

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 23  
December 15, 2020

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

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

PUBLIC  
J./L. Bruce - Zoom  
R/J Carlson – Zoom  
D.Thompson - Zoom  
J.Stackhouse - Zoom  
R.Wilkinson  
H.Devries

ADMINISTRATION

CAMERON LOCKWOOD – CAO  
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

Ruth Wilkinson, Justice of the Peace, officiated the Swearing in of the newly elected Councilor for the Town of Watson Lake, John Devries. Councilor John Devries declared his oath of Office and Secrecy. Mayor & Council welcomed John Devries as the newly elected member of Council.

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

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 020-23-199**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Agenda be accepted as amended to include item #12. Municipal Safe re-start funding.

-CARRIED –

**MINUTES**

**MOTION 020-23-200**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

The minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 1, 2020 be adopted as presented.

-CARRIED –

**DELEGATION**

Mr. David Thompson, provided Council with a brief introduction of Eavor Technology, a geothermal Energy based company dedicated to creating a clean, reliable and affordable energy future on a global scale. Mr. Thompson provided information on how the technology works and the potential of producing power for the Yukon. Eavor Technology is currently gathering data to develop projects and has done some preliminary analysis and believe Watson Lake would be a good location. Mayor Irvin thanked Mr. Thompson for his presentation and suggested that once data has been collected, it be shared with Council.

**ACCOUNTS  
PAYABLE**

**MOTION 020-23-201**

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$198,631.70 be paid.

-CARRIED-

**MOTION 020-23-202**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

By-Law 20-18, being a By-law to provide for the establishment of an Equipment reserve for the Northern lights Centre be introduced for Third & Final Reading.

**-CARRIED-**

**MOTION 020-23-203**

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

By-Law 20-16, being a By-Law to amend Zoning for Lots 1 through 20, and lots 23 through 40 on Frances Avenue from Residential Mobile Home (RMH) to Residential (R1), be introduced for Third & Final Reading.

**-CARRIED-**

**MOTION 020-23-204**

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

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

**-CARRIED-**

**MOTION 020-23-205**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

By-Law 20-20, being a bylaw to provide for the collection, storage, transportation and disposal of solid waste in the Town of Watson Lake be introduced for First Reading.

**-CARRIED-**

**MOTION 020-23-206**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

By-Law 20-14, being a By-Law to change the Future Land Use of a 5 + hectare parcel of land adjacent to Ptarmigan Road from Hinterland (H)) to Residential Country (RC), for the purpose of accommodating a 10-lot subdivision be tabled. Councilor Labonte suggested that consultation be held with Liard First Nation prior to any decision being made on Future land use development.

**-CARRIED-**

**NEW & UNFINISHED**

**SKI HILL  
OPERATING GRANT**

Council received a letter from the WL Ski Club requesting the annual operating grant of \$12,500.00 as per their agreement.

**MOTION 020-23-207**

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

The Town of Watson Lake provide the Ski Club with the \$12,500.00 Operating grant as requested.

**-CARRIED-**

Administration informed Council of the Letter of Understanding between the Town of Watson Lake and the Watson Lake Ski Club where the Town of Watson Lake shall be responsible for the provision of an annual operational grant in the amount of \$12,500.

The letter of understanding shall be in effect from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2022 unless consent from both parties is obtained to amend the agreement.

Mayor Irvin suggested a meeting be scheduled with the Ski Club Executive to discuss the Letter of Understanding going forward, and the amount of the operational grant provided as the Town needs to budget accordingly.

#### **CAO REPORT**

#### **MUNICIPAL SAFE RE-START FUND**

Administration discussed an announcement from YG regarding Municipal support funding that has been identified to help support COVID-19 related operating and maintenance costs incurred in the 2020-21 fiscal year to March 31, 2021. Based on the 2020 Comprehensive Municipal Grant formula, 50% of the funding will be released to municipalities January 15, 2021 with the ultimate allocation of funds to be at the discretion of municipalities. YG will work with Municipalities to identify eligible costs and reporting. Watson Lake is allocated to receive a total of \$403,000. YG is suggesting that a small portion of the overall funding be allocated to AYC subject to approval from the municipalities. Council discussed various options for the allocation of the funding. Administration advised that lost revenue from facility closures, staff lay-offs, cancellation of the implementation of the Accommodation levy, etc can be recovered thru this fund. The funding will also allow three members of staff that were laid off to now be recalled to their positions. It was suggested that to be creative and financially prudent to better the community, the hours at the Recplex be extended and as an incentive to encourage residents to get back out in the community, the Town waive the fees and charges for all user groups at the Recreation Centre to March, 2021. Jordan Stackhouse will discuss with YG what reporting is necessary. Council agreed the funding be allocated to the municipalities and were not in favor of the funding allocation to AYC. Councilor Labonte suggested that going forward the Town improve communication and internal upgrades that will benefit the community. Councilor Devries suggested the Recreation Review Committee be consulted for ideas on the funding available. Council agreed to forward any additional ideas to Administration.

Administration informed Council of a meeting being scheduled with the Curling Club as Art & Clara Nolan would like to donate their curling memorabilia to the Town.

#### **COUNCILOR OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Slager addressed the Public Works equipment that was recently purchased and questioned if all the equipment had now been received. Administration advised that the loader and plow truck are still to arrive. The cost for the new equipment has been identified in the 2020 Capital budget.

Councilor Labonte addressed the work that is being done by Stantec on potential land development and the suggestion that the Town encourage property owners to develop their properties that are vacant and which have no improvement value. There are several vacant properties in the community which the Town needs to move on enforcing a building commitment.


Councilor Devries informed Council that he has been working with MLA Patti McLeod to address the Ace Asphalt property and questions of when the facility was last in operation. The Town has a lien on the property and there could potentially be a large clean-up cost involved due to contaminants which the Town could be liable.

Jordan Stackhouse addressed the Strategic Plan and suggested a meeting be scheduled to refocus on ideas identified in the plan. Council agreed to meet January 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Jordan will prepare an agenda identifying the topics of discussion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**


Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.



Christopher Irvin – Mayor

-CARRIED –



Terri Close – Municipal Clerk