

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM

MEETING NO.7  
April 5, 2022

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

CHRIS IRVIN – MAYOR  
THOMAS SLAGER - COUNCILOR  
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR  
DALE BURDES - COUNCILOR

D.Paquette

PUBLIC

R.Wilkinson M.Prowse  
J.Carlson L.Funnell  
P.McLeod C.Zozula  
C.Craft M.Paulino  
L.Bakelaar

ADMINISTRATION

CAMERON LOCKWOOD – Chief Administrative Officer  
TERRI CLOSE –Municipal Clerk

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

**AGENDA**

MOTION 022-07-47

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to include correspondence from Deputy Chief  
Harlan Schilling.

- CARRIED –

**MINUTES**

MOTION 022-07-48

Moved by Councilor Burdes, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

The minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 22<sup>nd</sup> be amended to correct the  
comments from Councilor Hanchar regarding the Vaccine Mandate proclamation.

- CARRIED -

**ACCOUNTS  
PAYABLE**

MOTION 022-07-49

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Burdes  
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$228,013.40 be paid.

-CARRIED –

Councilor Slager questioned whether the Liard Golf Association had submitted receipts  
for their items that were approved from Yukon Lotteries funding. Administration  
advised that the organization was unable to cover the cost for their purchase, therefore  
the Town covered the cost utilizing the funding that they had received from Yukon  
Lotteries.

**DELEGATION**

Marta Paulino  
Lawrence Bakelaar

Ms. Marta Paulino, Project Manager YG Infrastructure Branch, and Lawrence Bakelaar of  
WSP Consulting provided Council with a brief overview of the Infrastructure Project  
Scope of Work which will be done in phases over the next several years. The project  
includes Water, Sewer, and Road Upgrades, and involves rehabilitating sewer lines,  
drinking water pipes and road surfaces in Watson Lake, Yukon. The project scope includes  
replacing 1,262 m of sewer line, 1,563 m of transmission pipes and 16.300 m of roads.

Council discussed the various phases of the project and had questions on timelines and budgets going forward. Councilor Hanchar enquired whether the project is protected with the cost of inflation? Marta agreed to review as there is no guarantee at this stage whether more funding will be approved.

Mayor Irvin thanked both Marta and Lawrence for their presentation. This is a big undertaking which will strengthen the Town's infrastructure for many years, and the Town of Watson Lake is excited that this important project will soon be underway, and look forward to working with the Yukon Government to ensure the success of the project.

Councilor Slager asked whether residents would have the opportunity to be added to the project on an individual basis. Administration believes this could put added strain on the project but agreed that it would be potential for local contractors to provide this service while the infrastructure upgrades are being done.

## **REPORTS**

### **CAO Report**

Administration provided an update on the Municipal Services building. Things are moving ahead on relocating the Fire Department into the facility, although operational, it is still not completely set up. A contractor has been hired to set up the shelving units.

The new mini excavator has arrived. The other items are still on order from last year, awaiting updates for our fleet vehicles.

Administration publicly acknowledged the hard work that Tyson Cole provided over the course of the winter getting the Fire Department back on track, helping with the move and ensuring all the equipment is certified & up to standard. Advertising for the Director of Protective Services position closes on Friday.

The job posting for the Finance Assistant position has closed and interviews are being held for that position.

The Public Works Department have done remarkable work removing snow from the streets. Local contractors have been hired to assist with hauling excess snow, and Administration wants to thank the contractors for providing the equipment to assist with this endeavour. The snow removal has been a major cost to the municipality.

The AYC AGM is being held in Whitehorse May 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. A request was made by YG that if Council wants to meet with any Ministers or Departments, it could be arranged during the AGM.

The tender for the Public Waste drop-off project has been advertised. Administration is working on the final review stages of the Solid Waste application.

A date for the Open house for the Municipal Services Building was addressed. The move for public works will start shortly. Arrangements are being made for the frozen sewer lines to be steamed.

The zoning bylaw has been sent out to an independent consultant for review and will be forwarded to Council once the review is complete.

April 12<sup>th</sup> is the next strategic planning session.

