

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

MEETING NO. 7
March 21, 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

Public

Ruth Wilkinson

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-07-045

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to add CAO Report and Property Tax Mill Rate discussion.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 023-07-046

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The draft minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 7, 2023, be adopted as amended to correct spelling errors.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 023-07-047

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$484,683.32 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

REPORTS

CAO Report

CAO Lockwood shared that equipment for the Northern Lights Centre had arrived and will be getting installed in the coming week followed by training for multiple employees on the new system. Substantial inspection of the Recreation Centers change rooms will be taking place on March 23rd. Administration explained that there is a leak that was discovered in the Town Hall Building in the Library. Snow removal on the roof started earlier in the day, and the roofing company will be on site March 22nd.

Administration shared that staff will be meeting with the Union on March 22nd for a ratification vote on the Collective Agreement. Administration also shared that they would be meeting with the Municipal Clerk to go over upcoming job postings.

Administration explained that there are issues with one of the graders, and that Lyon Kechika has done trouble shooting and are trying to locate parts. The Landfill will be closed from April 7th to April 10th for Easter weekend. The engine for the Bylaw truck is no longer working, therefore Administration has ordered a canopy for Unit 29 and will be transferring that vehicle to Bylaw. Administration attended a meeting to go over inground infrastructure project details, and approved the documents to go forward with minor modifications with hopes that the tenders will be posted in the following week. Administration shared that the Frances Avenue Expansion project is now being reviewed at YESAB.

BYLAWS

Mill Rate Discussion

Mayor Irvin opened the discussion for increasing the current property tax mill rate. Councillor Slager proposed raising the mill rate by 2% due to inflation costs. Councillor Hanchar proposed the rate be increased to 1.5%.

MOTION 023-07-048

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The property tax mill rate be increased by 1.5% for 2023.

- CARRIED -

Bylaw #2023-01
2023 O&M Budget

MOTION 023-07-049

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Bylaw #2023-01, being the 2023 O&M Budget, be introduced for Third and Final reading.

- CARRIED -

Administration stated that the O&M Budget would be modified to include the 1.5% increase to the Mill Rate for 2023.

Bylaw #2023-02
2023 Capital Budget

MOTION 023-07-050

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

Bylaw #2023-02, being the 2023 Capital Budget, be introduced for Third and Final reading.

- CARRIED -

Bylaw #2023-03
Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw

MOTION 023-07-051

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Bylaw #2023-03, being the Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw, be introduced for First and Second reading.

- CARRIED -

Bylaw #2023-04
Cemetery Bylaw

MOTION 023-07-052

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Bylaw #2023-04, being the Cemetery Bylaw, be introduced for First and Second reading.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED

Recreation Grant Policy

Councillor Slager shared that the Recreation Lotteries Committee met and discussed changes on the intake and reporting dates due to the fiscal year changing, changing the mileage rate from \$0.20 to \$0.30 per kilometer, as well as being able to apply for funding retroactively.

MOTION 023-07-053

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council accept the Recreation Grant Policy recommendations and changes.

- CARRIED -

AYC AGM Resolution

Councillor Hanchar is proposing 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.

MOTION 023-07-054

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Councillor Hanchar to complete a Resolution on behalf of Council in respect to EMS services in the communities.

- CARRIED -

AYC AGM BUDGET

Mayor Irvin stated that Administration believes that a budget of \$10,000.00 should cover the cost for a meal and support for the AGM.

MOTION 023-07-055

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

A budget of 10,000 be set for the AYC AGM expenses.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Slager asked if anyone has looked into swag for the AYC AGM as well as the Northern Lights Centre. Councillor Hanchar stated that once the Municipal Clerk is back in office, they will move forward with swag items. Councillor Slager inquired about how to write a letter to YESAB in support of the Frances Expansion. Administration explained that you log on to the YESAB website and create an account and then choose the project you would like to comment on. Administration then noted that they will discuss this with the Municipal Clerk and look into getting a link shared on the Town website so that the public can write in support to YESAB. Councillor Slager also inquired about the change from a ten year to a six year plan for the Infrastructure Upgrades. Administration explained that there are different stages, and the colours within the planning document have changed due to the change in prices and funding amounts.

Councillor Hanchar inquired about the free load of garbage per household in the spring.

MOTION-023-07-056

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Town allow one free load of residential garbage per household during the month of June.

- CARRIED -

Councillor Hanchar asked Administration if there was any update on when the project for streetlights on the Campbell Highway will commence. Administration shared that there has not been any update recently but will request one for the next meeting. Councillor Hanchar also inquired on whether details were set for the Volunteer BBQ. After discussion Council and Administration agreed on the date of April 20th for the Volunteer BBQ.

Councillor Burdes inquired on the Trail Enhancement Project and if there is any funding to update the playgrounds in the municipality. Administration shared that the Trail project would be included in the next meetings agenda, and that during the AYC AGM there will be representatives available to discuss playground upgrades. Administration also suggested that a play structure be put in at the Sign Post Forest to enhance the attraction to tourists.

Administration stated that they are working with Elevator Yukon to apply for funding to implement new seating in the Northern Lights Centre as well as other upgrades. Councillor Hanchar inquired about the funding meet up Administration attended. Administration shared that they spoke to someone from Yukon Development Corp regarding district heat and that the Town of Watson Lake is eligible for funding.

Councillor Hanchar inquired about an email received from AYC regarding the Rugged Apprentice program. Administration will be discussing the program with the Municipal Clerk to see if the municipality will participate again this year.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-07-057

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Christopher Irvin – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk