

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 6  
March 17, 2020

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

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

PUBLIC

Anais Durante  
Jerry/Lelah Bruce  
R. Wilkinson  
Cst. Woodman

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO  
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 020-06-45**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to include:  
COVID 19 Pandemic Preparedness  
SOLVEST – Request to lease land  
Accommodation levy

-CARRIED –

**MINUTES**

**MOTION 020-06-46**

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Irvin that:

The minutes be adopted from the last Regular meeting of February 25, 2020 as presented.

-CARRIED –

**MOTION 020-06-47**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

The draft minutes be adopted from the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 3, 2020 as presented.

-CARRIED –

**ACCOUNTS  
PAYABLE**

**MOTION 020-06-48**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Irvin that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$196,390.83 be paid.

-CARRIED –

**DELEGATION**  
RCMP  
Cst. Woodman

RCMP Constable Woodman advised Council that the RCMP are conducting their annual performance plan which includes addressing community priorities and looking at what resources should be identified in the plan.

Council suggested the following recommendations as a priority:

- Increased Traffic control in the downtown area and within school zones.
- Control intoxication and loitering in public places.
- Enforcement of drug related crimes and restricting offenders from reentering the community
- Encourage community RCMP involvement and volunteering.
- Mayor O'Brien suggested the RCMP initiate joint communication between the Town of Watson Lake, Lower Post, Liard First Nation, and Liard Aboriginal Women's Society to discuss matters of safety and to advocate on matters of mutual concern on behalf of interested parties.

Cst. Woodman informed Council of the necessary precautions which the RCMP have put in place due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Council thanked the RCMP and appreciate all that they do and the support they provide in the community.

**NEW & UNFINISHED**

**DISTRICT HEAT  
REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Council was in receipt of a letter from the WL District Heat Committee requesting a budget of \$500.00 to cover out of pocket expenses for resource people coming to the community to assist with preparing a report on the expansion of the District Heat system.

**MOTION 020-06-49**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

More discussion is needed on this topic and agreed to table this item to the April 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**-CARRIED-**

**ZONING CHANGE  
REQUEST**

Councilor Slager declared a Conflict of Interest and left Council Chambers. Council was in receipt of a letter from Thomas Slager requesting a Zoning change on his properties at 804 & 806 Ravenhill Drive from RMH to R1 to accommodate the construction of duplexes on these properties.

**MOTION 020-06-50**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Irvin that:

Council approve the request to initiate the change of Zoning at 804 & 806 Ravenhill Drive from RMH to R1.

**-CARRIED-**

**WL SKI CLUB REQUEST  
FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

Council discussed a letter from WL Ski Club requesting the additional \$5000.00 of their annual \$12,500 grant to assist with necessary repairs of equipment and the increased insurance cost.

As Council had previously provided \$7500 in January, Councilor Irvin expressed concerns and suggested that the lease agreement be reviewed and the WL Ski Club provide a detailed financial report.

Councilors Labonte, Slager and Hanchar agreed the Town honor the lease agreement and provide the additional \$5000.00 and suggested a meeting be arranged with the Ski Club to discuss the lease agreement.

MOTION 020-06-51

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Irvin  
that:

Council table the request for funding and invite a delegate from the Ski Club to attend a special meeting to discuss further.

-CARRIED-

Opposed: Councilor Labonte, Councilor Slager, Mayor O'Brien

MOTION 020-06-52

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager  
that:

Council honour the lease agreement and pay the remaining balance of \$5000 and invite a delegate from the Ski Club to attend the next Council meeting to discuss the lease agreement and ongoing funding.

-CARRIED-

Opposed: Councilor Irvin

RECREATION REVIEW  
COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS

There were two new submissions for the Recreation Review Committee: Kathie Thibaudeau and Dawn Thibaudeau.

MOTION 020-06-53

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

Council accept the submissions and continue to add any other members of the public who express an interest in sitting on this Committee.

-CARRIED-

YOGA CLASSES

Council received a letter from Elise Pendlebury requesting the use of the Oval room at the Watson Lake Recplex at a reduced rate in order to offer yoga classes to the community. Council questioned the request as it was understood that RPAY covers the cost to facilitate the yoga class.

MOTION 020-06-54

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

Council table this discussion and invite Elise to the next Council meeting to provide an update.