Councilor Hanchar requested an update on the situation with the leaking issues at the Recreation Centre roof. Administration advised that Iyon Kechika was hired to remove the snow from the roof. Funding has been found and Superior roofing has been contacted to provide a scoping plan.

Councilor Hanchar also questioned whether the leak detection equipment had been ordered and was informed that the equipment will be ordered within the next week as it cannot be used until the snow is gone.

DEPARTMENTAL  
REPORTS

Council was in receipt of the quarterly departmental reports and commented on the thoroughness of the Fire Department report and thanked Tyson Cole for stepping in to cover this position in the interim.

There were questions on the budget reports. Administration provided an update that the total revenue for the Town is currently \$6,721,818.06.

Councilor Hanchar questioned the deficit in the Public Works department. Administration advised the deficit was a result of the cost of snow removal, but it will be covered internally.

Administration advised that the departmental reports will be available on the Town website.

MOTION 022-07-50

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Burdes that:

Council accept the Departmental quarterly reports as presented.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED

DRAFT CEMETERY  
BYLAW

Council discussed the draft Cemetery Bylaw and comments that were submitted by the public.

Mayor Irvin addressed the sensitivity of the bylaw with the implemented changes and thanked the individuals for submitting their comments and agreed more discussion is needed. Councilor Burdes discussed feedback that was provided by the community and highlighted several articles in the bylaw expressing concern with various sections. He suggested that certain sections of the bylaw be combined as there is a lot of duplication, this would allow the bylaw to be easier to read. Mayor Irvin thanked Councilor Burdes for his comments. Councilor Slager addressed the reserving of burial plots in advance, as some families have paid a deposit to reserve plots. Administration advised there are several plots that have been reserved but not paid for, leaving few available plots in the cemetery. This needs to be addressed going forward.

Councilor Hanchar addressed the planting of flowers being allowed and the town making certain allowances. Mayor Irvin stated the Bylaw needs to provide clear direction to Administration prior to moving forward. Council suggested a fee schedule be drafted to ensure it covers the cost of perpetual care related to the new design and that the public can review prior to completion.

MOTION 022-07-51

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

The Cemetery Bylaw discussion be tabled to the Committee of the Whole Meeting in May.

-CARRIED-

Council was presented with an Administration report and recommendations regarding residential sewer steaming on Tintina Way, and the implications of reimbursing homeowners for any steaming costs that they have had to incur as a result. Mayor Irvin read the report to the public. The report provided information from the Town Utilities operators and Engineers who were unable to determine the cause, whether it is the sewer main freezing or if it is the residential services freezing causing the sewer main to freeze. Mayor Irvin addressed the Town Water & Sewer Bylaw that is in place to mitigate the situation and to ensure a process is in place regarding any Town infrastructure failure.

Councilor Slager addressed the freezing that has occurred in the main and is in favor of reimbursing those affected and introduced a motion to authorize the re-payment of steaming costs. Councilor Hanchar is empathetic to the situation, however the report concludes the freezing is not at the fault of the municipality. Administration provided Council with information that one property owner has been compensated by the Towns' insurance, where others were a direct result of freezing in a private service.

Councilor Slager addressed previous monies that have been reimbursed and exceptions that have been made. Mayor Irvin stated that Town policy and By-laws are strong and need to be followed.

MOTION 022-07-52

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Burdes  
that:

Council accept the recommendation not to authorize the re-payment of steaming services.

-CARRIED-

Opposed: Councilor Slager

PROCLAMATION  
COVID MANDATES

Mayor Irvin publicly would like to thank the citizens for their ongoing efforts to follow the public health measures throughout the COVID pandemic and read the following statement.

YG ended the state of emergency on March 18, 2022. While certain high-risk settings still require mask use and/or proof of vaccination, mandates are becoming less in that respect as the territory and town are returning to more normal conditions with the lifting of these mandates.

Mayor & Council will continue to support and follow the COVID-19 public health measures from Yukon Government, however it is up to the individual on how to best protect themselves and those around them. Mayor & Council will work with all Watson Lake citizens to foster goodwill towards all regardless of opinions or beliefs that may exist within the community. It is important to respect each others' choices during this time, and the Town will continue to ensure we are best protecting ourselves and those around us as we move through this stage of the pandemic together.

