

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

January 7, 2020

ATTENDANCE

CHERYL O'BRIEN - MAYOR
CHRIS IRVIN - COUNCILOR
ERIN LABONTE- COUNCILOR
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR
THOMAS SLAGER- COUNCILOR

ABSENT

PUBLIC
J.Holt T.Cole
C/T Crane G,Amann
D/K McMillan
C.Hamer J.Kearns
M.Boone J.Devries
K.Odgers N.Jukosky

ADMINISTRATION
CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor O'Brien.

AGENDA

MOTION 020-01-01

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

Council acknowledged the draft minutes from the Special Council meeting of
December 23,2019.

REPORTS

CAO Report

Administration informed Council that the 2020 O/M & Capital budgets are in the
final stages of completion.

The Administrative Building retrofit is continuing after a brief break over
Christmas.

Tender documents for any Capital Projects are on hold until the budget has been
finalized and approved by Council.

TENDERS

WL HOTEL
REMEDICATION

Council discussed the bids that were received for the WL Hotel remediation and
were in agreement to follow Town policies and accept the tender deemed most
favorable to the Town. Although the policy specifies a five percent (5%) Local
Bidding Preference may be given to Watson Lake companies who reside within
the Town Boundaries, the bid from the local company was significantly higher
than the lowest compliant bidder.

MOTION 020-01-02

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
That:

The Tender be awarded to QM Environmental for the bid price of \$182,693.46
plus GST.

-CARRIED-

Opposed: Councilor Labonte

MOTOR GRADER
REPLACEMENT

Three bids were received to supply the new motor grader. All three bids were below the approved gas tax funding in the amount of \$395,000. Council reviewed the recommendations that were provided by the Public Works Department and Administration which support the proposal from Finning Canada in the amount of \$328,072.00 with an 18-week delivery. Councilor Labonte commended the Public Works Department for the detailed report that was provided. Councilor Slager acknowledged that all hydraulic hoses and fittings for Finning equipment can be purchased locally and that they also have a mechanic in WL bi-weekly.

MOTION 020-01-03

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Irvin
that:

Council accept the bid from Finning in the amount of \$328,072.00 +GST.

-CARRIED-

NEW & UNFINISHED

YUKON HOSPITAL CORP
NEW YEAR'S BABY DONATION

MOTION 020-01-04

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

Council donate \$100 for Watson Lake's New Year's baby.

- CARRIED -

RECREATION
REVIEW

Mayor O'Brien addressed the Recreation Review which Councilor Hanchar will be directing. Council needs to take a look at what the Recreation Centre is currently providing in terms of community wants/needs, what is working and what isn't, including hours of operation, costs to operate, ensuring we have the best bang for our buck, what is Council's vision and goal for the future direction of Recreation in the municipality, and how to maximize the use of present facilities. Council discussed the Recreation Review Advisory Committee and offered suggestions for regulating the formation and operation of the Committee. Council agreed that the Committee be limited to 5 members, plus one member of Council and to encourage participation from Liard First Nation. The Committee shall meet once/month for a maximum of 3-6 months. The elected chairperson shall receive \$100.00/meeting to a maximum of \$1000.00 and will be required to take minutes of the Committee meetings and provide a written report to Council. The Town will advertise for members. Persons interested in serving on the committee will submit an application that identifies how the applicant's involvement will add perspective to the vision, purpose and scope and why they would be an asset to the committee.

TOURISM
REVIEW

Council discussed the Tourism Review which Councilor Labonte will be directing. Council suggested the review incorporate the Tourism strategy and workplan, to ensure it is tailored for Watson Lake.

It was agreed to involve the business community, WL Chamber of Commerce, and the service/tourism industry. Council agreed the Committee be limited to 6 members, plus one member of Council. The elected chairperson shall receive \$100.00/meeting to a maximum of \$1000.00 and will be required to take minutes of the Committee meetings and provide a written report to Council.

OCP STEERING
COMMITTEE

Mayor O'Brien provided the following information from Stantec who have been hired to rewrite the OCP and Zoning Bylaws and have their own mandate regarding the OCP Steering Committee.

Desired composition should represent the diversity of Watson Lake's residents, including both indigenous and non-indigenous members, Include youth, middle-aged, and older members. Should have between 6 and 10 members. The mandate is to provide context and feedback on any items raised which may be of importance to the community. Provide a sounding board for the review and rewrite process. Act as local project champions by talking about the project to friends, family and neighbours and encouraging people to participate. The Members must attend a minimum of 4 meetings with the project team, and attend project engagement events. Council were in agreement that the members of the Committee be paid an honorarium of \$500.00/member and must commit to attend 75% of the meetings to be paid at the end of the review.

Council requested that Bylaws be prepared to regulate the formation and operation of the Advisory Committees for the Recreation Review, Tourism Review and OCP Review and the By-Laws be introduced at the January 21st Council meeting.

