

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 18
October 6, 2020

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

CHRISTOPHER IRVIN –MAYOR
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR
THOMAS SLAGER – COUNCILOR
ERIN LABONTE – COUNCILOR

PUBLIC
J.Brown – Zoom
R.Wilkinson – Zoom
J.Bruce - Zoom
J.Devries - Zoom
C.Craft - Zoom
Z.Morrison

ADMINISTRATION

CAMERON LOCKWOOD – CAO
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

AGENDA

MOTION 020-18-152

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to include Gallery Open Forum and an In-Camera to discuss a legal matter.

-CARRIED –

MINUTES

MOTION 020-18-153

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

The September 15th minutes be amended that the draft OCP will be presented to Council as well as the WL Chamber of Commerce and the OCP Committee.

-CARRIED –

REPORTS

CAO REPORT

Administration informed Council that the 2nd pour of concrete at the new firehall/Public Works went well and is scheduled for the final pour this week.

The new skidsteer and mower arrived and an orientation was provided to Staff. The equipment is now in use.

Administration met with the consultant that has been hired to work on a plan to upgrade the cemetery and prepare a design concept plan for the Administration Building. YG has agreed to cover the cost for the upgrades.

Mike O'Connor from YG has retired and a new project manager is now on site. The list of deficiencies at the Admin Building have been discussed and are being resolved.

Administration and Mayor met with representatives from Top Speed Energy (TSE), who have successfully shipped Canadian LNG with ISO tanks to China and Asia, and currently have 350 ISO tanks in Canada for LNG shipment. TSE is planning to start a local distribution center in Watson Lake for future business opportunities.

The Recplex has received approval from the Chief Medical Officer to proceed with re-opening the facility following the plan that was submitted. The Hallowe'en fireworks and Haunted House will be permitted to take place.

DELEGATION

ZOE MORRISON
STANTEC – DRAFT OCP

Zoe Morrison from Stantec provided Council with a presentation on the draft Official Community plan, and what process has been done to update the OCP. Council acknowledged the goals identified by the OCP Committee and public input priorities. Zoe identified various land use designations and highlighted priorities for YG to work towards on land development in Watson Lake. There has presently been no LFN involvement in preparing the draft OCP which may present a roadblock going forward, however Zoe will continue attempts to contact members of Liard First Nation.

Council discussed further the process to date and agreed the Town has taken all the necessary steps in its endeavours as a community to proceed. Council agreed to initiate land development with YG and move forward with the Thompson Drive Country Residential lot development in addition to the Residential lot development on Frances Avenue in order for the lots to go on sale next year.

Zoe discussed the next steps moving forward to present the draft OCP to the public prior to finalizing the Official Community Plan for Council by mid December.

ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE

MOTION 020-18-154

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$679,207.92 be paid.

-CARRIED-

BY-LAWS

MOTION 020-18-155

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

By-Law 20-13, being a By-law to Amend Zoning By-Law 15-07 be introduced for First & Second Reading.

-CARRIED-

**NEW &
UNFINISHED**

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

Council discussed the property at 807 Lakeview Avenue that was seized under the Tax Lien Act and offered for sale by public auction. No bids or proposals were received. Administration advised the property poses an extreme liability for the Town, both in fire risk & personal injury and impacts the Town financially to remedy the situation. Administration is recommending to utilize gas tax funding to proceed with plans for the demolition of the property. Council suggested if YG can resource funds with other departments, there is an opportunity to have the lot developed, otherwise the Town initiate the process to demolish the building. Council agreed to table the discussion on the disposal of 807 Lakeview Avenue to the next Council meeting of October 20th with recommendations from Administration.

**WL LANDFILL PUBLIC WASTE
DROP-OFF AREA CONCEPTUAL PLANNING**

Council reviewed a conceptual plan prepared by Morrison Hershfield for a public waste drop-off area at the Landfill. Having a public waste drop-off area would limit public and small commercial traffic at the landfill's active face and increase the overall safety at the site. Furthermore, the TOWL would be able to improve compliance review of loads to limit the amount of banned waste going to landfill. The capital project cost would be approximately \$257,656.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received a letter addressed to YG Minister of Highways signed by both MLA Patti McLeod and MLA Brad Cathers regarding the installation of streetlights along the Robert Campbell Highway between the Town of Watson Lake and 2 ½ mile, and suggesting to reduce the number of streetlights which the government plans to install on the Alaska Highway near the intersections of Mayo Road. Council support the letter to the Minister reinforcing the installation of street lights to the subdivision of 2 ½ mile.

**COUNCILOR
OPEN FORUM**

Council addressed the Bi-Mayoral election taking place on October 8th at the Recreation Centre.

**GALLERY
OPEN FORUM**

Mrs. Ruth Wilkinson appreciated the discussion and update on the OCP, and suggested that there be allotment for park development in the OCP. She also advised of an incident that she encountered recently with bylaw enforcement on a property and requested that more bylaw enforcement be done with development taking place in the community. She addressed several properties in the community that are in need of maintenance as they could pose a danger to the public.

Mr. John Devries addressed the Lakeview Apartments and questioned the reason for demolition and suggested other options be explored. Mr. Devries also addressed concerns with the woodsmoke in the community and suggested this be incorporated into the OCP.

Mr. Jerry Bruce also expressed his appreciation of the discussion and update on the OCP and the general direction for the future growth of the community. He enquired about whether there would be any potential land use designated for district heat/biomass requirements. Also, he addressed airport allocation and operations. Involvement from First Nation in discussion of Interim Protected lands will be beneficial in drafting of the OCP.

Mayor Irvin thanked the members of the public for taking part in the discussion.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 020-18-156

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council go In-Camera to discuss a legal matter.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 020-18-157

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council revert to Open meeting.

-CARRIED-

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 020-18-158

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

-CARRIED –

Chris Irvin – Mayor

Terri Close – Municipal Clerk

