

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 6
March 22, 2022

ATTENDANCE

CHRIS IRVIN – MAYOR (zoom)
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR
DENINA PAQUETTE – COUNCILOR
THOMAS SLAGER – COUNCILOR
DALE BURDES – COUNCILOR

ABSENT

PUBLIC (zoom)
J. Carlson
C.Craft
R.Harder
R.Wilkinson

ADMINISTRATION

M.Prowse

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

AGENDA

MOTION 022-06-39

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Paquette
that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

-CARRIED –

MINUTES

MOTION 022-06-40

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Burdes
that:

The Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of March 1st be amended to correct
the dates that were recorded in the CAO report.

-CARRIED –

**ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE**

MOTION 022-06-41

Moved by Councilor Paquette, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$218,647.63 be paid.

-CARRIED –

DELEGATION

Mr. Rick Harder, representing property owners on Tintina Way addressed concerns regarding the freezing of the Town main sewer line which has led to significant expenditures by both the Town and residents in the area. Mr. Harder addressed a situation where sewage backed up into a basement causing an unnecessary expense to the property owner. Mr. Harder questioned whether the Town would cover the costs that occurred as a result of the freeze-up in the main. Mayor Irvin thanked Mr. Harder for the letter and advised that the Town has been approved for funding for the replacement of inground infrastructure upgrades on Tintina Way. Councilor Slager acknowledged that if the freeze-ups that occurred on Tintina Way were a result of Town infrastructure that the property owners should be reimbursed for monies spent. Mayor Irvin suggested that the By-law be reviewed for clarity to ensure a process is in place regarding any Town infrastructure failure.

Administration agreed to review the situation and prepare an Admin report for Council. Councilor Hanchar looks forward to more discussion on this matter. Council agreed to table discussion to the April 5th Council meeting and revisit the concerns that were presented at that time.

Mr. Harder enquired about the timeframe for the infrastructure replacement and was informed that the work will commence this summer and should be completed before freeze-up. Council thanked Mr. Harder for attending the meeting.

BY-LAWS

MOTION 022-06-42

Moved by Councilor Burdes, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

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

-CARRIED-

MOTION 022-06-43

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

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

-CARRIED-

REPORTS

Administration provided an update on the Municipal Services building. The Town has taken possession of the facility and Tyson Cole has been relocating the Fire Department. YG has agreed to pay for snow to be removed from outside the facility and have secured a contract with Iyon Kechika.

The Public Works Department have been busy with snow removal and hauling snow from all the streets in the community. The snow dumps are now full. They are attempting to remove the snow pac from the streets, but the continuous snow fall has hampered their progress.

A funding proposal is being prepared for trail upgrades which will also include the Signpost Forest trail network and signage. There is Federal funding available and the project can be done in various stages. The application will be presented to Council once it is complete.

A source of funding has been found for the feasibility study for the expansion of the district heat system. Monies were budgeted for this project, but the additional funding will help offset this cost.

There are numerous jobs advertised within the Town. The By-Law Enforcement position was addressed. Connie Heaney was hired to fill this position internally and an agreement has been made to be re-evaluated in six months. Arrangements have been made for a consultant to provide training and mentorship on all aspects of bylaw enforcement. Her current position has been advertised as a 6-month term.

The Director of Protective Services position has been advertised as Tyson Cole is returning to his previous position and Charlie Crane is off on long term disability.

The landfill public waste drop-off construction area has gone out to tender and is moving forward.

The recplex lighting and changeroom upgrades will be started once the contractors have received their materials.

Council will consider a date to schedule an open house for the new Municipal Services Building and it was suggested to have a Community Barb-B-que.

The AYC Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held in Whitehorse May 13th & 14th. Administration will need confirmation as to who will be attending the AGM.

ADMIN REPORT
LEAK DETECTION EQUIPMENT

Council was in receipt of a report from Administration regarding the purchase of leak detection equipment to assist in reducing the amount of treated water being lost from the water distribution system. The equipment will locate the leaks and allow necessary repairs before they become a larger issue.