TRAIL  
PROPOSAL

Council was provided with an administrative report on an application to the Active Transportation Fund to upgrade the Wye Lake trail and Signpost Forest. If the application is approved, the funding will assist in hiring a consultant to prepare a design concept for both the Wye Lake Trail project which includes tying into the existing Town landscaping project to install a paved trailhead at the Town Office and the possibility of extending the paved trailhead throughout Wye Lake Trail, as well as a plan to upgrade and beautify the Signpost Forest.

Councilor Hanchar expressed concern about the idea of paving Wye Lake Trail and suggested the planning process include community engagement and consultation to ensure it is a worthwhile project. Council agreed more discussion is needed.

MOTION 022-07-53

Moved by Councilor Burdes, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council accept the recommendations that pending approval of the funding application, the Town hire Lee & Associates to prepare a design concept for both Wye Lake Trail and Signpost Forest as presented.

-CARRIED-

SHANNON/STEVE  
BERGERON

Council was in receipt of a letter from Shannon/Steve Bergeron requesting approval for a subdivision and Conditional use for Lot 13, Plan 21366 to develop a multiple housing complex. The property is currently zoned Commercial Local and would require Council approve to allow the development.

Administration advised that the Watson Lake Zoning Bylaw allows for a Conditional Use of any lot if such use has been approved by Council.

MOTION 022-07-54

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council accepts the subdivision and conditional use for Lot 13, Plan 21366 as presented.

-CARRIED-

Councilor Hanchar addressed the housing shortage in the community and is excited about the proposal for the development of the multiple housing units.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Irvin informed Council that he has received a formal request for a meeting with Deputy Chief Harlan Schilling.

**COUNCILOR  
OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Hanchar addressed lot /land development and expressed concern that there has been little or no action on this file and the town is now in the position that people are having to leave the community due to lack of housing. Councilor Hanchar is requesting an urgent meeting with YG to address this matter.

MOTION 022-07-55

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

A formal request be sent to meet with Premier Silver and Minister Mostyn at the AYC AGM in May to discuss the issue of land development.

-CARRIED -

Councilor Slager agreed that there is a housing shortage in the community. He then addressed the Town house which has been vacant for several years, and the financial implications increase the longer the house sits vacant with no income being generated. Councilor Slager then introduced a motion that the house be sold to decrease the housing shortage.

Councilor Burdes expressed concern that specific job postings have been advertised that the Town would provide housing as there is no housing available.

Councilor Hanchar needs more information on this subject before engaging further in this conversation.

Mayor Irvin agreed that the Town should consider selling the house as it is costing the Town to maintain it, and suggested Administration provide a report and recommendations to Council with the pros & cons for the June 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Councilor Hanchar enquired about the Yukon Housing property on Lakeview Avenue and requested an update on the status of any development planned to take place.

Councilor Hanchar addressed the annual spring cleanup and asked whether that Town will be offering residents a permit to allow one free disposal at the landfill. Council agreed to allow one permit to residents during the month of June. Councilor Slager suggested that the WL Grads collect large unwanted items as a fundraiser.

Councilor Hanchar reminded Council that Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> is green shirt day in recognition of World Kidney Day.

**GALLERY**  
**OPEN FORUM**

Ms. Colleen Craft suggested the Town Newsletter be reintroduced as there is a disconnect in the community with communication and several people do not have access to social media. She also commented that all town bylaws should be enforced, not just a certain few. She also supports trail maintenance in the community.

Ruth Wilkinson enquired whether there had been a date scheduled for a town hall meeting. Ruth informed Council that the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a fundraising event for the Ukraine aid. Ruth also addressed the cemetery bylaw and that consideration should be made for traditional funerals and cultural practices. Mayor Irvin agreed and Council will consider this during the review of the Bylaw.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 022-07-56**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Burdes that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 pm.

-CARRIED -

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Chris Irvin – Mayor

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Terri Close – Municipal Clerk