FIREHALL/PUBLIC WORKS
FACILITY

Administration addressed the Firehall/Public Works facility that is currently being designed and will be funded through the Investing in Canada infrastructure Plan, projects which include vital upgrades to local public works facilities and fire halls. The existing facilities do not meet current regulations and it would be very costly to update. The design was presented in December and comments were brought forward from both the Fire Department and Public Works Department. There is \$9 Million allocated for the new facility and concerns were presented from both departments and Council to maximize the use of the money without going over budget. Mayor O'Brien stated that Council are accountable to the public and want the best value, looking to the future to ensure the facility is user friendly and multi-purpose and meets the needs of the community. Council were in agreement that procedures must be in place and Council be proactive from the start of the project.

TOWN HALL
MEETING

Mayor O'Brien presented speaking notes for the Town Hall meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 9th.

Topics for Discussion include:

- Detailed O/M budget including breakdown of surplus funds and reserves
- Property taxes & assessment
- Land development
- Cemetery concerns
- Accommodation levy

Council suggested a Town Hall meeting be scheduled for March to address the Cemetery bylaw and introduction of the Capital Budget.

Administration informed Council that a meeting with Minister Streicker has been scheduled for February 10th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor O'Brien addressed a public engagement taking place which will help inform Flight Path, a 10-year investment strategy, on how to prioritize and invest in Yukon's aviation system. A 90-day survey and community meetings are being held throughout the territory which will give participants a chance to share their views on how the aviation system can be improved. A Public meeting is scheduled to take place in Watson Lake January 14th.

Mayor O'Brien informed Council that the local YG Social Services department is being relocated to Whitehorse eliminating the position in the community. Council agreed that the community will not be able to function with the loss of this position and agreed to discuss this matter with Minister Streicker in February.

COUNCILOR OPEN FORUM

Councilor Labonte expressed concern with the crosswalks located on the Alaska Highway not being illuminated and suggested that the lightbulbs be replaced, as well as the street lights that are not working in the community. Administration advised that the crosswalks are the responsibility of YG and they are working to remedy the problem.

Councilor Slager enquired about the status of the district heat at the High School. Administration advised that the fittings have been welded and the Town is ready to proceed, however are waiting on Property Management to as they are encountering problems with internet fittings.

Councilor Hanchar requested an update on the Town website. Administration advised that the last revision with the recommendations from Council has been sent to All-Net, and should be implemented by the end of February with training to proceed afterwards. The Town continues to seek any high-quality photos to add to the site.

Mayor O'Brien advised Council of a Leadership workshop being held in Whitehorse February 19-20th that she would like to attend. Councilor Irvin also expressed an interest in attending the workshop. Council agreed to Mayor O'Brien and Councilor Irvin to attend the Leadership Conference in Whitehorse.

Administration requested approval to attend the CAMA conference being held in Ontario in June,2020.

MOTION 020-01-05

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council approve travel for CAO to attend the CAMA conference.

-CARRIED-

**GALLERY
OPEN FORUM**

Members of the Fire Department discussed the Firehall/Public Works building after being consulted for recommendations and needs. Cost control will be a factor of the construction.

A primary concern of the Fire Department is to ensure the facility meets the needs of both Fire Department & Public Works and the importance that all concerns are resolved prior to the drawings being finalized. There have been changes to the basic template of the building and has shifted slightly as the training room will be used as an emergency centre to be shared by the Fire Department and Public Works. It is important that money be spent on what is needed, and not on esthetics, and to look to the future to ensure the facility is user friendly and multi-purpose and meets the needs of the community.

Council were in agreement that this new facility will be used to provide efficient and reliable services to the community for several years, and the money well spent. Council agreed procedures must be in place and be proactive going forward.

Mr. Devries addressed the various Committees which the Town is forming and suggested that the members be volunteers, and not paid an honorarium. He suggested the Town consider TIA as part of the Tourism review. Mr. Devries questioned whether the Architect fees for the change orders being made to the Firehall/Public Works facility are affecting the allocated funding for the Project. Administration advised that the change orders will not affect the overall budget.

Mr. Amann addressed the proposed dry hydrants for public reserve and whether this project has been discussed. Administration advised there have been a few stumbling blocks, however the Town is moving forward and has allocated funding in the budget. Mr. Amann also questioned whether the Town will consider extending Lakeview Avenue once the WL hotel remediation has taken place. Council have not considered extending Lakeview Avenue.

Mr. Holt questioned the funding for the WL Hotel remediation project. Administration provided an update that the remediation of both the Campbell Block & Fraser Block which are owned by the Town of Watson Lake is being funded from Gas Tax. The other buildings on the property are owned by LFN Development Corporation which they have been issued a clean-up order to have them removed by May 1st. Mr. Holt also suggested the Committees that Council is looking at forming should be done on a volunteer basis and not paid positions.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 020-01-06

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Cheryl O'Brien
Cheryl O'Brien – Mayor

- CARRIED -

Terri Close
Terri Close – Municipal Clerk