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

MEETING NO. 23
December 5, 2023

ATTENDANCE
*Electronic attendance **

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

Administration
Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk
Joey Cherpin – Director of Protective Services

Delegation
Sgt. Cropper – RCMP
D. Stubenberg

Public
R. Wilkinson, J. Carlson*, B. Walters*
R. Allain*, P. McLeod*, A. Miller*
C. Craft*, J. Skelton*

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

AGENDA

MOTION 023-23-191

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Agenda be adopted with the amendment to move RCMP Delegation to #2.

- CARRIED -

DELEGATION
Sgt. Cropper - RCMP

Sgt. Cropper advised Council that the detachment is operating at a 55% staffing level due to two hard vacancies and two other members on leave. Cropper is hopeful that the vacant Corporal position will be filled by a senior member but in the meantime is looking to bring a new recruit in to assist.

There were two search warrants completed in Watson Lake. Drug enforcement continues to be a focus of the detachment and territory. Cropper is finding that members are being called to respond to things outside of their scope, such as EMS and Sheriff assists.

Members are involved with various community events and three members are coaching minor hockey.

MINUTES

MOTION 023-23-192

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Council meeting of November 21, 2023, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 023-23-193

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of $430,539.15 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council asked Administration to provide details on the payments to West Peaks, B. Sundby Electric, CIMCO, and Share Canada.

DELEGATION
D. Stubenberg – Zoning Bylaw

Dalyce Stubenberg brought forward a number of issues for Council's consideration:

Stubenberg addressed Council regarding a Development Permit application that was submitted for the placement of shipping containers on a residential property during construction, as per the letter sent to Council on December 1, 2023. Stubenberg explained that upon applying for the development permit, Bylaw denied it as submitted and limited the number of shipping containers, only approving the placement of one. Stubenberg was not satisfied with the decision and probed for further information, which Bylaw perceived as Stubenberg declining the permit. Stubenberg does not believe that Bylaw can limit the number of shipping containers on the property and would like the Zoning Bylaw amended to clearly state what is and is not allowed, eliminating Bylaw discretion.

Stubenberg addressed the Zoning Amendment application before Council, which, if approved, would change the zoning of 608 Eighth Street North from Institutional to Multi-Residential to allow for the construction of an apartment building. Stubenberg does not believe that the property in question is large enough for a six-unit apartment and feels that Frances Avenue is being targeted for high density housing despite the property owners in the neighborhood being opposed to and petitioning against multi-residential developments. Stubenberg also questioned the business practices of the developer who would be building the multi-residential unit if the zoning was amended. Stubenberg stated that Yukon Housing Corporation should be dealing with housing, not the municipality.

Stubenberg is requesting the property taxes be waived for her four lots owned on Eighth Street North. Stubenberg stated that the development of the Municipal Services Building caused flooding to the neighboring properties and is impairing the ability to develop on any of the properties. Stubenberg has been working with the municipality on a solution but does not feel that taxes should be charged in the meantime and asked

that the snow being pushed along the property line be moved. Stubenberg will provide a letter to the municipality formally requesting taxes be waived.

Mayor Irvin acknowledged Stubenberg's comments and advised that some time will be needed for Council and Administration to investigate further.

CORRESPONDENCE
Yukon Government
Welcome to Yukon Sign

Council was in receipt of a correspondence regarding a new Yukon sign at the border. The design was shared with Council and the gallery and Administration explained that the intention is to display Yukon art installations on the signs, which will be picked by regional committees. Administration will put a call-out for committee members.

REPORTS
CAO Report

Administration was in Whitehorse the previous week to attend a Sustainable Communities Forum hosted by Yukon government. Topics of discussion included emergency measures, asset management, and the Canada Community Build Fund.

The 2024 budgets have been a main focus of Administration, as well as compiling information obtained at the Town Hall Meeting for the bylaws being reviewed.

BYLAWS
General Maintenance & Nuisance
Bylaw 2023-011

Council received a lot of feedback on the General Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw during and following the Town Hall Meeting. Mayor Irvin read aloud all bylaw sections that were newly introduced along with comments received from the public and discussed each section in detail. Council also discussed the possibility of adding a section on feeding birds and other wildlife. Council committed to exploring solutions for snow removal and composting, which were two of the more complex topics within the bylaw and asked Administration to provide a separate bylaw to address the feeding of birds and other wildlife, which is to be introduced in January. Council noted that there was nothing in the Bylaw about nuisances but will give it more thought and provide direction to Administration on this. Administration was directed to make amendments as per Council's discussion and bring it back to Council at the January Committee of the Whole Meeting.

