

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

**MEETING NO. 18
September 19, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

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

Administration

Shannon Bergeron – A/Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public

P. Kostiuck P. McLeod* C. Craft*
C. Ellis R. Wilkinson

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-18-143

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 023-18-144

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The draft minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 5, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 023-18-145

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$88,835.30 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

REPORTS
CAO Report

Administration provided various department updates, including:

- Summer positions are ending with the closure of the NLC and pool scheduled for the end of the month. The NLC was well attended this season with approx. 30-50 daily visitors.
- Rec Centre roof repairs are almost complete and Ski Chalet roof repairs are starting with an expected two-week turnaround for completion.
- There were several digs conducted to repair water leaks. With those complete the Water Operators are starting to flush lines and winterize hydrants.
- Phase 1 of the inground infrastructure project commenced last week on Tintina Way and should be completed by mid-October. There will also be lines run under the Alaska Highway for connection next year to Adela and Frank Trail.
- Frances Avenue lots have been cleared; Administration will provide an update on the Lift Station and municipal extension tenders once more information is received.
- Dry Hydrant testing will take place September 26th & 27th with Public Works assisting YG with flow testing.
- Public Works is preparing for the Public Waste Drop-off project, and Tetra-tech will be conducting ground testing, to ensure the site is prepared for project startup in the spring.
- The landscaping project inspection was completed by YG and they are following up with the contractor on a few deficiencies.

Policing Report
August 2023

Council was in receipt of the Policing Report for August. Council noted that the Detachment members have been very active and acknowledged their community involvement.

AYC Report

Councillors Paquette and Hanchar attended the third quarter AYC meetings in Carmacks and provided information to Council, including updates on AYC Resolutions, community landfill agreements, CMG review and discussions, Canoe Procurement, and a new AYC Travel Policy. Guest speakers attended to provide information to AYC members about a remote helicopter medivac concept. There were also discussions about the Town of Faro looking into the concept of "shadow population" and creating their own census due to so many people residing outside of municipality but working and utilizing amenities and facilities of the Town, on a regular basis. The 2024 AYC AGM will be held in Dawson City during the weekend of May 12th.

**Admin Report - Help & Hope for Families
Community Services Grant**

Council was in receipt of Admin Report 23-15, which described a request received from Help and Hope for Families, asking that the Town consider a late application for the Community Services Grant, which would forgive 50% of their annual property taxes for 2023. Council was not prepared to decide without first seeing the application and financials, as per the policy guidelines, which were not yet submitted by Help and Hope for Families. Council acknowledged that Administration provided ample reminders about the grant deadline and that the application was still outstanding and substantially late.

MOTION 023-18-146

Moved by Councillor Slager THAT:

Council accept Administration recommendation #1 to allow Help and Hope to complete the application with the required financial statements for review by Council and approve the grant. The remaining penalties and interest would be the responsibility of the Society.

- No Seconder -

MOTION 023-18-147

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council table Admin Report 23-15 to the October 3, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting and ask Help and Hope to provide their full application for further consideration.

- CARRIED -

**Admin Report
Lot 6, Block 65, Plan 98-114**

Council was in receipt of Admin Report 23-16 which provided an update on a complaint received against the occupant of Lot 6, Block 65, Plan 98-114. The report explained the actions that the Bylaw Officer had taken to date and that the investigation was ongoing.

MOTION 23-18-148

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

Administration keep Council reprimed of the ongoing investigation and provide the complainant with an update.

- CARRIED -

**Admin Report
Urban Visitor Signs**

Council was in receipt of Admin Report 23-17 regarding the urban visitor signs along the highway. The municipality took over the administration of the urban visitor sign program from the WL Chamber of Commerce and adopted their contract agreement and fee structure. Administration proposed that Council review the current program and fee structure and create and adopt a policy to govern the program. In the meantime, Administration would see to the removal of all existing signs and re-start the program in the spring.

MOTION 023-18-149

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council accept Administration's recommendation #1 that an Urban Visitor Sign Policy be drafted for Council's consideration and brought to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 3, 2023, and that signs in good condition remain up in the meantime.

- CARRIED -

BYLAWS

**Bylaw #18-12
Fire Protection & Life Safety Bylaw**

Council determined that there should be a review of the Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw 18-12, in conjunction with the review of the Volunteer Fire Department Bylaw.

MOTION 023-18-150

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Bylaw 18-12, being the Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw be introduced for First Reading.

- CARRIED -

**Bylaw 10-13
General Maintenance Bylaw**

General Maintenance Bylaw 10-13 was provided to Council for review, along with two examples of similar bylaws for reference, as it was determined that a review was necessary. Councillor Slager asked that Administration consider the northern culture and demographic of Watson Lake when compiling recommended amendments and finding similar bylaws for Council to compare. Mayor Irvin also suggested that there be community consultation done, perhaps by way of a Town Hall Meeting discussion.

MOTION 023-18-151

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Bylaw 10-13, being the General Maintenance Bylaw, be introduced for First Reading.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED

Health & Safety Community Meeting

Council discussed next steps in facilitating a health and safety community meeting and determined that Council will try to coordinate with a potential consultant, House of Wolf and Associates and the Safe Communities and Neighborhoods agency. Councillor Hanchar suggested that YG Health and Social Services also be invited to speak about the Yukon's substance use strategy. Council will work with Administration to determine a timeline, and if the timeline to have outside organizations attend the meeting is too far off, will coordinate something in the meantime.

Emergency Measures Meeting

Councillor Slager provided an update about the Emergency Measures Meeting that was held the previous week with various community stakeholders and community emergency response groups. The meeting was to discuss emergency response plans and the importance of collaboration between the various government organizations and communication to citizens. The meeting was well attended, and a follow-up meeting was scheduled to take place in January 2024 with quarterly meetings to follow thereafter. The goal is to have everyone review their Emergency Measures Plan in the meantime for further discussion and future planning.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Slager:

- Asked Administration if there were any bylaws in place to address residential security camera complaints or discrepancies regarding property fence ownership. Administration agreed to look further into Town bylaws and will provide Council with an answer at the next Council meeting.
- Inquired if additional kitchen supplies were purchased to accommodate the Rec Hall booking the following week. Administration shared that an order had been placed and will be followed up on.

Councillor Hanchar:

- Asked if there has been an invitation extended from Minister Mostyn's office to meet with Council. Mayor Irvin offered to reach out, as there was no engagement yet but there are important topics that Council wishes to discuss with the Minister.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-18-152

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



