

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM

MEETING NO. 8
April 7, 2020

ATTENDANCE

PUBLIC

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

Ruth Wilkinson - Electronically
Gerry Bruce - Electronically
Lelah Bruce - Electronically
Jim Holt - Electronically
Ryan Hennessey - YTG -
Electronically

ADMINISTRATION

CAMERON LOCKWOOD – Chief Administrative Officer
SHANNON BERGERON - Treasurer
GRO BRODERSEN – A/Municipal Clerk

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

AGENDA

MOTION 020-08-67

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented with the addition under
Correspondence – RCMP Monthly Policing Report and In Camera.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

Council discussed the Draft Minutes from the Council Meeting of March 17, 2020. There were no questions or comments.

Council discussed the Draft Minutes from the Special Council Meeting of March 31, 2020. There were no comments or questions.

DELEGATION

Ryan Hennessey, Senior Energy Planner Energy Branch, Government of Yukon, did a presentation regarding the Watson Lake District Heating System. Ryan explained how the system works. It was designed to capture waste heat from the ATCO diesel electricity generating station and distribute it to 2 residences, the High School, the Pool and the Recreation Centre. Since it was installed in 1999 the system is likely at end-of-life without substantial new investment. The Energy Branch has secured \$50,000.00 to complete the established scope of work. This work is being made possible through the Energy Branch Community Green Energy Initiative

Energy Branch will:

- develop a request for proposals to tender the work to a qualified contractor
- work with the contractor to deliver the report to Council by March 31, 2021
- play a coordinating role working to build partnerships for biomass in Watson Lake

Administration explained that there has been some work done on the system and is now being treated with water instead of glycol.

Council agreed to make a decision on this matter at the Council Meeting of April 21, 2020. Gerry Bruce, Chair, District Heating Expansion Planning Committee, inquired on the time frame for the report. The report will be done by March 31, 2021. Council thanked Ryan for his presentation.

REPORTS

CAO REPORT

CAO Cam Lockwood gave a verbal presentation of his report.

- YTG Property Management needs to hook up internet and wire connections for the District Heat system
- Due to COVID-19 the two trainees at the Water Plant have been reassigned to work in other areas. Stan is the only one working at the Water Plant for now
- Public Works is now sharing shifts in case of illness
- The Landfill is open and the Recycling Depot is closed. Staff are thoroughly cleaning the Depot.
- The Rec Centre has been closed for one month. Staff are cleaning and doing maintenance work. New flooring will be installed in the Curling Lounge.
- The Admin building is open and we have one or two people coming in per day
- Shannon is back to work after having to self-isolate
- Upgrades to the Admin building have slowed for the time being since most of the contractors are from Alberta and would have to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning. The roofing contractor is from Whitehorse and may be here this week.
- The Architect is working on the tender for the new Fire Hall
 - Daily conference calls regarding planning for COVID-19 and emergency preparedness are ongoing

**BUDGET VARIANCE
REPORT**

Shannon Bergeron presented the Budget Variance Report.

- The Town is on budget for the first quarter
- The Town has received the annual Municipal Grant and the Carbon Tax Rebate
- Cash flow is up from 2019
- NLC and Rec Centre revenue is lower

Council discussed the carbon tax rebate and savings from closing down facilities. Council would like to have the Budget Variance Report from 2019 and 2020 emailed to make comparisons.

**DEPARTMENTAL
REPORTS**

Council mentioned how well done and thorough the Water report was. Discussion took place regarding water meters and water leaks.

Council inquired about the much higher numbers of tonnes going into the Landfill. Administration explained that the Watson Lake Hotel property demolition would account for the higher amounts.

Council discussed:

- funding applications
- re-opening the Recreation Centre
- Spring Garbage Clean Up which could be done in May

NEW AND UNFINISHED

**DISTRICT HEAT
REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

The Watson Lake District Heat Committee has requested a budget of up to \$500.00 to cover expenses for welcoming resource people to Watson Lake.

- money to be used for meeting rooms, coffee/tea etc.
- receipts are to be submitted for reimbursement
- the maximum amount would be \$500.00
- it would be a one-time only fund

The Committee advised that if more expenses arise then they would approach Council for approval.

MOTION 020-08-68

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Town donate \$500.00 to the Watson Lake District Heat Committee for expenses.

- CARRIED -

SOLVEST NORTHERN SOLUTIONS

Council received a letter from Solvest regarding constructing a small-scale utility solar array.

- will build a 500 KW power plant
- would like to use municipal land at the old Forevergreen site
- construction must be away from the Town gravel pit at that site
- will pay a yearly lease fee
- will pay to have land cleared if necessary

Municipal Building Assets:

- can assess Town buildings for solar power use
- the Assessment must go to public tender
- can get a commercial energy rebate of up to 75%

Council were in favour of this project and requested Administration continue working with Solvest and provide more information at the next Council Meeting. Administration will look into what other communities charge to lease land.

DAYLU DENA COUNCIL
FIRE AGREEMENT

Council discussed the agreement between the Watson Lake Fire Department and Daylu Dena Council.

- will send \$1000.00 to Town for finalizing agreement legally
- Council requested more information

EMO PLAN REVIEW

Administration explained that the current EMO Plan needs updating and some of the language changed. No concerns were raised.

COVID-19
Update

The Civil Emergency Measures Committee meet every Monday at 5 PM and have had two meetings.

- The CEMC Plan needs some small changes in wording
- Community call planned for April 9 via Zoom
- Council can join call if interested
- To date there are 8 cases of COVID-19 in Yukon and 4 have recovered

CORRESPONDENCE

RCMP Report

There were no concerns or questions regarding the report.

COUNCILOR
OPEN FORUM

Council discussed numerous items.

- Financials projected for 3 months which Administration will work on
- Warranty issues at the Water Plant, Lift Station and the S.R.S.
- Steaming being done by NES this year whose rate is higher but less hours doing the work

- Administration building landscaping
Annual garbage cleanup passes
- Faulty pump at Vault A
- Visitor Information Centre – pays rent year round
- The Recreation Centre retro-fit will not be until 2023
- Several companies interested on bidding on the new Fire Hall construction
- Funding for work on the trails

GALLERY
OPEN FORUM

- Lelah Bruce and Gerry Bruce both stated that they hope the Solvest project goes ahead.
- Ruth Wilkinson spoke about the cemetery and if a path could be put in for access
- Administration requested that Public Works be informed before any snow is moved.
- Ruth also mentioned an exciting project being done by Coeur Silvertip Mine. They are arranging for seniors and elders to have meals provided and delivered. Easter baskets will also be delivered. Ruth, Jean McLean and Terry Szabo are on the Elders/Seniors Committee.

IN CAMERA

MOTION 020-08-69

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council go In Camera.

- CARRIED –

MOTION 020-08-70

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

Council revert to an Open meeting.

-CARRIED-

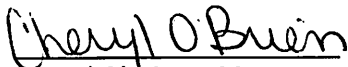
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 020-08-71

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Irvin that:

There being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at

-CARRIED –


Cheryl O'Brien – Mayor


Terri Close – Municipal Clerk