-CARRIED-

Council addressed a proposal from Solvest Solar Solutions to construct a small-scale utility solar array, and have identified 5 acres of municipal owned land as a possible location for the solar plant. The Town of Watson site is ideal because it allows for cooperation (and passive revenue) for the Town, the site is largely cleared and levelled and ready for construction, situated close to 3-phase power lines, and easily accessible. Solvest is requesting a positive response from the Town of Watson lake with a starting point for negotiations in the amount of \$4000/hectare yearly for clean prepared ground.

MOTION 020-06-55

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

Administration prepare a decision document and reintroduce to Council at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

-CARRIED-

COVID 19  
PANDEMIC DOCUMENT

Jordan Stackhouse, Community Services Advisor joined the conversation via teleconference. Administration provided Council with a COVID-19 document relating to operational and policy implications for the Town of Watson Lake during the COVID 19 pandemic. The Town is required to provide essential services that include: water/sewer, fire, garbage collection and road maintenance. Council discussed the recommendations from Administration relating to the continuation of essential services within the Town of Watson Lake and how to move forward. Council addressed various options for the continuation of non-essential services and agreed to the following recommendations:

MOTION 020-06-56

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

The Recreation Centre be closed to the Public. Staff will work Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 020-06-57

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Irvin that:

The NLC and swimming pool will not be staffed until the COVID 19 pandemic is over, and that the Town actively pursue staffing once the facilities are open.

-CARRIED-

Administration advised that the library is officially closed to the public. Precautionary measures are in place to reduce loitering and traffic in the lobby area of the Administrative building. The Administration office will remain open to the public.

MOTION 020-06-58

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

The Administrative office remain open and allow Management to proceed at its discretion and take all precautionary measures to ensure the health & Safety of its employees.

MOTION 020-06-59

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Slager  
that:

The Ski Chalet be closed but allow the Ski Club to operate the rental shop.

-CARRIED-

Administration advised the Recycling Depot will remain open and safety precautions are in place when dealing with the public.

COVID 19  
PREPAREDNESS & PLANNING

Jordan Stackhouse, Community Services Advisor addressed the COVID 19 pandemic and precautionary measures that the Federal and Territorial governments have put in place and recommended that Council direct Administration to begin preparing the Town of Watson Lake to act, if necessary on the emerging pandemic threat. Administration provided Council with a document with recommendations for a proactive approach which the Town of Watson Lake is taking for the planning and preparedness of COVID 19 as it directly impacts the health & wellness of the community.

MOTION 020-06-60

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager  
that:

Council approve and support the document and recommendations as presented.

-CARRIED-

ACCOMMODATION  
LEVY

Councilor Irvin declared a conflict of interest on this discussion. Administration provided an update on the implementation of the Accommodation Levy scheduled to take effect April 1,2020. Due to the impact the COVID 19 pandemic is having, the business community have expressed concerns with the substantial drop in tourist traffic and the financial blow they are experiencing. Administration therefore recommends that the Accommodation levy be postponed until January 1,2021.

MOTION 020-06-61

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

Council accept the recommendation to delay the accommodation levy to January 1,2021.

-CARRIED-

Abstained: Councilor Irvin

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor O'Brien informed Council of a questionnaire that Stantec has prepared for the public regarding the Official Community Plan. She requested that Council review the questionnaire and provide any comments to Zoe.

**COUNCILOR**  
**OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Hanchar enquired whether the AYC Annual General Meeting that was scheduled to be held in Watson Lake in May is still going ahead. Administration informed Council that AYC will make an announcement on Friday if the AGM has been postponed.

Daylu Dena Council has questioned whether the Town would enter into discussion on a MOU to provide fire protection to Lower Post and have agreed to offer \$1000 to assist with legal costs for the Town to explore the implications of providing this service such as liability issues, insurance, etc.

Councilor Slager expressed concern that the Committee of the Whole Meetings are not allowing motions to be made. This may present a problem with certain items that are delayed having to wait to go before a regular scheduled Council meeting for decision.

Councilor Hanchar informed Administration that snow has been pushed onto the Wye Lake trail from the rear of the Administration building blocking the trail.

Councilor Labonte expressed concerns with the inspection report from Environmental Health Services regarding the Ski Chalet kitchen and the uncleanliness of the facility. She suggested the Town work with the Ski Club to ensure the building is cleaned prior to opening for the ski season.

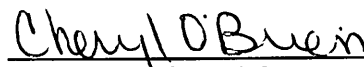
**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 020-06-62**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

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

- CARRIED -

  
Cheryl O'Brien - Mayor

  
Terri Close - Municipal Clerk