

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

MEETING NO. 01
January 14, 2025

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

Lauren Hanchar – Mayor
Thomas Slager - Councillor
Denina Paquette – Councillor
Norma Puckett – Councillor
William Whimp – Councillor

Delegation

Sgt. Jordan Cropper – RCMP
Cst. Hunter Leclaire - RCMP
Jordan Stackhouse – Elevator Yukon

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Kaitlyn McCulloch – Accounts Payable

Public

S. Seitz*	P. Agana	Z. Zubrecki*
A. Miller*	C. Irvin*	D. Burdes*
S. Hougan*	P. McLeod*	C. Craft*
K. Durocher*		

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

AGENDA

MOTION 025-01-001

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Agenda be adopted with the amendment that the payables amount change to \$314321.52.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 025-01-002

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Council meeting of December 17, 2024, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 025-01-003

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$314321.52 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on cancelled cheques listed on cheque register and on several of the payments listed.

DELEGATION
Sgt. Cropper - RCMP

Sgt. Cropper attended the meeting to provide an update to Council. There will be a new member starting in February 2025, which will bring them up to a full complement. The 2024 fiscal policing priorities will soon be coming to an end; therefore Sgt. Cropper is looking for proposals on what Council would like to see as the 2025 priorities. Policing reports are also being updated to provide a better format to Council. Councillor Puckett inquired about crime reporting and highway check stops. Councillor Whimp asked that there be an increase in RCMP presence at night, to help prevent ongoing crime in the community. Sgt Cropper proposed that the monthly policing reports include the patrolling times.

Council acknowledged the community presence that the local RCMP members have had and expressed appreciation for their involvement.

REPORTS
CAO Report

CAO Lockwood provided the following updates to Council:

- Budget preparation is in process for the Capital Budget and Operation & Maintenance budget.
- Administration has contracted a company to work on the Town of Watson Lake's Emergency Preparedness plan. This will include planning with Daylu Dena Council and Liard First Nation. Training will also be provided to everyone with a role in the Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- The Recreation Programmer position has been filled internally by Austria Lopez. Therefore, a Recreation Caretaker position will be opening shortly.
- The Rec Centre has been busy with events. There is a new non-profit organization that has started a curling league and drop in curling nights.
- Wednesday January 22nd, there is a Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan meeting.
- Thursday January 23rd, there is a Town Hall Meeting.

Admin Report
RFP 2024-03 Playground Equipment Upgrades

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report with a contract award recommendation for the Town's Playground Equipment upgrades at three park locations. A committee comprised of five people from Admin and Parks and Recreation departments individually scored the bid proposals. Six bids were received and Administration recommended that the contract be awarded to the company that scored the highest on

the score card. The contract is to be awarded at the Regular Council meeting on January 21st, 2025.

**Admin Report
Transfer to Reserve Accounts**

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report from the Finance Officer regarding the transferring of funds from the Town's general bank account to the Environmental Services Reserve Fund, and the Operational Contingency Reserve Fund in the amount of \$500,00.00. The decision to transfer funds will be brought forward at the next Regular Council meeting on January 21st, 2025.

BYLAWS

**2025 Capital Budget
Bylaw 2025-01**

Capital Budget Bylaw 2025-01 was before Council for First Reading. The purpose of this bylaw being to adopt a capital budget for the 2025 fiscal year.

MOTION 025-01-004

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Bylaw 2025-01, being the Capital Budget Bylaw, be introduced for First Reading.

- CARRIED -

**2025 O&M Budget
Bylaw 2025-02**

O&M Budget Bylaw 2025-02 was before Council for First Reading. The purpose of this bylaw being to adopt an operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year.

MOTION 025-01-005

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Bylaw 2025-02, being the O&M Budget Bylaw, be introduced for First Reading.

- CARRIED -

**NEW & UNFINISHED
Property Tax Accounts in Arrears**

Council was in receipt of a report listing property tax accounts in arrears, for acknowledgement prior to the list being published. Administration explained that payment received prior to the publishing deadline will be reflected in the list.

MOTION 025-01-006

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council accept the TL1 Tax Lein Summary.

- CARRIED –

DELEGATION

Jordan Stackhouse – Elevator Yukon

Jordan Stackhouse from Elevator Yukon attended the meeting via Zoom to discuss setting up a Strategic Planning meeting with Council. Strategic Planning takes a look at multiple different factors and helps create priorities for Council to accomplish. Council thanked and acknowledged Stackhouse for the proposal and will discuss the need for Strategic Planning.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Whimp:

- Requested clarification on the hiring processes with the Town of Watson Lake. Administration explained that the hiring procedures are laid out in the Collective Agreement, as well as the bylaws regarding hiring are located on the Town of Watson Lake website.

Mayor Hanchar:

- Would like to remind everyone about the meetings taking place during the week of January 20th, 2025, including the Wildland Fire Community Meeting on Wednesday January, 22nd as well as The Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, January 23rd to discuss the budget bylaws, the Animal Control bylaw and the Housing Accelerator Fund.
- Reminded Council that AYC will be looking for the yearly resolution from the community soon.
- Shared with Council a letter from the Yukon NDP Party leader Kate White, in response to a letter sent to Mr. McPhee regarding the lack of long-term continuing care in Watson Lake. In the letter White expressed the acknowledgement that long-term continuing care is needed in Watson Lake.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

P. Agana:

- Asked who is allowed to give input on the AYC Community Resolution. Mayor Hanchar explained that the municipality puts the resolution forward for AYC, which then gets voted on by the AYC membership. If passed, the resolution

then gets sent to the Yukon Government for action. Anyone who has a concern is welcome to voice it to Council and is encouraged to do so.

Councillor Whimp:

- Inquired on the contracts that are taking place this summer. Expressed the concern that there is a lack of local contractors at work in the community and the importance of creating more local jobs.

A. Miller

- Attended the Community Safety Planning session put on by Dene K'EH Justice and noticed that there was not a representative from the Municipality or the RCMP. Administration stated that the Municipal Clerk has attended these sessions in the past, however due to the short notice of this meeting the Town was not able to have someone present. Councillor Whimp stated that they would attend the next day.
- Asked where tenders get posted online by the Town, and where public surveys are posted. Administration explained that tenders are posted on the Town's website. Surveys are also posted on our website, as well as the Town's Facebook page.

Z. Zubrecki

- Wanted to provide Council with background on Blue Imp Playgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 025-01-006

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Being there no further business to discuss that the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



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