2024 Capital Budget
Bylaw 2023-014

Capital Budget Bylaw 2023-014 was before Council for Second Reading. The purpose of this bylaw being to adopt a three-year capital budget expenditure program. Administration explained that there was an update made under Protective Services for the purchase of structural protection units, based on a recommendation from the Canada Community Build Fund team, as this funding requirements may change and not allow for the purchase of these units in future years.

MOTION 023-23-194

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Bylaw 2023-014, being the Capital Budget Bylaw, be introduced for Second Reading.

- CARRIED -

2024 O&M Budget
Bylaw 2023-015

O&M Budget Bylaw 2023-015 was before Council for Second Reading. The purpose of this bylaw being to adopt an operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

MOTION 023-23-195

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Bylaw 2023-015, being the O&M Budget Bylaw, be introduced for Second Reading.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED
Fire Department Renumeration Policy

Joey Cherpin, the Director of Protective Services and Fire Chief of the Watson Lake Fire Department presented an Administrative Report with recommended changes to the Watson Lake Fire Department Renumeration Policy. Chief Cherpin would like to move to an hourly rate of pay tied to minimum wage and based on rank within the Department. Chief Cherpin explained that there is a disparity in pay versus experience in the current policy. Chief Cherpin would eventually like to implement strategies around on-call/radio pay so added a new section in the policy to address this. Council asked Chief Cherpin if the changes had been discussed with Department members. Discussions have started with senior members with plans to have a much more comprehensive discussion at an upcoming training session. The two Fire Department Bylaws and the Fire Department Renumeration policy will be presented at the January Committee of the Whole Council meeting for further consideration and discussion.

Arctic Inspiration Prize

The City of Whitehorse makes an annual contribution to the Arctic Inspiration Prize but had decided to scale back their donation and asked the other municipalities if they could contribute. Councillor Hanchar expressed support for an annual contribution from Watson Lake, contingent on the municipality having a surplus of funds and suggested that a donation of $1,000.00 be made this year.

MOTION 023-23-196

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council approve a donation in the amount of $1,000.00 to the Arctic Inspiration Prize.

- CARRIED -

Donation Request
Watson Lake Ski Hill Auction

Council was in receipt of a donation request from the Watson Lake Ski Club for their annual Ski Hill Auction fundraiser. Council decided that a cash or auction item donation was preferred to waiving facility rental costs.

MOTION 023-23-197

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Hanchar THAT:

Council provide a donation in the amount of $500.00 to the Watson Lake Ski Hill Auction.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Mayor Irvin:

- Advised Council of a meeting invite with Minister Mostyn. Council provided January 9th, 10th, or 11th for potential meeting dates, which Community Advisor, Riel Allain will organize with the Minister's office.

Councillor Paquette:

- Thanked the Town for the work clearing snow throughout the community.

Councillor Hanchar:

- Along with Councillor Paquette, provided an update on the quarterly AYC Meeting held on December 1st and 2nd. Topics of discussion included a new Yukon News reporter designated to communities, a review of the Cannabis Control and Regulations, an update on the Chiefs and Mayor Forum held previously, Federal funding streams, and inter-governmental relations.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

B. Walters:

- Agreed that feeding of the birds should be addressed in a bylaw.
- Regarding the General Maintenance Bylaw, asked why there are different rules for different properties regarding shipping containers.

J. Skelton:

- Expressed a dislike for the new Yukon sign design that was shared and prefers the old sign design.
- Believes that composting should be encouraged in the community.

A. Miller:

- Believes more thought needs to be put into snow removal in the General Maintenance Bylaw, particularly around instances when snow removal affects a neighboring property.

C. Craft:

- Asked if anyone from Watson Lake has benefited from the Arctic Inspiration Prize.

R. Wilkinson:

- Regarding the General Maintenance Bylaw, shared that they have composted for many years and has not had any issues with odors or attracting animals.
- Asked if the General Maintenance Bylaw will apply to staff as trees and roadways have been damaged by Town staff in the past.
- Encouraged Council to set aside reserve funds for the roadways as they are in very poor condition. Wilkinson acknowledged the work done on Tintina Way but pointed out the delays on the project.

D. Stubenberg:

- Noted the current cost of a Class 1 drivers licence and asked if Administration would consider covering this cost for members of the Fire Department.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 023-23-198

Moved by Councillor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -

Christopher Irvin – Mayor

Kaitlyn McCulloch – A/ Municipal Clerk