

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE
REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM

MEETING NO. 16
August 22, 2023

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

Christopher Irvin – Mayor
Lauren Hanchar – Councillor
Dale Burdes – Councillor
Thomas Slager – Councillor

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Kaitlyn McCulloch – Accounts Payable

Delegation

Jordan Stackhouse – Elevator Yukon *
Sgt. Cropper - RCMP

Public

J. Carlson C. Craft *
R. Allain P. McLeod
W. Whimp Sgt. Homberg
R. Allain * G. Sundby

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-16-128

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 023-16-129

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The draft minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 4th, 2023, be adopted as amended to correct Motion 023-15-125 being moved by Councillor Slager.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 023-16-130

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$1026683.97 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED –

Council inquired on several items. Mayor Irvin clarified several higher cost items.

DELEGATION

**Elevator Yukon
Housing Accelerator Fund**

Jordan Stackhouse reviewed with Council the Housing Accelerator Fund Application. Due to the wildfires in the Northwest Territories the deadline for the application has now been extended to September 29th, 2023. Stackhouse reviewed the initiatives with Council. Stackhouse worked with Administration to adhere to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's feedback on the application and make changes where applicable.

Councillor Paquette inquired if unspent funds would need to be returned. Stackhouse stated that most of the funding will be spent upfront, and therefore it should not have to be returned. Councillor Slager requested further information on the barriers that CMHC are presenting. Stackhouse explained that it was a very quick process, and that CMHC was not on board for multiple ideas. Councillor Hanchar asked if there is a possibility of CMHC not approving all the funding being applied for. Stackhouse confirmed that this could be a possibility, depending on how many initiatives are approved.

MOTION 023-16-131

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Housing Accelerator Fund application be approved for submission.

- CARRIED -

RCMP

Sgt. Cropper presented Council with various updates, including:

- The current situation regarding drug related crimes and how the RCMP are working with Yukon Housing and SCAN to help reduce this issue.
- A new member will be moving to Watson Lake shortly.

Councillor Slager inquired about alternative justice and how to refer individuals. Sgt. Cropper confirmed that there is currently a pilot project with the Health and Justice Centre as long as offences take place within Watson Lake.

Councillor Hanchar brought forward the concerns of multiple citizens regarding the increase in drug related crimes. Councillor Hanchar attended a public meeting held by these citizens and reports that the public feels as though more could be done about the on-going situation. Councillor Hanchar proposed that a public meeting take place to declare a Health and Safety Emergency in Watson Lake.

REPORTS
CAO Report

Administration provided various department updates, including:

- The Fire Chief resigned. Administration is currently in the staffing process to fill this position and has received multiple applications.
- The Northern Lights Centre will be reducing hours as of September 4th and will remain open until the end of September. The swimming pool will also have a reduced schedule for September and will close at the end of the month.
- Due to recent vacancies at the Rec Centre, there will be a Caretaker position as well as a Front Desk position opening soon.
- The Fire Chief Conference is being held in Watson Lake from August 24th to August 26th.
- The CAAT Pension Program has been meeting with Town of Watson Lake staff and will be available to staff as of August 24th.
- Managers will start working on 2024 budgets shortly.
- Upgrades to the Rec Centre are complete and look great. Upgrades to the Ski Chalet are expected to commence in the following weeks. There is funding available that Administration is applying for to have the air handlers in multiple buildings replaced.
- Inground infrastructure is set to commence in September for Tintina Way. Contracts for inground infrastructure have been issued for the Frances Avenue expansion. The lift station contract for Frances Avenue came in overbudget so it will be reviewed by the Management Board for approval.
- Discovery Day celebrations were a success.

**Quarterly Department
Reports**

Council was in receipt of the Q2 Department Reports from the various Town departments. Questions and comments that arose from the reports included:

- The Fire Chief report stated that the Town was not in compliance to certain regulations with equipment. These concerns have since been rectified and all equipment is now up to standard. Councillor Paquette inquired on what PTSD procedures the Town follows to which Administration clarified protocols. Councillor Hanchar stated that the Fire department has been called on as many EMS lift assists

as fire calls and is wondering if the Town has received payment. Administration is going to check with the Finance department regarding payments.

- Bylaw has issued clean up orders on multiple properties which will be shown in the next quarterly report.
- Councillor Slager asked Administration if Public Works would be doing any more digs for infrastructure issues. Administration responded that they are currently weighing the options. Councillor Hanchar inquired on multiple budgetary items, to which Administration clarified.
- The mail out regarding hazardous waste was a success. The Landfill is now working with Scrappy Larry to have the scrap metal removed and has so far been successful.
- Councillor Hanchar requested clarification on budgeting for Utilities for a third hand. Administration explained that funding has always been budgeted for, for that position.

MOTION 023-16-132

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council accept the departmental reports.

- CARRIED -

Admin Report Pick-up Truck Tender Award

Council was in receipt of an Administration Report regarding tender to seek approval of a proposal for one fleet pick-up truck. The proposal received from Whitehorse Motors came in at \$68500.63 + GST. This pick-up truck will be the fifth and final fleet vehicle replacement identified in the three-year replacement plan as proposed by Administration. Councillor Burdes inquired as to what department this fleet vehicle is for. Administration explained that the fleet vehicle will be used by Operations.

MOTION 023-16-133

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The proposal submitted by Whitehorse Motors by approved.

- CARRIED -

CORRESPONDENCE

Erin Labonte – Ball Diamond

Council was in receipt of multiple letters from Erin Labonte regarding the Baseball Diamond located at the Recreation Centre. Ms. Labonte has multiple concerns regarding the safety and maintenance of the baseball field and is requesting that Council includes updates to the baseball diamond in the upcoming budget.

Councillor Slager stated that there is currently \$5000.00 budgeted to the baseball diamond. Council requested that Administration look into solutions to address the concerns of the baseball diamond and to send a written response to Ms. Labonte

Erin Labonte – Frances Avenue Lots

Council was in receipt of a letter from Erin Labonte regarding the clear cutting and levelling of the lots on Frances Avenue. Ms. Labonte requested that Council consider putting forward a bylaw that prohibits clear cutting in the future.

Councillor Slager stated that clear cutting was the most cost-effective solution of preparing the lots. Administration also stated that without clear cutting and levelling there would only be 6 lots available due to severe ravines. Council agreed that they would not respond to the correspondence.

BYLAWS Bylaw 2023-07

Council was in receipt of an Administrative report with a recommendation that Council amend the official Community Plan from an un-serviced residential to an industrial lot. This amendment would be in line with Council's Strategic Priority of supporting economic development in the community as it would allow the property owner to pursue future industrial endeavours on the property. ALX Explorations was advised by Bylaw that they would need to apply to have the property be rezoned from Rural Residential to Industrial M2.

Administration stated that ALX is looking to expand and bring economic diversity to the community. Councillor Hanchar inquired on what ALX would be doing on the property. Administration stated that Industrial M2 allows Heavy Industrial operations.

MOTION 023-16-134

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council approve Bylaw 2023-07 being a bylaw to amend Official Community Plan Bylaw 21-10.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED
Public Waste Drop-Off

Council was in receipt of an Administrative report requesting direction on the appended development proposals for the development and construction of the Solid Waste Drop-Off's Facility capital project budgeted for 2023. The three recommendations include;

1. Direct Administration to enter contract negotiations with West Peak Developments for the construction of a Solid Waste Drop- Off Facility.
2. Direct Administration to make an application to the Gas Tax Fund for approximately \$330,000.00, and once approved bring item back to Council for budget amendment and final approval.
3. Not to proceed with the project.

Administration has received two quotes from West Peak Developments to complete the construction. Quote #1 being \$785,594.71 +GST with a concrete slab included. Quote #2 \$749,244.00 + GST without a concrete slab. Administration feels that this is a fair price given the state of the current environment of inflationary pressures and previous unsuccessful procurements.

Councillor Hanchar inquired on the timeline for the project and if operations of the Landfill would be affected. Administration stated that the Landfill operations would not be affected. Councillor Hanchar questioned where the funds for this project were being allocated from, to which Administration confirmed that the funds are being allocated from Gas Tax. Councillor Burdes requested clarification on the benefits of having a concrete slab included in the contract, to which Administration stated that without a concrete slab, cleanup and maintenance would be difficult.

MOTION 023-16-135

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council approve Recommendation 1 & 2, with Quote 1 of \$785,594.71 + GST from West Peak Development for the construction of the Solid Waste Drop-Off Facility.

- CARRIED -

Community Lottery Fund
Committee Funding Recommendations

Council was in receipt of written recommendations from the Recreation Advisory Committee, regarding Community Lottery Fund applications received for the August 17,

2023, special funding intake. Councillor Slager explained that there were 6 applications, however one was withdrawn.

Councillor Slager stated that applications exceeding \$4000.00 would only receive a maximum of \$4000.00 for this intake as it is the beginning of the fiscal year, and that if there are funds available at the end of the fiscal year, applications over \$4000.00 may then be considered.

Councillor Slager stated that The Recreation Advisory Committee is currently short two members, and that Karalee Smith has stated interest in returning to the committee.

MOTION 023-16-136

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

Council accept Karalee Smith to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

MOTION 023-16-137

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

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

COUNCILLOR OPERN FORUM

Councillor Slager:

- Inquired on the number of plates and utensils at the Recreation Centre.
- Suggested that in place of flags or flowers on flagpoles down the Highway, there be signposts.
- Commended the different departments and the Administration of the Town of Watson Lake.

Councillor Paquette:

- Thanked the Town of Watson Lake employees for their hard work this summer.

Councillor Hanchar:

- Confirmed that Council was in favour of declaring a Health and Safety Emergency in Watson Lake and that a public meeting will be held to discuss the issue further.
- Stated that the flags on the flagpoles are in disrepair and need to be replaced.
- Requested clarification on a Payables item.

- Requested that Council be given a report showing previous budget approvals.
- Inquired if The Minister would be touring Watson Lake in the fall.

CAO Cam Lockwood:

- Stated that The Department of Highways engineering for the Street Light project met with Administration to look at and discuss the safety of the intersections within Watson Lake.

Mayor Christopher Irvin:

- Attended the Discovery Day Celebration and was pleased with the outcome of the event.
- Stated that the roads are in poor condition and would like to look for a solution.
- Stated that the play horse at Hyland Park is locked in place and is becoming an eye sore. Suggested that perhaps it be auctioned.

MOTION 023-16-138

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Christopher Irvin – Mayor

Kaitlyn McCulloch – Accounts Payable

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