

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 4  
February 16, 2021

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

CHRIS IRVIN – MAYOR

PUBLIC (Zoom)

LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR  
ERIN LABONTE– COUNCILOR  
THOMAS SLAGER – COUNCILOR  
JOHN DEVRIES – COUNCILOR (zoom)

E.Pendlebury  
P.McLeod  
G.Sundby  
S.Russo

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO  
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

AGENDA

MOTION 021-04-24

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

-CARRIED –

MINUTES

MOTION 021-04-25

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

The draft minutes be adopted from the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 2, 2021 with an amendment that Council was in agreement to allow urban residential development to Site 4, Block 4, Lots 2-6.

-CARRIED –

ACCOUNTS  
PAYABLE

MOTION 021-04-26

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$71,991.81 be paid.

-CARRIED –

BY-LAWS

MOTION 021-04-27

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

By-Law 21-01, law to provide for the adoption of the Annual O/M Budget for the year 2021 be introduced for Third & Final Reading.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 021-04-28

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

By-Law 21-02, being a By-law to provide for the adoption of the Capital Budget for the year 2021 be introduced for Third & Final Reading.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 021-04-29

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

By-Law 21-03, being a By-law to set the property tax rate for the year 2021 be introduced for First Reading.

-CARRIED-

Mayor Irvin addressed the Tax Rate By-Law and the decision of Council not to increase the tax rates. He discussed the extra costs incurred annually that should be taken into consideration and the necessity for extra revenue. Inflation costs, etc. are factors that will need to be considered going forward.

REPORTS

Administration provided the following report:

A feasibility study for the potential expansion of district heat is being conducted. It is the goal of Yukon Government to reduce reliance on fossil fuels by 30% over the next 10 years.

A tour of the new Municipal Services building was done. Construction of the facility is 3 weeks ahead of schedule.

The landfill Solid Waste attendant position is being addressed. The scope of the work has changed and needs to be reviewed prior to the job being advertised.

YG Infrastructure design/scoping work is moving ahead.

The president of the Curling Club is happy with the turnout this season for the Rec Curling League that occurs on a weekly basis.

NEW & UNFINISHED

ZONING  
CHANGE REQUEST

Council was in receipt of a letter from Gordon Sundby requesting a Zoning change on his property on Lot 1, Block 64 from Light Industrial (M1) to Heavy Industrial (M2) to allow consideration of possible future opportunities that the M1 designation does not allow. Administration informed Council that the OCP allows to accommodate an M2 designation on this property, and suggested that the zoning change be incorporated during the OCP/ Zoning review.

MOTION 021-04-30

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

Administration provide direction that the zoning amendment be incorporated during the OCP/Zoning rewrite process.

-CARRIED-

Council reviewed meeting notes prepared by Ben Campbell, YG Lands Development Branch summarizing land development projects that had been discussed with Council including the next steps for the projects.

MOTION 021-04-31

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

Council accept the report as presented.

-CARRIED-

YUKON GEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

Administration informed Council of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Liard First Nation and the Yukon Geological Survey (Government of Yukon) for the initiation of a 2-year collaborative study on the geothermal resource potential in the Watson Lake area.

COUNCILOR  
OPEN FORUM

Councilor Slager inquired about the frozen sewer lines along Frank Trail at the corner of the Northern Lights Centre. Administration advised that there is not enough flow in that area, and the sewer lines have the potential of freezing. Public Works Department has stayed on top of it. There are other areas in the community that are experiencing similar issues, but the preventative maintenance program that is in place has helped to reduce the problems.


Councilor Devries discussed the Tourism Committee and requested a report that could be made available to Council on what the Committee has done, and specific tourism opportunities for Watson Lake. Councilor Labonte provided an update and informed Council that the Committee has met and that a tourism brochure is being done. Council then discussed TIA and agreed more conversation is needed on this topic as the Chamber of Commerce needs to become more involved in tourism for Watson Lake.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 021-04-32

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

  
Chris Irvin – Mayor

- CARRIED -

  
Terri Close – Municipal Clerk