

**TOWN OF WATSON LAKE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM**

**MEETING NO. 3
February 7, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

Christopher Irvin – Mayor *
Lauren Hanchar – Councillor
Denina Paquette – Councillor *
Dale Burdes – Councillor
Thomas Slager – Councillor

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Delegation

Sgt. Cropper – RCMP
Cst. Gilroy - RCMP

Public

B. Schornick
P. McLeod *

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-03-016

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 023-03-017

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 17, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

OPEN PAYABLES

MOTION 023-03-018

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$463,732.01 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council inquired on several payable items and asked Administration to explain the reason for a higher number of ATCO and Yukon Electric invoices than usual, which Administration explained was due billing cycle dates.

DELEGATION

RCMP

The new Watson Lake Detachment Commander, Sgt. Cropper was joined by Cst. Gilroy, to speak to the January Policing Report and to meet Mayor and Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

Conservation Officer Services Trapping within Municipal Boundaries

Council was in receipt of a correspondence from Gordon Hitchcock, Director of Conservation Officer Services, in response to a letter sent from Council regarding trapping within municipal boundaries. The Department of Environment is working with the Yukon Trappers Association and municipalities to improve communication and public awareness about trapping in the territory.

Association of Yukon Communities Climate Adaptation & Infrastructure

Council was in receipt of correspondence from AYC President, Ted Laking, regarding FCM's lobbying efforts to increase Federal support and funding for climate adaptation and resilient public infrastructure. Council and Administration will contemplate potential climate adaptation and resiliency projects that do not fit within existing federal funding envelopes.

REPORTS

CAO Report

Union bargaining preparations had been the focus over the past few weeks, Administration explained. Negotiations are ongoing for the remainder of the week.

Administration provided a staffing update, sharing that the Operations Manager is back from leave and that the Utilities department currently has an operator on leave.

Administration continues to work on the 2023 Capital and O&M budgets.

Quarterly Department Reports

Council was in receipt of the 2022 Q4 Department Reports. Council had the following questions and comments as they related to information in the reports:

Councillor Slager expressed support of recognizing the efforts of Cheryl McGrath of the Yukon Animal Rescue Network (YARN) for the amazing work done in the community. Council suggested that the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner be revived and for YARN to be formally recognized at such an event. Administration to

start planning and budgeting for a Volunteer Appreciation event to be held in the spring.

Mayor Irvin suggested that bylaw direct some attention in coming months to parking, such as diverting vehicles to allowable parking areas and verifying that commercial properties are adhering to wheelchair accessibility requirements.

Council noted that unsorted waste was the highest type of waste collected in 2022 and asked if public education would help reduce this type of waste. Administration explained that the Public Waste Drop-off Area and education around recycling will hopefully help reduce the amount of unsorted waste collected at the Landfill.

Council acknowledged the success of the MSB Open House and thanked Town staff for their contributions.

NEW & UNFINISHED

**Outstanding Property
Tax Listings**

Administration provided Council with a list of properties with outstanding property taxes as a part of the regulatory taxation process. Administration explained that efforts are being made to contact listed outstanding property owners to make payment agreements.

MOTION 023-03-019

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council approve the Tax Lien Summary report and proceed with the next steps for outstanding property tax listings.

- CARRIED -

**AYC Annual
General Meeting**

Deputy Mayor Hanchar shared that a meeting was held with AYC to start planning the upcoming AYC Annual General Meeting. A tentative schedule was determined, and a sub-committee will be struck to work out the activities during the event. Administration is working with the Community Advisor to determine a special resolution to bring forward at the AGM.

**Community Lottery
Fund Applications**

Council was in receipt of written recommendations from the Recreation Advisory Committee, regarding Community Lottery Fund applications received for the January 15, 2023, funding intake. Councillor Slager explained that there will be funds left available after this intake advancement and a special intake will be advertised in February.

Councillor Slager brought forward items in the Recreation Funding policy that the Recreation Advisory Committee would like to see amended to better suit the needs of the community. Council asked that the Recreation Committee contact Yukon Lotteries to verify that the proposed amendments are allowed, then bring recommendations to Council for further consideration.

MOTION 023-03-020

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council approve the Recreation Advisory Committee's funding recommendations as presented.

- CARRIED -

**COUNCILLOR
OPEN FORUM**

Councillor Paquette asked if an agreement with Liard First Nation was made to address animal control and the transportation of surrendered animals. Administration explained that the drafted agreement was never finalized with Liard First Nation and confirmed that Bylaw does not enforce the Animal Control Bylaw in Upper Liard or 2 Mile. Administration and Bylaw will continue to work with the Yukon government Head Veterinarian and Mae Bacher Animal Shelter to remove surrendered animals out of the community and continue to explore options for a future spay/neuter clinic in the community.

Councillor Paquette formally recognized the achievements of Isabelle Paquette and Courtney Stevens, who both placed in the medal standings at the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

Schornick inquired about the municipal boundaries and asked how a map of the boundaries can be obtained.

Schornick explained that there has been abnormal flooding and standing water on their lakefront property the past few springs and asked if this issue would fall within the Climate Adaptation and Infrastructure plan brought forward in the AYC correspondence. Administration explained that the Ski Hill property has experienced the same issues, which is believed to be caused by unprecedented snow falls and high ground water levels. Administration will inquire further into the potential federal funding.

Schornick asked if the topic of composting, mentioned in a Department Report, could be discussed at a future Town Hall meeting. McLeod stated that the municipality should seek support from Yukon government, as it is a territorial priority to reduce waste received in the Landfill and encourage composting.

McLeod inquired on the number of properties on the Outstanding Property Tax Listing and if this number is higher or lower than past years.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 023-03-021

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council go in-camera to discuss a personnel related item.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 023-03-022

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council revert back to an Open Meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-03-023

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -

Lauren Hanchar – Deputy Mayor

Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk