

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

**MEETING NO. 11
May 2, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

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

Public

R. Wilkinson J. Carlson
M. Prowse P. McLeod

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk
Shannon Bergeron – Finance Comptroller

Delegation

Angela Spencer – BDO Canada

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-11-085

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 023-11-086

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of April 18, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 023-11-087

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$168,006.32 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

DELEGATION

Angela Spencer of BDO Canada, presented on the external financial audit for the year 2022. Angela noted that the Town's financial position was a bit lower than the previous year. Other notable comments included:

- With the new Solid Waste Agreement with Yukon government, a significant amount of liability for closure and post closure expenses will shift to YG. This change will be reflected in the financials moving forward.
- Financial Statements will look a bit different in the future, due to new asset reporting requirements.
- Ownership of the Municipal Services Building took place in 2022, and the contributed asset is shown as a Yukon government donation on the Financial Statements.
- There was a higher than expected return on investments in 2022.
- Expenses related to emergency services and flood mitigation were more than anticipated and budgeted.

Administration answered questions from Council regarding amounts moved into reserves and if the Northern Lights Centre reserve was still needed, since substantial investments have been made in the facility. Administration recommends continuing with the NLC reserves for the time being.

MOTION 023-11-088

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council approve the 2022 Financial Audit, prepared by BDO Canada.

- CARRIED -

REPORTS

CAO Report

Administration shared that YG and LFN have partnered on a Bee Project, which will see six bee colonies set up in the community as an educational program and have asked if Wye Lake Park could be used to house the project. A dedicated beekeeper will be running the program, as well as local experts providing support. Council had questions about the safety of people using the park, the extraction of honey, and a contingency plan for the site when the project ends. Administration explained that YG will be responsible for hive extractions, ongoing maintenance and for bringing the site back to its original state at the end of the project term and explained how risk will be mitigated with fencing and signage.

Administration described the various job postings that have been filled including the hiring of Northern Lights Centre staff, Swimming Pool staff, a Flower Caretaker, and a student at the Recycling Centre. The Rec Centre Reception and Equipment Operator 1 positions closed, with interviews commencing soon. The opening of the Swimming Pool has been a challenge due to on site training being delayed.

Public Works has started street sweeping. Brush cutting cannot start until the shoulders of the roadways are dryer. The releveling of the Rec Centre and Sign Post Forest parking areas will be completed. There are also nesting seagulls at the Sewage Lagoon that are being dealt with.

Administration provided an update on the Inground Infrastructure Project. The Tender is out to the public and a lot of questions have come back. There seems to be a lot of interest which will hopefully result in numerous bids. Based on the questions, the closing date may be extended until May 25th.

There has not been an update from YG on the Frances Avenue lot developments. The last update provided was that the project was still with YESAB for approval. Administration to follow up with YG.

Quarterly Department Reports

Council was in receipt of the Q1 Department Reports from the various Town departments. Questions and comments that arose from the reports included:

- The new garbage truck picker arm and the expected process; Bylaw will assist Public Works in educating the public of the expectations around the setting out and retrieval of bins.
- Bylaw assisting with the recapture of loose dogs; Councillor Hanchar shared the opinion that we should not be releasing captured dogs back to the owner without following standard procedure.
- The Fire Chief shared concerns about the commitment levels of some of the Volunteer Members and the function of the department. Council discussed ways to support the Chief and a possible review of the Fire Department Bylaw. After a lengthy discussion, Council decided to meet with Members of the Volunteer Department to review the Bylaw and then decide if amendments are warranted to improve operations.
- The Town has started using an online method for training and Councillor Hanchar inquired on how that might affect the University and the courses that they offer in the future.

CORRESPONDENCE

Liard First Nation Request for Letter of Support

Council was in receipt of a draft Letter of Support for a Liard First Nation let Youth Conference. Council expressed support for the request and asked Administration to provide the Letter of Support.

NEW & UNFINISHED

Strategic Plan

Mayor Irvin met with Administration to review the Strategic Plan and discuss potential priorities and brought it forward to Council for input. The areas of focus were decided upon were housing strategies, emergency measures and response, and a recreation review.

Emergency Plan

Council was in receipt of the updated Emergency Plan, which is a living document updated as needed, brought forward to remind Council of roles and responsibilities as we enter into flood and wildfire season. Administration explained that there has been ongoing pressure put on YG for a promised Emergency Plan template, which will be a more comprehensive plan. Councillor Hanchar asked if the plan can be shared publicly; there is a version with contact information redacted that can be shared.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Burdes asked if there will be an NLC Open House for the community, prior to opening for the season, and if there will be opportunities to show blockbuster movies on occasion. Administration explained that we will proceed with an open house but are unable to do so before opening. Licensing has been acquired for showing movies at the NLC and we will explore this more in the off-season, if we are able to keep part-time student staff on to run.

Councillor Hanchar circled back to the Strategic Plan discussion and said that there should be an ongoing Council focus on the ongoing Inground Infrastructure project and a continued push for federal funding.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

Ruth Wilkinson asked Council if any funds were being put into reserves for the replacement of roadways, and when advised by Council that there were none, expressed concerns. Ruth also advised Council that the beehives in Wye Lake Park may attract bears and that there have been more dogs running at large lately, with a recent dog attack in her neighborhood. Ruth asked when the Landfill will start accepting free dump loads. Administration explained that the free dump loads run from May 15th until June 30th and that the Landfill and Recycling Centre will be open on Saturday during Maylong weekend.

Patti McLeod inquired about the Strategic Plan and where a copy can be obtained.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-11-089

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Christopher Irvin – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



