

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

**MEETING NO. 15
July 4, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

Christopher Irvin – Mayor *
Lauren Hanchar – Deputy Mayor
Dale Burdes – Councillor
Thomas Slager – Councillor

Administration
Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Delegation

Jordan Stackhouse – Elevator Yukon *
R. Allain *

Public

J. Carlson Colleen Craft *
R. Allain *

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-15-121

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to remove #3a. Visa Statement.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 023-15-122

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 023-15-123

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$141,610.10 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

DELEGATION

**Elevator Yukon
Housing Accelerator Fund**

Jordan Stackhouse presented the Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plan, created based on the feedback and housing priorities provided by Council. The Action Plan will be used as the basis for the Town's application to the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).

Stackhouse provided six proposed initiatives:

- New home construction grant to assist with the cost of building new homes.
- Incentivize conversion to residential zoning to encourage builds on vacant properties and construction of secondary suites.
- Revise Zoning Bylaw to remove barriers to allow for various development, such as secondary suites, carriage houses, duplexes, etc.
- Create action plan to address lending/borrowing barriers, such as appraisal processes and mortgage barriers.
- Create action plan to improve promotion and marketing of real estate.
- Build capacity by staffing position(s) to over-see and implement HAF programs.

The HAF initiatives could potentially create 46 new housing units over three years, and 205 units over 10 years. Council asked questions about the implementation and an equitable process for applicants and the possibility of First Nation funding partnerships. Stackhouse to have the application complete for Council approval for the August 22nd Council meeting. A Council Resolution will be needed; a discussion and action plan for this will follow.

MOTION 023-15-024

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council approve the Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plan and application in principle.

- CARRIED -

Council Tabled the Housing Accelerator Fund discussion to the August 22, 2023, Regular Council Meeting.

RCMP

Administration explained that Sgt. Cropper was unable to attend the meeting but provided the May Policing Report and will present it and the June Report at the next Council meeting.

REPORTS
CAO Report

Administration provided various department updates, including:

- The Landfill Weigh Scale position was advertised internally due to a recent vacancy.

- Canada Day celebrations were a success. A debrief meeting was scheduled with the organizing team. Administration was happy with the location change. Discovery Day planning underway.
- Tender updates for Inground Infrastructure, Frances Avenue Development, and Frances Avenue Lift Station projects.
- Administration has been working on the pool permit and hope to open in coming weeks. Another staff member hired will be taking the National Lifeguard recertification course. The Waterslide will be opening in the meantime. The new dock at Lucky Lake had been installed.
- The Rec Centre roof repair almost complete. This project is the last one from last years' capital expenses.
- A new Community Advisor was assigned to Watson Lake. Riel Allain was on the call and provided an introduction to Council.

**Admin Report #23-09
Trailer Demolition**

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report and recommendations from Bylaw regarding the demolition of mobile homes for which clean-up orders had been issued. Bylaw provided Council with multiple recommendations which would allow such property owners to repay Landfill tipping fees on a payment plan. Council discussed the topic at length and ultimately decided it was not in the municipality's best interest to approve the recommendations.

MOTION 023-15-125

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Bylaw continues with the enforcement of the General Maintenance Bylaw to all ends, including the enforcement of issued clean-up orders.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED

**Letter of Support
LFN Rural Transportation Initiative**

Council was in receipt of a request for support from Liard First Nation for a Rural Transportation Initiative, which would provide regular scheduled transport on set routes between Watson Lake, Upper Liard, and Lower Post.

MOTION 023-15-126

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council provide a Letter of Support to Liard First Nation for their funding application for the Rural Transportation Initiative.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Mayor Irvin:

- Requested that the Town write a letter to Liard First Nation recommending that signage be installed to deter overnight parking and camping at the old Watson Lake Hotel property. Council members agreed that there are more appropriate locations in Town for overnight parking and thought that travelers squatting in the area was unsightly. Administration will identify the legal owner of the property and inquire on the matter.
- Asked for an update on the Yukon Housing 10-plex development. Administration did not have an update to provide.
- Asked that Council receive regular updates from Administration, regarding ongoing projects, while on break. Administration committed to regular updates by email.

Councillor Slager:

- Attended the Northern Lights Centre Open House and was impressed with the new system. Councillor Slager asked if Council and Administration would be in support of creating a video that highlighted the things to do and see in Watson Lake. Administration explained that the idea had been discussed on an admin level and will be explored further. Administration also shared that the Kaska Land Guardians provided a video about their guardian program which Administration hopes to show at the NLC in coming months.
- Inquired if new posts had been installed at the Sign Post Forest, which was confirmed to have been done at the beginning of the season.

Councillor Hanchar:

- Expressed disappointment in the 60 day allowance that Yukon Government has to award the Inground Infrastructure Tender. Councillor Hanchar shared concerns about the project timeline if the Tender is not awarded right away. Administration had communicated the same concerns to YG.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

J. Carlson:

- Asked why Inground Infrastructure Tenders didn't go out at the beginning of the year, as communicated initially. Administration explained that Tender documents were issued in February, but there were other factors that caused delays.

C. Craft:

- Inquired if the Town had a flag protocol and suggested that Council consider that flags that are not representative of a nation or country not be flown along the highway corridor in the future.
- Asked that Council consider a Liard First Nation flag be flown at the Town Office. Craft had a prior discussion with LFN Chief, Stephen Charlie, who expressed support for this.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-15-127

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -


Christopher Irvin – Mayor


Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

