

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 13
August 17, 2021

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

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

PUBLIC
J. Carlson
R. Wilkinson
J. Stackhouse

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk
TIFFANY LUND – Executive Assistant

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

AGENDA

MOTION 021-13-108

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to include.

Correspondence – Collaboration on Energy Projects

-CARRIED –

MINUTES

MOTION 021-13-109

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte

The minutes be adopted from the last Regular meeting of July 20,2021 as
presented.

-CARRIED –

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

MOTION 021-13-110

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Devries
that:

The Open payables in the amount of \$464,282.21 be paid.

-CARRIED-

REPORTS

Administration informed Council that the Operations Manager, Glen Thrush has been hired for the Town of Watson Lake and has been tasked with several projects. Tiffany Lund has commenced work as the Executive Assistant and is currently working on updating the Town website as well as other projects.

Meetings have been held with Colliers Group Management. The roof at the Recreation Centre is in need of repairs and the Town is researching funding opportunities for this. A letter has been sent to the Minister asking to determine funding priorities.

The washrooms and changerooms at the Recreation Centre are moving ahead.

The public waste drop-off area at the landfill is moving forward with the design engineers.

Progress is being made at the Municipal Services building. The pads have been poured and site grading is underway. There were issues with the recirc lines, however the project is moving ahead. There are concerns with the project being completed on time, which is now anticipated for mid September. Administration advised that if the building is not completed by this time, the Town will not commission or take custody of the facility until such time that the CAO is available to conduct an inspection and has granted approval. The Town is currently working on a move in plan. Once the building is complete, the Town will schedule a community tour and BBQ.

There are three minor deficiencies at the Administration building that still need to be completed. The landscape tender for the Admin building closed on July 20th. Yukon Landscaping was awarded the contract and are slated to commence work mid-September.

The new pump at the pool has been installed. Water samples that were taken at the pool were not received in Whitehorse on time and need to be resubmitted, so this has caused another delay in the opening of the facility. Once the facility can open, there are three adult lifeguards available, so it is the intention to run the pool as long as possible.

The energy retrofit for the recplex is proceeding, and the lighting assessment has been done. The electricians also looked into the solar project at the water treatment plant.

The RFP's for both the Campbell Block site levelling and the NLC Roof replacement have been extended to August 27th as no contractors are available to take on additional work. The projects will be re-evaluated after August 27th and possibly retender next spring.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Council was in receipt of the Departmental reports. Certain reports were not available and will be submitted to Council for review at a later date.

Councilor Labonte discussed the Recreation report and the staffing shortage which has resulted in the delay in some maintenance not being completed. Administration advised this has always been a struggle with hiring youth. She also addressed the floating dock at Lucky Lake and suggested it be replaced. Administration discussed insurance and liability if the Town should take over the responsibility of the dock. Administration will look into this matter further and discuss with the Insurance company.

Councilor Hanchar questioned comparisons on the revenue figures for the Landfill report as there was a significant difference in revenue over the course of a year. Admin clarified the extra revenue.

Councilor Devries questioned the budget and financial information that was provided. Administration provided an update.

Councilor Slager asked how the Town has extra savings in the bank. Administration explained it is due to changes in not spending allotted funding and tax structure changes.

MOTION 021-13-111

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Departmental reports be accepted.

-CARRIED-

BY-LAWS

MOTION 021-13-112

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

By-law 21-06, Being a By-law to provide for Grants be introduced for Third & Final Reading.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 021-13-113

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

By-Law 21-07 being a By-Law to regulate the municipal election be introduced for Second Reading.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 021-13-114

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

By-Law 21-08, being a By-Law to transfer ownership of land be introduced for Third & Final Reading.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 021-13-115

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

The Council Indemnities By-Law be introduced for First & Second Reading.

Councilor Slager addressed the annual indemnity for the Mayor and the increase from \$10,000 to \$18,000 annually, which is an \$8000 increase whereas the annual indemnity for Councilors was increased by \$2500. Councilor Slager suggested the indemnity for the Mayor be amended to \$15,000 annually. Council were in agreement.

-CARRIED-

NEW & UNFINISHED

COMPACT
EXCAVATOR

Council was provided with information from Administration relating to two proposals that were received for the supply of a new compact track excavator for the Town of Watson Lake. Funding in the amount of \$130,000 was provided through Gas tax and both bids were below the budgeted amount. Both proposals were reviewed to ensure compliance and based on the delivery time frame, it was recommended to accept the proposal from Finning Canada in the amount of \$112,785.00 plus GST.

