

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

MEETING NO. 10  
April 18th, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

*Electronic attendance \**

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

**Administration**

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer  
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

**Public**

Button Walters \*

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

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 023-10-072**

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

**MINUTES**

**MOTION 023-10-073**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The draft minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 4, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

**MOTION 023-10-074**

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Special Meeting of April 19, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

## **PAYABLES**

### **MOTION 023-10-075**

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$285,578.72 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

## **PUBLIC HEARING** **ZONING BYLAW #2023-05**

### **MOTION 023-10-076**

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council move into a Public Hearing to hear and consider all verbal and written submissions related to Zoning Bylaw #2023-05.

- CARRIED -

Administration shared that there were no written submissions received. Mayor Irvin then opened the meeting up to the gallery for comment. There were no comments from the gallery.

### **MOTION 023-10-077**

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Being there no further comments for consideration, the Public Hearing be closed.

- CARRIED -

## **REPORTS**

### **CAO Report**

Administration was happy to report that the Interim Regional Landfill Agreement had been signed, which includes an increased contribution payment from Yukon government, as well as a commitment to accept fifty percent post closure and closure costs once the landfill reaches its lifespan. This agreement will stand until a Final Regional Agreement has been reached. A review clause was included in the Interim Report to allow for changes to the contribution amount if there were significant changes in population.

The Tender for the Inground Infrastructure project went out to the public on April 17<sup>th</sup> on Yukon government's Bids and Tenders site.

Administration provided an update on the Northern Lights Centre. Yukon Museums funding secured for this fiscal to help with the operating costs, and additional special funding was obtained to purchase two additional movies for the Centre. The seating has been reinstalled and the Centre is looking great, Administration reported.

The street lighting project that will see lights installed on the Robert Campbell Highway to 2 Mile is moving ahead, with an agreement being drafted between Yukon government and ATCO for installation at kilometer 1 to kilometer 4 this summer. Yukon government is still awaiting Canada's financial contribution. The Dept of Highways is also completing crosswalk improvements in Watson Lake this summer.

Administration provided other updates including ongoing AYC AGM planning, how the Recreation Centre has been operating since the organizational changes, and that a date will soon be set for Household Hazardous Waste Day in the community.

#### **BYLAWS**

##### **Fees and Charges** **Bylaw #2023-03**

##### **MOTION 023-10-078**

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Bylaw #2023-03, being a bylaw to amend fees and charges, be introduced for Third and Final reading.

- CARRIED -

##### **Zoning Bylaw** **#2023-05**

##### **MOTION 023-10-079**

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Bylaw #2023-05, being a Zoning Bylaw, be introduced for Third and Final reading.

- CARRIED -

##### **Cemetery Bylaw** **#2023-06**

##### **MOTION 023-10-080**

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

Bylaw #2023-06, being the Cemetery Bylaw, be introduced for Third and Final reading.

- CARRIED -

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Carole Watson re the Burial Plot of the Late Phyllis Watson**

Council was in receipt of an email from Carole Watson, expressing their family's dissatisfaction with the location of the burial of the late Phyllis Watson in the Watson Lake Cemetery, as there was a plot reserved many years ago in the "Old Section", of the cemetery, next to Mrs. Watson's late husband. Administration explained the reasons that the Watson family was not granted permission to conduct the burial in the "Old Section", being that the ground is unsafe and that there may be unknown, unmarked grave sites in the area. Administration went on to explain that there have been no burials in that section of the cemetery for many years, aside from interred ashes which are permitted, and that the Town has deemed this section unsafe for burials, therefore have not allowed other families to conduct burials there, despite requests. Administration also explained that there were discussions and a meeting with the family prior to the funeral service and burial, explaining the reasons behind the Town's decision, but the family has since requested that Mrs. Watson be exhumed and moved.

Council discussed at length the unfortunate situation and if there was any way to rectify the situation. Unfortunately, due to liability and safety concerns, Council accepted the recommendation from Administration to not allow for a burial in the "Old Section". Councillor Slager recommended that the Town return the plot and internment fee back to the family, to show that although the Town is unable to accommodate their recommendation, are sympathetic to the situation and are sorry about the outcome.

Administration will verify records to ensure there are no other plot reservations in the old section, to avoid this situation in the future. Council will provide a formal response to the Watson family.

#### **MOTION 023-10-081**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Watson family be reimbursed for all expenses for the burial of the late Mrs. Phyllis Watson.

- CARRIED -

## **NEW & UNFINISHED**

### **Procurement & Purchasing Policy Review**

Administration provided an update to Council on how the Procurement and Purchasing Policy has been working in house. So far, Administration is happy with the policy as it has helped in streamlining processes. The Policy was sent to the local Chamber of Commerce after adoption, asking for feedback, but no response was received. Council asked that the

policy be reviewed annually, and Administration provide examples of what is working and areas that may need improvement or amending, for further consideration.

- CARRIED -

**Meeting Request**  
**Minister Mostyn**

Minister Mostyn requested a meeting with Council during the week of the AYC AGM. Council discussed the request and being that there is not much to discuss, would rather draft a letter, requesting an update on ICIP funding for the Inground Infrastructure project. If no response is received by the time of the AYC AGM, Council will meet to discuss ICIP funding.

**COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM**

Councillor Hanchar added to the previous Cemetery discussion, expressing that there should be formal documentation stating that there will be no further burials in the "Old Section" of the cemetery and perhaps the Town could explore having this area deemed a historical site. Administration explained that the Town would like to keep the option wish to inter ashes in this section available and believes that a policy could address the issue, rather than making it a historical site.

Councillor Paquette asked for an update on the AYC AGM and if there were any tasks that Council could assist with. Council to assist with lobbying local business donations for the auction.

**IN-CAMERA**

**MOTION 023-10-082**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council move to an In-Camera Meeting.

- CARRIED -

**MOTION 023-10-083**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council revert back to an Open Meeting.

- CARRIED -


ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-10-084

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -

  
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Christopher Irvin – Mayor  
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Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

SECRET

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