MOTION 022-06-44

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Burdes that:

Council approves the purchase of the leak detection equipment in the amount of \$36,000.00.

-CARRIED –

Councilor Burdes enquired about the accuracy of the equipment and was informed that the electronic equipment is very accurate and will enable staff to go street by street to determine any potential leaks. Councilor Paquette asked about the longevity of the equipment. Administration advised that the equipment will last for several years. She also asked about training of the equipment and was informed that training is provided, and both the Water utilities staff and Public Works will be trained on the equipment.

NEW & UNFINISHED

PROCLAMATION
VACCINE MANDATE

Administration updated Council on the current COVID situation and the remaining public health measures that were lifted on March 18, 2022. The Government of Yukon will reinstate the State of Emergency if necessary, in response to further developments of the pandemic. Councilor Hanchar states that although the vaccine mandates are being lifted for YG employees, she disagrees with the statement made that the mandates are over as there will still be those who are employed outside of YG who are still impacted. Further discussion is needed as there are still many government departments where vaccinations and wearing of masks will continue to be required for employees, contractors and volunteers working in high-risk settings in the Yukon. Councilor Paquette agrees that every YG department is different, and each have their own criteria where the mandates are still in force. Mayor Irvin provided comments on the position of the town which only has control over the services which it provides to the community. Mandates are becoming less in that respect, but Mayor Irvin agreed that if YG is not going to move forward, there is a need for the Town to set a deadline and provide a decision of its own and support the greater good of the community. Council agreed to table this item and reintroduce at the April 5th Council meeting.

**COUNCILOR
OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Burdes requested an update on the status of the CDF funding for the Northern Lights Centre equipment replacement. Administration advised that Michael Prowse, YG Community Advisor has agreed to look into the status of the CDF funding on behalf of the Town.

Councilor Hanchar addressed the inground infrastructure project Phase 1 and enquired as to when the project is expected to begin and what is the scope of work. She expressed concerns with the project and questioned whether the tenders are protected with the increasing cost of inflation. Administration provided Council with the details of the project and the service agreement. Phase 1 of the project can take a period of four years to complete, at a cost of \$11,000,000.00. Councilor Hanchar expressed her frustration with the project timelines. Mayor Irvin suggested that Council review all the details to have a clear picture to ensure the project is done properly as there are many questions from constituents regarding the project. Also, YG has been in discussion surrounding the payment for the project. Council agreed more time to is needed to review the documentation and have further discussion.

Councilor Hanchar asked about the use of the Town house for Councilor Slager and his family after the recent loss of their home, and whether there is the potential for a short-term rental agreement. Councilor Slager informed Council that he would be grateful as he requires the house temporarily until he and his family can be situated elsewhere. Administration advised that the house is vacant, however as there is a job position advertised, the house may be needed if the position is filled from outside. Mayor Irvin is in favour of Councilor Slager renting the house due to this unfortunate incident, however it is a difficult situation as it may set a precedence in the community, but as there is a lack of housing available in the community and no other options available suggested a short-term rental contract be provided on a month-by-month basis. Councilor Slager then declared a conflict and abstained from the conversation and excused himself from the Council chambers.

MOTION 022-06-45

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Burdes that:

Council agrees to allow Councilor Slager and his family accommodations at the Town House and that a rental contract be prepared on a month-by-month basis.

-CARRIED-

Councilor Paquette commented this will allow the family the opportunity to sort things out and seek other arrangements while they have a place to reside in the meantime. Mayor Irvin requested that a copy of the rental agreement be made available for Council once it is prepared.

Councilor Slager returned to the Council Chambers. Mayor Irvin expressed to Councilor Slager how sorry he is for his loss as it is very difficult and hope that he and his family can find a solution going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 022-06-46

Moved by Councilor Burdes, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 pm.

- CARRIED -

Chris Irvin – Mayor

Terri Close – Municipal Clerk

