

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

**MEETING NO. 1
January 10, 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

Delegation

Shane Blackford – Cryopeak LNG Solutions*
Calum McClure – Cryopeak LNG Solutions *

Public

J. Carlson*
M. Prowse*

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-01-01

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 023-01-02

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 20, 2022, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

OPEN PAYABLES

MOTION 023-01-03

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$314,049.20 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

DELEGATION

Cryopeak LNG Solutions

Shane Blackford and Calum McClure presented to Council on how Cryopeak LNG Solutions could potentially provide liquified natural gas as an energy solution for the municipality and displace diesel fuel. The presentation included information regarding Cryopeak's Fort Nelson facility, the transportation of LNG, potential cost savings, and lowered gas emissions. Blackford expressed that a transition to LNG would need to be community driven, with a push on ATCO, and perhaps Yukon government, to support and implement the transition. Blackford explained that Cryopeak has had discussions with Liard First Nation, First Kaska, and ATCO. Discussions with First Kaska have been well received, however efforts are being put toward renewable energy solutions at this time, so is not a priority.

Council voiced that a move to natural gas could be a good opportunity for the community as a whole and was in favour of exploring a potential transition from diesel fuel to natural gas. Council discussed a letter of support to be sent to ATCO and Yukon government, expressing such.

MOTION 023-01-04

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Council send a letter to Cryopeak LNG Solutions, ATCO, and Yukon government, in support of an LNG conversion to liquified natural gas at ATCO.

- CARRIED -

CORRESPONDENCE

Watson Lake Food Bank Garbage Collection

Council was in receipt of correspondence from the Watson Lake Food Bank, requesting an additional garbage bin be provided at the Signpost Seniors building for the Watson Lake Food Bank's use. Due to the nature of the organization and the essential services provided, Council expressed support for the request.

MOTION 023-01-05

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Watson Lake Food Bank's request for a bin be approved.

- CARRIED -

Minister Mostyn WSCB Board

Council was in receipt of correspondence from Minister Mostyn regarding a request for nominations for the Yukon Workers Safety and Compensation Board. Mayor Irvin stated

the importance of having community representation on Yukon boards and encouraged Council to consider community members who may be interested in putting their names forward.

REPORTS

CAO Report

Administration shared that the Municipal Services Open House is scheduled on January 21, 2023. Council was asked to attend if able and were advised that invitations have been sent to Yukon Ministers, MLA McLeod, Liard First Nation, Daylu Dena Council, and community members.

Administration is working on finalizing the 2023 Capital and O&M budgets and asked Council to consider a date for a Town Hall Meeting in the coming months.

Administration shared that a locksmith is currently in town, re-keying all Town facilities.

Administration provided an update on the Fire Department. The first Fire Department training session of the year was attended by 17 volunteer members. A First Aid course is scheduled over the weekend for volunteer members and Town staff. Chief O'Hara continues to work with Yukon government to address lift assist calls. Administration is also having discussions at an ADM level regarding EMS issues and non-payment.

Bylaw has been busy with dogs running at large and transported several out of the community this week. Bylaw continues to work with Yukon government and the Mae Bacher Animal Sheltetr to address this issue.

The Reception position was filled internally, with a staff member from the Landfill/Recycling Centre moving to the Parks and Recreation Department. Public Works will be covering garbage collection until Landfill staffing is resolved.

NEW & UNFINISHED

Inground Infrastructure Preliminary Design

Council was in receipt of the draft preliminary designs for the planned inground infrastructure upgrades, which included information on the five different phases of work to be completed. To date, funding for phase one & phase two are approved by the government of Canada and Yukon government, Administration explained, with phase one going out to tender in 2023. The Yukon government is pressuring for the following phases to be approved by government of Canada. The upgrades will include the replacement of all current water and sewer lines, an expansion to other areas of the community, roadways, ditching, and hydrant expansions. Administration explained the various benefits of the upgrades, including improved drainage, a new two-line pipe system which will eliminate the need for transformers, and water flow improvements to reduce freezing potential.

Administration explained that due to higher costs, project estimates have doubled. Depending on cost, phases may have to be revised, which will not be determined until exact costs have been determined.

**Bylaw #2022-08
Fees and Charges**

Council further reviewed fees and charges amendments recommended by Administration and the management team, and asked that the Recreation and Pool drop-in rates be amended. Fees and Charges Bylaw #2022-08 will go before Council, with amendments, for Third and Final Reading at the January 17, 2023 Council meeting.

Draft Cemetery Bylaw

Council was in receipt of the draft Cemetery Bylaw for review, as it will go before Council for First Reading at the February 21, 2023 Council meeting. Administration explained that further revisions will be made based on the feedback received from the Town Hall.

**Garbage Collection and
Recycling Bylaw #20-20**

Councillor Slager had asked that the Garbage Collection and Recycling Bylaw be reviewed and amended to address the fee for garbage collection, citing that complaints have been received from property owners whose houses/properties are vacant. Councillor Slager expressed discontent with a fee being charged for a service that is not being used. Administration explained that changing this would result in a burden on Administration and the Garbage Collector. Councillor Burdes and Councillor Hanchar were of the opinion that the fee should stand. After further discussion and consideration, Council decided to discuss the topic further when the Public Waste Drop-Off project moves ahead, as the bylaw will be reviewed and amended at that time.

**COUNCILLOR
OPEN FORUM**

Based on the CAO report and the number of dogs transported from the community, Councillor Slager asked if a veterinarian could be brought to the community for a spay/neuter program. Administration explained that Bylaw is working towards this and applied to CAAT to come and hold a clinic in the community. Administration also explained that one of the factors contributing to a higher number of dogs running at large is that YARN is closing and will no longer be taking litters of puppies.

Councillor Slager enquired on the dry hydrant program; the program will proceed in areas without Town water and sewer but is held up until further test drilling and a heritage site assessment can be done.

Councillor Slager asked if Canyon Blvd. had been considered as an area for water and sewer expansion. Administration stated that due to the forecasted cost, the Town will not be expanding further into industrial areas at this time.

Councillor Hanchar proposed potential dates for the Town Hall meeting to discuss budgets. A date of March 9, 2023 at 6:00pm was decided upon.

Councillor Hanchar suggested that the correspondence being drafted regarding EMS services in the community, also include a piece about the non-payment of accounts with the Town.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

There were no comments or questions from the gallery.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 023-01-06

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council go in-camera to discuss a labor related topic.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 023-01-07

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council revert back to an Open Meeting.

- CARRIED -

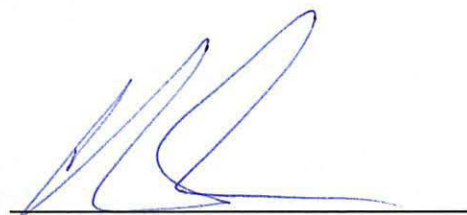
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-01-08

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Christopher Irvin – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk