

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

MEETING NO. 17  
September 5, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

*Electronic attendance \**

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

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

**Public**  
J. Carlson      J. Teters  
P. McLeod

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

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 023-17-139**

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

**MINUTES**

Council sought clarification on the follow up on EMS payments for Fire Department assists and Frances Avenue Correspondence response.

**MOTION 023-17-140**

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

**PAYABLES**

**MOTION 023-15-123**

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$134,846.95 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

**REPORTS**  
**CAO Report**

Administration provided various department updates, including:

- There was a kick-off meeting held regarding the inground infrastructure project. The contractor and engineering consultant will be in town next week to start project.
- There were three applications for the Director of Protective Services position. There will be a member of the Fire department sitting in for interviews.
- Hours at the Northern Lights Centre were reduced to Monday through Friday, due to staffing, and is scheduled to close at the end of September.
- A new schedule was issued for the Swimming Pool, which will remain open until the end of September.
- A Gas Tax application has been submitted for the Public Waste Drop-off project and is currently being reviewed.
- A term Parks Caretaker position has been advertised. Administration is looking for short-term coverage solutions for the department.
- The Water Utility supervisor truck caught fire last week causing significant damage to the interior of the truck. The fire was caused by an unsecured torch in the back seat of the truck. Administration is working with insurance.
- The Landfill is looking great. A lot of work has been done over the summer to clean up the site and Scrappy Larry has been hauling out scrap metal.
- An announcement was made by Raven Recycling that soft plastics will no longer be accepted as BC and Alberta will no longer accept them. Soft plastic now must be thrown in the trash.
- A free exhibition called Climate Quest, which was funded by the Federal government, is at the Rec Centre this week.
- The Fire Chief Conference held in Watson Lake last week was a success, however, was not well attended.
- Administration met with the Director of Infrastructure about funding to support HVAC upgrades. An application has been submitted to upgrade HVAC in the Recreation Centre, Northern Lights Centre and Administration Office.
- Administration will be away on holidays, starting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, with Shannon Bergeron in the acting CAO role.

**NEW & UNFINISHED**

**Bylaw 99-17**  
**Volunteer Fire Department Bylaw**

Council is in the process of reviewing the Volunteer Fire Department Bylaw #99-17. Members of the Fire Department reviewed the Bylaw and provided recommended amendments for Council's consideration. Administration expressed support for some of the recommendations from Volunteer members. Councillor Hanchar reminded Council that there was a past discussion about consolidating the Volunteer Fire Department Bylaw #99-

17 with the Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw #18-12, but after reviewing both bylaws, believes that they should be left separate as they address different topics. Council would also like to review the Volunteer Fire Department Renumeration Policy, with Councillor Slager suggesting that renumeration be the same as volunteer members in Whitehorse.

Council asked Administration to update the Volunteer Fire Department Bylaw 99-17 with recommended amendments and bring to October 3rd Committee of the Whole Meeting for review, to bring forward the Fire Protection and Safety Bylaw 18-12 to the September 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting for First Reading and to investigate Volunteer Fire renumeration within the territory and bring forward the Volunteer Fire Department Renumeration Policy, along with territory renumeration comparables for further discussion and consideration.

#### **Community Meeting**

Council had hoped to host a community meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>, regarding community safety and the concerns raised by citizens, however the timeframe was unable to be met. Mayor Irvin asked Council what items they would like to see on the meeting agenda and if a moderator is needed. Council discussed potential agenda items, including declaring a Health and Safety Emergency, and the need for a moderator.

Council asked that Administration reach out to Safe Communities and Neighborhoods (SCAN), House of Wolf Associates, RCMP, Liard First Nation, Daylu Dena Council, and various community stakeholders to try arrange for a date that all parties would be available to meet. Council will explore moderator options and discuss agenda items further.

#### **House of Wolf Associates**

Mayor Irvin read aloud a correspondence from House of Wolf Associates about the services that they offer regarding community health and safety. Administration reached out to House of Wolf Associates after the first community meeting was held regarding concerns about health and safety within the community and they are working on a proposal for the Town's consideration. Council also shared that health and safety had been established as a top priority of the Yukon government's and short-term funding was mandated to tackle the issue; Administration has asked the Town's Community Advisor to look into potential Yukon government support. Administration will advise Council when the proposal from House of Wolf Associates has been received.

#### **Bylaw 10-13 General Maintenance Bylaw**

Administration brought forward the General Maintenance Bylaw 10-13, for the review and consideration of Council, as the Bylaw is out of date and is inquired on frequently by the public. Council was also in receipt of other community General Maintenance Bylaws to reference and compare. Council asked that Bylaw provide input and recommended amendments for Council consideration. Council asked that Administration bring the Bylaw forward to the September 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting for First Reading.

## COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

### Councillor Paquette:

- Brought forward a concern with missing stop signs in various locations around the community. Administration will bring forward the issue at upcoming meeting with the Department of Highways and Public Works and Morrison Hershfield, as there is currently a review being done to address walkways, streetlighting and intersections.

### Councillor Hanchar:

- Advised Council that AYC resolutions would be discussed at an upcoming meeting and asked Council to provide input.

### Councillor Slager:

- Asked that Administration ensure the pool is properly drained at the end of the season, as there had been issues in the past arise from this not being done properly. Administration explained that past issues were related to electrical issues, and not end of season closure procedures.

### Mayor Irvin:

- Asked Administration to reach out to the Antique Car Rally group to plan an event around their arrival next time, as they plan on making it an annual event.
- Inquired about funding for the Wye Lake Trail and Signpost Forest upgrades. Administration explained that there has not been a new intake to the Active Transportation Fund.
- A memorial bench was installed at Wye Lake Park for Gro Brodersen. Administration to follow up with the family of Gro to plan for a gathering.
- Mayor Irvin will be away for the September 19<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Councillor Hanchar will chair the meeting.

## GALLERY OPEN FORUM

### J. Carlson:

- Asked what a Health and Safety Emergency is and suggested that Council use language that the public understands in the future.
- Would like to see the flags along the highway limited to countries of the world and find different locations for special interest and municipal flags.
- Asked if there was an issue getting the meeting agenda to the public as it was not received in usual way.

### J. Teters:

- Presented Council with a complaint against the tenant of 210 – 9<sup>th</sup> Street, stating that the use of the property is non-conforming and activities on the property are being done without needed approval. Mr. Teters shared in detail the steps that had been taken to date, including complaints lodged to Bylaw. Mr. Teters did not believe that complaints had been handled appropriately by the Town thus far and asked that the matter be further investigated and dealt with. Mayor Irvin thanked Mr. Teters for bringing the complaint forward and explained that Council could not

respond until they could investigate the matter further with Administration and Bylaw.

P. McLeod:

- Shared that other levels of government are discussing health and safety and concerns with drug use and crime, like Watson Lake, and suggested that treatment options be discussed as a topic at planned community meeting.
- Asked if a Town Hall Meeting would be held in the near future and suggested that the General Maintenance Bylaw be a topic discussed so that it will better serve the community.
- Asked if the Town had been told what the final contract amount was for the Frances Avenue development and Lift Station. Administration shared that no information has been provided by Yukon government about the contract award.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-17-142

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



