wants to continue to place Christmas decorations on the light poles, there will now be a cost associated to do so.

Yukon Housing is moving ahead with the second phase of the Environmental Assessment being done on the Lakeview Property.

Barb Suffesick is retiring as the Solid Waste Coordinator at the end of the month. Chad Rudd and Monica Seghers-York are moving into new positions at the Recycling depot and advertising has been done for a Recycling attendant that closes at the end of January.

DEPARTMENTAL  
QUARTERLY REPORTS

Council reviewed the Departmental Quarterly reports. The following discussion took place.

Councilor Labonte questioned whether there is a policy in place for mandatory COVID vaccinations. Administration advised that the vaccination is not mandatory but at the discretion of the individual.

Councilor Labonte addressed the Delta 1 Fire dispatch services and asked how the Fire Department will ensure that all the calls are being answered and responded to. Administration advised that the Delta 1 Dispatch system improves call taking capabilities resulting in a fast transfer of emergency calls, and the liability to municipalities is reduced. Councilor Labonte suggested that the Fire Department provide a report in 6 months as to how the system is working.

The question was raised as to when the job posting for a Public Works supervisor will be advertised as the department is understaffed. Administration advised that the department is running well. All paperwork and procurement policies are being done by Administration. It would be preferable that a firm be hired to advertise the position and do the research, as opposed to hiring a person who lacks the skills to fill this position.

It was suggested that the Collective Agreement be reviewed for options to hire seasonal employees that can cover all departments as needed.

Mayor Irvin addressed the Recreation report and identified various areas of the report that were not accurate.

**NEW & UNFINISHED**

OUTSTANDING PROPERTY  
TAX SUMMARY

Council reviewed the list of outstanding property taxes. The list is required to be advertised in the Yukon News no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION 021-02-13**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council approved the tax lien summary as presented.

-CARRIED-

NEW YEAR'S BABY  
DONATION

**MOTION 021-02-14**

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

Council donate \$200 for Watson Lake's New Year's baby.

- CARRIED -

STRATEGIC PLAN  
REVIEW

**MOTION 021-04-15**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

Council accept the Strategic Plan as presented.

-CARRIED -

Councilor Labonte agreed to present the Strategic Plan at the Town Hall meeting scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Council reviewed a letter from the WL Chamber of Commerce requesting \$2500.00 of the Federal COVID relief funding to help with operating expenses throughout the fiscal year. Councilor Hanchar stated that it would be unfair if all groups were not provided with the same opportunity. Administration advised the COVID relief funding is made available to municipalities to recover revenue losses, staffing costs and other costs and forecast expenses associated to the pandemic period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Council suggested a letter be sent to the WL Chamber advising they unfortunately do not fit these criteria.

COVID RESTART  
FUNDING

Administration provided Council with the COVID Restart Funding spending plan. The Town was presented with \$403,000 of funding to help restart or fund losses due to the pandemic. Based on this information Administration developed a plan to recover revenue losses, staffing costs and other costs and forecast expenses associated to the pandemic period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

MOTION 021-02-16

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council accept the COVID restart funding plan as presented.

-CARRIED –

Councilor Hanchar agreed to present the COVID restart plan at the Town Hall meeting scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCILOR  
OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Irvin addressed the percentage of monies being put into reserves in the 2021 budget.

Councilor Hanchar discussed the Town of Watson Lake website. There is missing information. The information needs to be consistent with what is being posted on the Town Facebook page. She suggested a link to attach resources similar to the City of Dawson website. Councilor Hanchar also recommended the agenda package be posted on the website. Items that are on the website need to be reviewed prior to posting as there are spelling and grammatical errors.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION 021-02-17

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED –

  
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Chris Irvin – Mayor

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Terri Close – Municipal Clerk