

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

**MEETING NO. 6
March 7, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

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

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk
Kaitlyn McCulloch – Accounts Payable

Delegation

Minister Mostyn*
Matt King – Community Services*
Damien Burns – Community Services
Kevin Fisher – Community Services
Nancy Meagher – Community Services
Sgt. Cropper - RCMP

Public

P. McLeod *
Janice Carlson*

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-06-038

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 023-06-039

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

OPEN PAYABLES

MOTION 023-06-040

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$729,580.63 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council inquired on several of the higher cost items.

DELEGATION

Community Services

Minister Mostyn and fellow Community Services representatives were in attendance to provide an update on the development of Frances Avenue. Mostyn acknowledged the need for development in the community. A benefit agreement has been signed with Liard First Nation which marks a new way of working together. Mostyn confirmed the development of 43 lots; 24 of which will be available to the public, 18 transferred to Liard First Nation, and 1 to the Town of Watson Lake. Burns noted that the project will be moving forward with urgency with tenders for new lift station, land clearing, inground infrastructure etc. being advertised this spring. Community Services is currently managing next steps with YESAB. Fisher anticipates a fall completion date for lot development. Special measures will be taken during construction as Frances Avenue falls within the Aquafer Protection area. Mostyn excited to be a part of Watson Lake's development and hopes this can be emulated in other rural communities. Mayor Irvin and Councillors thanked Mostyn and Community Services representatives for their time, and look forward to the project moving forward.

RCMP

Sgt. Cropper spoke to the policing report provided for February. With year- end approaching RCMP are wondering if Council has anything they would like prioritized. Council would like to see more presence downtown, and for crime reduction efforts in drug enforcement to continue. Council would also like to see involvement at schools regarding career path presentations. Speeding in school zones as well as on the highway through town are also issues that Council would like to see prioritized.

REPORTS

CAO Report

Administration was in receipt of a letter from Johnson Elementary School asking for an agreement regarding school use for Rec Centre and other facility usage. Administration and Council in agreement that Johnson Elementary and Watson Lake Secondary should be able to utilize our facilities. Mayor Irvin and Administration will work to communicate with the Department of Education to arrange an agreement.

Administration announced tenders will be going out in 3 weeks for inground infrastructure. YG looking to enhance funding as the estimated costs for construction have increased to \$21.8 million. Councillor Hanchar suggested that Administration reach out to MP Hanley to confirm if additional federal funding will be provided to support this project.

Administration shared that the streets have been stripped in preparation for spring. Tintina Way was also steamed earlier in the day as a preventative measure.

Administration announced that the Northern Lights Centre projection project is moving ahead. The seats are currently being removed so that new carpet can be installed, and the projector has shipped.

BYLAWS

Bylaw 2023-01 O&M Budget

Bylaw will be amended to show CMG usage for operations to make sure it is in accordance with the Municipal Finance and Community Grants Act. Bylaw will be discussed further during the March 15th Town Hall Meeting.

Bylaw 2023-02 Capital Budget

Councillor Hanchar inquired about the budget for Street Lighting. Administration explained that the money for Street Lighting comes from Gas Tax funding, and that it is not eligible to be carried over from previous year. Councillor Hanchar also inquired about the Protective Services Wildland Turnout, and if all equipment has been replaced. Administration confirmed that the equipment has been replaced but explained that in 7 years equipment will need to be replaced again. Administration also explained that Pumper 1 is in the budget due to a 3 year wait listing time, and expenses are projected to come out in 2025. Mayor Irvin noted the Trail Upgrade budget amounts, to which Administration confirmed the Trail Upgrade being in the budget as it would take up to a year to start the process. Bylaw will be discussed further during the March 15th Town Hall Meeting.

Bylaw 2023-03 Fees and Charges Amendment

Administration explained that the Fees and Charges bylaw required an amendment due to certain charges having GST included in the overall price, and not added. Council ready to pass bylaw at next meeting.

Draft Cemetery Bylaw

Council was in receipt of a letter from Liard First Nation regarding the Cemetery Bylaw. Council discussed the letter and decided to proceed to move forward with the Bylaw noting that changes can be implemented later to accommodate the needs of LFN. Council asked that Administration reply to the letter in acknowledgement and to request more information.

NEW & UNFINISHED

AYC Resolutions

Councillor Hanchar spoke regarding the Association of Yukon Communities looking for resolutions to pass as a board each year. After speaking with Administration and

representatives of Dawson City, Councillor Hanchar proposed that the municipality sponsor an AYC resolution regarding Emergency Medical Services' inadequate scheduling and lack of coverage with the possibility of the private sector taking over EMS if Yukon Government is unable to provide an acceptable level of service. Mayor and Council agreed with the proposal idea and Councillor Hanchar will work on a resolution to bring to the next regular Council meeting.

**Recreation Advisory Committee
Lotteries Policy**

Councillor Slager brought forward amendments to the Lotteries Policy that the Recreation Advisory Committee would like to see put in place to correspond with changes that the Yukon Lotteries Committee has made. The RAC would like to implement allowance for applicants to apply for funding retroactively, as well as have the deadlines changed to coincide with the deadlines of Yukon Lotteries. Council will discuss these changes and make a motion at the next regular meeting.

Community Lottery Fund Applications

Council was in receipt of written recommendations from the Recreation Advisory Committee, regarding Community Lottery Fund applications received for the March 6, 2023 special funding intake. Councillor Slager shared that the Recreation Advisory Committee had a special intake meeting to go over the remaining funds of \$11,521.00.

MOTION 023-06-041

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

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

- CARRIED -

**COUNCILLOR
OPEN FORUM**

Councillor Paquette shared discussion that occurred during a meeting with AYC on Saturday March 4th, 2023. Councillor Hanchar went into further detail regarding the Artic Inspiration Prize. The City of Whitehorse has asked that other Yukon communities help to contribute to this funding. Councillor Hanchar also spoke about the Humane Society, Mae Bacher in Whitehorse. Mae Bachur is looking to form a user agreement with the Town of Watson Lake in regard to receiving funding in exchange they will take dogs from our community.

Councillor Hanchar spoke about meeting with David Rozsa and Shelley Hassard from AYC earlier in the day along with Administration and the Municipal Clerk regarding Watson Lake hosting the Annual General Meeting. This meeting touched on budgetary items for the AGM. Council agreed to discuss budgets and donation ideas at a later date.

Councillor Paquette inquired about the Frances Avenue development and if the Town of Watson Lake had the capacity for Cryopeak LNG infrastructure.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

Ms. Patti McLeod commented on the development of Frances Avenue and is hopeful that it moves forward. McLeod agreed to sponsor the wine and donate to the AYC AGM.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 023-06-042

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council go in-camera to discuss a personnel related item.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 023-06-043

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council revert back to an Open Meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-06-044

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Christopher Irvin – Mayor



Kaitlyn McCulloch – A/ Municipal Clerk