

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

**MEETING NO. 8
MAY 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

**CHRISTOPHER IRVIN – MAYOR
DENINA PAQUETTE – COUNCILLOR
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILLOR
DALE BURDES – COUNCILLOR**

ABSENT

T. SLAGER

ADMINISTRATION

**SHANNON BERGERON – Acting Chief Administrative Officer
TIFFANY LUND – Municipal Clerk
CONNIE HEANEY – Finance Assistant**

PUBLIC

**J. Carlson
P. McLeod
C. Zozula**

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

AGENDA

MOTION 022-08-57

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes
that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 022-08-58

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Hanchar
that:

The minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 5, 2022 be adopted as
presented.

- CARRIED -

**ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE**

MOTION 022-08-59

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$196,420.78 be paid.

- CARRIED -

APPOINTMENTS

**Bylaw Services Officer and
Bylaw Services Constable**

MOTION 022-08-60

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette
that:

Connie Heaney be appointed as Peace Officer, Bylaw Services Officer, and Bylaw
Services Constable.

- CARRIED -

REPORTS

CAO Report

Administration provided an update on Collier managed projects. The Public Waste Dropoff Area Tender has been issued and will be closing and awarded in May. Construction is planned for June, with substantial completion expected by the end of August. Final completion and close of contract are expected in October 2022. The Rec Centre Energy Upgrades are ongoing. Materials have been delayed but work is expected to start sometime in May. Substantial completion is expected by the end of June with final completion by the end of July. The Rec Centre Changeroom Upgrades contract has been awarded but the work has not yet started. Final completion is expected for the end of June.

There were no bids received for the Pickup Truck tender which closed on April 27th. An Addendum was issued with a new closing date of May 12, 2022.

Administration provided Council with an update on current job postings. There were no applicants for the Fire Chief position; it has been reposted and closes on May 9th. There were no applicants for the Pool Manager position; it is reposted until filled. The Town has two seats reserved in Whitehorse for the Pool Operations Course in May but without a Pool Manager hired we may not be able to open the pool this season. There is Lifeguard Training in Whitehorse in August and Alyssa has identified multiple youth who are interested in taking the training so that the Town is in a better position to staff the pool next season. Other

various seasonal Parks and Recreation jobs are posted until filled. Interviews for those positions will start next week. The Landfill Attendant position closed, and interviews are complete. An offer will be extended this week. Brandie Keene has been hired as the Finance Assistant for a 6-month term.

Administration would like Council to consider a date for the Municipal Services Open House.

There is a Grand Opening for the Watson Lake Rapid Housing Initiative Triplex on May 6th at 10:00am. Minister Pillai, Yukon Housing Corporation, and the Department of Health and Social Services will be in attendance; Mayor and Council attendance has been requested. There is also an Open House for the upcoming Housing First Project on May 5th from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the Recreation Centre.

YG has a new pilot project called Yukon Voluntourism and have asked if the Town of Watson Lake would like to partner. For the project, YG recruits volunteers to the Yukon and then sends them to the communities to complete various projects related to tourism. YG would pay for their travel and the community would accommodate, feed and entertain them during their two day stay, with YG contributing a stipend. Administration and Management is exploring suitable projects to see if we can take advantage of this opportunity.

Parks & Recreation Administrative Report

Council discussed the recommendation made from the Parks and Recreation Department to change to summer hours at the Recreation Centre. The recommended hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm and Saturdays from 10am to 6pm. This change is requested to accommodate the staff shifting to outdoor work for the season, a lack of coverage in the Rec Centre, and reduced use by residents as they shift to outdoor recreation.

Councillor Hanchar questioned the need for staff in the building during the day if use of the facility is limited in the summer. She also asked if access to the Gym and Concession has been considered as she wants to ensure that the hours set are not restrictive to the users and the Concession Vendor hours are not negatively impacted. Councillor Paquette inquired about the hours of the Visitor Information Centre and if they can still be open when the Rec Centre is closed. Councillor Burdes asked if a fob system can be considered for after hour use of the Gym. Council is open to the hours changing but asked Administration to consider alternative hours, such as 10am-8pm, to allow evening access to the Gym, and to explore options to barricade sections of the facility so that the Vendors business can still be accessed. Mayor Irvin expressed that if the Pool does not open this season, he would like to see the budgeted funds be put toward additional summer programming for the youth.

Police Report

Councillor Hanchar asked if Council missed the opportunity to contribute to the annual policing priorities. She thought that Council would be given an opportunity to provide input and would still like to, if possible. Mayor Irvin asked that Administration reach out to Corporal Jackson and ask that he provide an update on the policing priorities at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

NEW & UNFINISHED

Draft Cemetery Bylaw

Councillor Hanchar requested that the data collected from the public input on the Draft Cemetery Bylaw be input into the Bylaw document in the respective sections, in such a way that the comments and requested changes are highlighted and are easier to follow. She suggested that Administration then review and remove anything that is not feasible or unenforceable and submit to Council.

Councillor Paquette shared that she has already complied a lot of the community feedback and can share her copy with Administration. Councillor Paquette found sections of the Bylaw that are contradictory and found that the document is too wordy and hard to understand. She also found sections that hold Council responsible for duties and believes this should be removed. Councillor Paquette acknowledged that some of the sections of the Bylaw will improve cemetery beautification and maintenance but may not take enough consideration into cultural sensitivity or the needs of grieving families.

Mayor Irvin agreed with Councillor Hanchar and Councillor Paquette's comments. He stated that Council does not want to pass a Bylaw that the community is unhappy with and wants to ensure that it addresses the needs of all community members. Once the Bylaw has been amended and is easier to follow, Council will hold a Town Hall Meeting before First Reading and Administration can make necessary amendments. He also acknowledged that it could be beneficial to hire a consultant to review the Bylaw prior to it being passed.

Heating Fuel Tender

Mayor Irvin acknowledged that there was one submission for the Heating Fuel Tender, and it was received from North 60 Petro. Councillor Burdes inquired on how many bid submissions the Town normally receives. Councillor Paquette asked if the tender has always been awarded to North 60 Petro in the past. Mayor Irvin explained that the Town typically receives multiple bids. Councillor Hanchar explained that Council has awarded it to North 60 Petro in the past as they employ locals and are property owners and taxpayers. Mayor Irvin stated that a motion will be made at the next Council Meeting.

**COUNCILLOR
OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Irvin stated the importance of Council presence at the Yukon Housing Corporation Open House events for the Rapid Housing Triplex and Housing First Project and has encouraged Council attendance.

Councillor Hanchar recommended that the Municipal Services Open House be held on the 1st or 2nd weekend of June and not the same weekend as the Graduation Ceremony. Mayor Irvin expressed disappointment that CF Yukon did not want to partner and hold their walk on the same day, starting at the new building. Councillor Hanchar explained that CF Yukon had already started their planning and because it is their 10 year anniversary and had already started planning, decided that they did not want to partner this year.

Councillor Burdes inquired about the funding application for Wye Lake Trail and Signpost Forest improvements. Administration explained that the Town has not yet heard back on funding application.

Councillor Hanchar would like to know if after hour rentals will still be allowed at the Recreation Centre if the hours are reduced as requested. Mayor Irvin stated he wants to see the Rec Centre accommodate rental needs.

Councillor Paquette inquired on how Administration becomes aware of the different funding pots available. Administration explained that a lot of the funding the Town receives is through YG and is dependent on the different departments, and that the CAO also finds funding opportunities that he shares with the Department Managers. Mayor Irvin explained that the Community Services Branch works with Administration to identify needs and will make funding recommendations based on the project.

Councillor Paquette acknowledged that the funding application submitted for the repairs at the Northern Lights Centre was declined and asked about next steps. Mayor Irvin stated that there has been a portion of funding allocated for the Northern Lights Centre, to assess the need for the system replacement but explains that there seemed to be a misunderstanding by YG of the project and hopes to discuss the topic further when Council meets with Minister Pillai. The Northern Lights Centre is one of Watson Lake's prime visitor attractions and Mayor Irvin wants to see YG support the needed repairs.

Councillor Paquette addressed town beautification, expressed concern with derelict properties, and asked if the Town is addressing such properties. Mayor Irvin explained that the Zoning Bylaw is intended to address such issues but that some properties are grandfathered.

**GALLERY
OPEN FORUM**

No comments or questions from the Gallery.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 022-08-61

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes
that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 pm.

- CARRIED -



Christopher Irvin – Mayor

Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk