

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

March 3,2020  
Meeting #5

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

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

PUBLIC  
G/L Bruce  
A.Durante

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO  
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 020-05-41**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager  
that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to add the Gallery Open Forum.

- CARRIED -

**DELEGATION**

Thomas Slager addressed Council requesting a change to the Zoning on his properties at both 804 & 806 Ravenhill Drive from RMH to R1 to accommodate the construction of two duplexes. He would like to apply for Government funding to assist with the costs and therefore would need the zoning change to be done prior to his application being submitted. Council suggested that he write a letter requesting a zoning change to be introduced at the Council meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW & UNFINISHED**

**AYC AGM**

Council discussed plans for the AYC AGM which is taking place in Watson Lake May 7-10<sup>th</sup>. Council agreed to advertise for an Events Coordinator to assist with preparations for this event. Council addressed nominations needed for the sustainable community award, the Hanseatic award and municipal award. Council discussed various activities taking place and what is required from each member of Council to assist with the events. Mayor O'Brien thanked Council for assisting with the preparation of the AYC AGM.

**FIRESMART  
UPDATE**

Councilor Labonte provided Council with an update on a FireSmart training course which she attended with Fire Chief Charlie Crane. The course focused on Wildland fire safety and what a Fire-smart property looks like and ways to mitigate a community wild fire. More information will be available at the Wildland Fire information dinner being held on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCIL  
INDEMNITY**

Mayor O'Brien discussed the Councilor Indemnity Bylaw that provides compensation and expenses paid to the Mayor & Councilors to attend meetings and other municipal duties.

Mayor O'Brien suggested that Council consider a Councilor report card that will provide the public with information on the #'s of Council & Committee meetings attended, and any travel done on behalf of the municipality, etc. Council support the concept and agreed to discuss this further at the April Council meeting.

Councilor Irvin suggested that the Mayor position become a ½ time position with designated hours scheduled to be in the Office as the workload is substantial. Mayor O'Brien will look into this further, and provide feedback.

MMIWG2S &  
YUKON STRATEGY

Mayor O'Brien provided Council with a draft MMIWG2S and Yukon strategy presented by Minister Dendys. The vision is to build communities where Indigenous women, girls & LGBTQ2S and Yukoners are safe, respected and empowered to walk their own path. Minister Dendys has asked that the Town review the strategy and offer suggestions for a community safety assessment and plan.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Council received correspondence from Liard First Nation Chief Morgan addressed to Minister Streicker regarding Watson Lakes' integrated Planning and the possibility to collaborate and move forward on land planning.

### COUNCILOR OPEN FORUM

Councilor Irvin enquired about implementation of the Town website and was informed the website should be operational by the end of March.

Councilor Labonte advised that the both the Town of Watson Lake and non-profit groups are eligible to apply for Firesmart monies. The deadline to apply is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Labonte requested the names of those persons appointed for the Tourism Review Committee be forwarded to her.

### GALLERY OPEN FORUM

Jerry Bruce informed Council that Ryan Hennessey, Senior Energy Planner, from YG Energy Branch has expressed an interest in meeting with Council March 17<sup>th</sup> to explain the approach being taken to investigate the expansion of the District Heating system. Mr. Bruce is requesting a budget of \$500.00 to cover out of pocket expenses for any resource personnel assisting in the work to prepare a report for Council. Council support the request for a budget to provide meals, etc and suggested that Mr. Bruce prepare a letter and introduce at the March 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Lelah Bruce thanked Mayor O'Brien for responding to her letter of February 21<sup>st</sup> with questions pertaining to the various Committees that Council has recently established.

### IN-CAMERA

### MOTION 020-05-42

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

Council go In-Camera.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 020-05-43

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Irvin  
that:

Council revert to an open meeting.

-CARRIED-

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 020-05-44

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 pm.

- CARRIED -

Cheryl O'Brien  
Cheryl O'Brien - Mayor

Terri Close  
Terri Close - Municipal Clerk