

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO.4
February 15, 2022

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

LAUREN HANCHAR – ACTING MAYOR
DENINA PAQUETTE- COUNCILOR
DALE BURDES – COUNCILOR
THOMAS SLAGER - COUNCILOR (zoom)

C.Irvin
PUBLIC
C.Craft
M.Prowse

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

AGENDA

MOTION 022-04-22

Moved by Councilor Paquette, seconded by Councilor Burdes
that:

The agenda be adopted as presented.

-CARRIED –

MINUTES

MOTION 022-04-23

Moved by Councilor Burdes, seconded by Councilor Paquette
that:

The minutes be amended to correct a statement made by Councilor Paquette
removing the name of a particular group that was recorded in error.

-CARRIED –

**ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE**

MOTION 022-04-24

Moved by Councilor Burdes, seconded by Councilor Paquette
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$523,043.99 be paid.

-CARRIED –

Council had questions on several large expenditures that had been made.
Administration provided an explanation on the questions asked by members of
Council.

BY-LAWS

MOTION 022-04-25

Moved by Councilor Paquette, seconded by Councilor Burdes
that:

By-law 22-01, being the 2022 O/M Budget be introduced for Second Reading.

-CARRIED-

Administration advised that the bylaws will be introduced at the March 1st meeting
before receiving Third & Final Reading March 15th.

Councilor Burdes enquired about the Signpost Forest and requested an update on the status of the property. Administration provided information that the Town of Watson Lake owns the property and that funding avenues are being explored to upgrade the area and provide adequate signage.

MOTION 022-04-26

Moved by Councilor Burdes, seconded by Councilor Paquette
that:

By-law 22-02, being the 2022 Capital Budget be introduced for Second Reading.

-CARRIED-

Acting Mayor Hanchar read out loud bylaw 22-03, the 2022 tax rate bylaw with the proposed increases to the minimum tax rates on vacant land.

MOTION 022-04-27

Moved by Councilor Paquette, seconded by Councilor Burdes
that:

By-law 22-03, being a bylaw to set the property tax rate for 2022 be introduced for First & Second Reading.

-CARRIED-

Abstained: Councilor Slager

Councilor Slager abstained due to concerns over the increase in the minimum tax for vacant properties. He suggested a gradual increase to the rate as opposed to the increase that is being proposed.

REPORTS

CAO REPORT

Administration informed Council that the COVID pandemic has affected members of staff resulting in a shortage in various departments.

Administration provided an update on the Municipal Services building. Regular inspections are being done on the mechanical system. Progress is being made moving forward on correcting the problems with the mechanical system. Once the deficiencies are corrected, the Town will be able to take possession of the building.

TENDERS

Council was in receipt of information regarding the purchase of a compact tractor for the Town of Watson Lake. Gas Tax Funding in the amount of \$55,000 was applied for and approved for the purchase. One proposal was submitted to supply the compact tractor from Yukon Kubota.

MOTION 022-04-28

Moved by Councilor Paquette, seconded by Councilor Burdes
that:

Council approves the recommendation to accept the proposal from Yukon Kubota in the amount of \$54,691.82.

-CARRIED-

NEW & UNFINISHED

Council was in receipt of the minutes from the Recreation Advisory Committee funding session that was held in January, 2022.

MOTION 022-04-29

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Irvin
that:

Council approves the recommendations from the Recreation Advisory Committee
to provide funding to:

WL Ski Club, Watson Lake Minor Hockey, Watson Lake Ninja and Watson Lake
Riding Association.

-CARRIED-

**COUNCILOR
OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Paquette enquired about the Visitor Information Property and Signpost
Forest. Administration provided an update on the property owned by the Town
and is reviewing all information prior to providing a report to Council for future
funding opportunities.

Acting Mayor Hanchar publicly acknowledged the work done by the Town Public
Works Department and appreciate the outstanding job that was done removing
snow during the heavy snowfall that occurred over the weekend.

Councilor Slager enquired whether the Town had received a response from YG
regarding COVID funding support. Administration informed Council that a joint
funding proposal is going forward on behalf of all Yukon Communities. There is
lost revenue amongst all communities as a result of the COVID pandemic and it is
having a huge impact. It was suggested that communities look at common areas
and prepare a joint plan to present to Yukon Government.

Councilor Paquette questioned land development and if there had been any
development in this area. Administration advised that meetings are still on-going
and the Town is hoping that YG Lands Branch will make a presentation to
Council at the March 1st meeting. Otherwise as this item is high priority, an
exception will be made to have them attend as a delegation on the March 15th
agenda.

Administration had a request from Mayor Irvin to move the March 15th Council
meeting to March 22nd due to the lack of a quorum.

MOTION 022-04-30

Moved by Councilor Paquette, seconded by Councilor Burdes
that:

The Council meeting of March 15th be moved to March 22nd.

-CARRIED-

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 022-04-31

Moved by Councilor Paquette, seconded by Councilor Burdes
that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -

Chris Irvin – Mayor

Terri Close – Municipal Clerk