MOTION 021-13-116

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council accept the recommendation from Administration and accept the proposal from Finning Canada.

-CARRIED-

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Irvin was in receipt of a request from the A/ADM of Major Infrastructure at Highways and Public Works, YG who manages the Green Infrastructure Program and the energy file for Yukon government buildings in addition to formalizing a new framework to create revenue streams for municipal/FN governments and businesses through energy purchase agreements.

There is an agreement in place to pay the Town for heating the secondary school through the heat recovery loop and there have been discussions on the feasibility of expanding the heating loop to connect other YG buildings. This will provide the Town with additional revenue and YG will also benefit from lowering its GHG emissions. YG is requesting whether the Town would be interested in being referenced in a media release about the Green Energy program, which will show leadership as well as govt-to-govt collaboration on the climate file.

MOTION 021-13-117

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

The Town of Watson Lake support the Green Energy Program and agree to work in co-operation with Yukon Government.

-CARRIED-

**COUNCILOR
OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Labonte discussed a concern from a citizen regarding flooding that is occurring in the ditches which is impacting undeveloped properties located beside the new Municipal Services Building. Administration explained that the undeveloped lots are at same level as the road and flooding occurs as there are no ditches on that particular street. It is an ongoing problem and water has always had to be pumped from that area. It had been suggested previously to the property owner to address their concerns in writing to the Town so a response could be provided, however there has been nothing submitted to date.

Councilor Labonte addressed the Northern Lights roof and whether the Town has considered replacing the roof with tin. Administration advised it was the recommendation of the consultant to stick with asphalt.

Councilor Labonte suggested separating Recreation from Parks in the budget to assist with defining costs in the budget. Administration has been in discussion with Finance and this will be addressed in the upcoming budget.

Councilor Hanchar discussed the Town CAO house and whether there has been any discussion to sell it. Administration has been in discussion with the Mayor on whether to put the house on the market to help with the housing situation. Administration advised there are several maintenance repairs that need to be addressed and agreed to provide a report with the costs to Council.

Councilor Hanchar addressed the motor in the excavator at the landfill which had failed and needed to be replaced and what steps were in place to prevent this from reoccurring. Administration informed Council that this was an unpreventable failure and an unfortunate incident. Maintenance has improved on the equipment.

Councilor Hanchar enquired about a time frame for the installation of the street lights on Ravenhill Drive and whether there had been any response from LFN. Administration advised that it has been signed off and waiting on Atco to begin. There was no response from LFN however Yukon Hospital Corporation has agreed to assist with the cost.

Council Slager requested that the siren at the Fire Hall be reprogrammed to ring at 5:00 pm as was done prior to it being changed in support of Health Care workers during the COVID pandemic. Administration advised that the siren will be reset when moving into the new building.

Councilor Devries addressed the survey for the OCP and Zoning Bylaw and whether there will be more feedback as the Public Hearings had low attendance.

Stantec is seeking further comments and will implement the changes that are received and bring back to Council.

Councilor Devries agreed that the budget for the Recreation Department be separated from Parks as there are cost overlaps and it is deceiving to the public that there is a \$1million dollar budget allocated for Recreation. It is misleading and will present a clearer picture going forward.

Mayor Irvin discussed the results from the survey for the new Municipal Services building and suggested the closing date for the survey be extended to August 27th.

Mayor Irvin invited comments from the Public.

Ruth Wilkinson addressed the several abandoned residential properties in the community that are dangerous and a public safety concern and suggested they be cleaned up. She also suggested a celebration or event be held towards the end of summer for the community. Mayor Irvin suggested the WL Chamber be invited for ideas as a possible fundraiser. Administration addressed the COVID Guidelines that are still in place that deters public gatherings at this time.

Jordan Stackhouse commented on the upcoming Municipal Election being held in October as there are only 3 meetings left of this term. He provided an update on the COVID vaccination rate in Watson Lake and discussed the ongoing conversations regarding interim protected lands. Jordan agreed more conversation is needed in this area and this information will become more clearer once the OCP has been passed.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 021-13-118

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council go In-Camera.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 021-13-119

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council revert to an Open Meeting.

-CARRIED-

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 021-13-120

Moved by Councilor Labonter, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -

Chris Irvin – Mayor

Terri Close – Municipal Clerk