

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

**MEETING NO. 03
February 6, 2024**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

Christopher Irvin – Mayor *
Lauren Hanchar – D. Mayor/Councillor
Dale Burdes – Councillor *
Denina Paquette – Councillor *
Thomas Slager – Councillor

Delegation

Cst. O'Brien – RCMP

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public

M. Palmer	P. Carson	B. Whimp
J. Stackhouse	J. Carlson*	B. Walters*
T. Laking*	C. Craft*	L. Dicknoether
P. McLeod*	K. Haberstroh	D. Stone
D. Brodhagen		

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

AGENDA

MOTION 024-03-018

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Mayor Irvin THAT:

The Agenda be adopted with the amendment to move RCMP Delegation to #3.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 024-03-019

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Mayor Irvin THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Council meeting of January 16, 2024 be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

DELEGATION
Cst. O'Brien - RCMP

Cst. O'Brien is a new Member of the Watson Lake detachment and attended the meeting for an introduction to Council. Cst. O'Brien was previously stationed in Ross River and prior to that in southern Alberta. Cst. O'Brien has started volunteering with Minor Hockey. Council welcomed Cst. O'Brien.

PAYABLES

MOTION 024-03-020

Moved by Mayor Irvin, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$220,762.43 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on cancelled cheques listed on cheque register and on several of the payees listed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS
Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2024-03
KM 1023.5 Alaska Highway, Watson Lake

Deputy Mayor Hanchar stated the reason for the Public Hearing, being for the rezoning of the property listed as KM 1023.5 Alaska Highway, Watson Lake, from Rural Residential (RR) to Industrial (M2). Administration explained that there was public confusion about the property location listed on the Public Hearing ad because the Town listed the property address found on Title, which differs from actual Alaska Highway KM markers.

MOTION 024-03-021

Moved by Mayor Irvin, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Council open the Public Hearing to hear and consider all written and verbal comments regarding Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2024-03 for KM 1023.5 Alaska Highway, Watson Lake.

- CARRIED -

Administration advised Council there were no written comments received prior to the submission deadline, however one submission was received late. Administration asked Council if the late submission should be considered but Council decided to abide by the guidelines set and not accept the late submission. There were no comments from the Gallery.

MOTION 024-03-022

Moved by Mayor Irvin, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Being there no further comments the Public Hearing be closed.

- CARRIED -

**Conditional Use Application
Kaska F.R. LTD.**

A Conditional Use Application was received from Kaska F.R. LTD. requesting that a portion of their property located at 120 Auburn Drive be used as a gravel pit during the development of the Frances Avenue lot development.

MOTION 024-03-023

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council open the Public Hearing to hear and consider all verbal and written comments regarding the Conditional Use Application from Kaska F.R. LTD.

- CARRIED -

Administration shared that there were no written submissions received and explained that Administration had no concerns with the proposed use as there was a test done on site which came back compliant. No comments from the Gallery.

MOTION 024-03-024

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Mayor Irvin THAT:

Being there no further comments the Public Hearing be closed.

- CARRIED -

**REPORTS
CAO Report**

CAO Lockwood provided the following updates to Council:

- Supervisor training took place earlier in the week with a focus on administrative duties such as report writing and performance evaluations.
- Administration has been working on contract documents for upcoming procurements for capital budget purchases.
- CAO reports will move to a written format at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 5, 2024.

Q4 Department Reports

Council was in receipt of the 2023 Department Reports for the fourth quarter. Council commended Town staff for well written concise reports and noted the progress made in this area. Councillor Slager expressed concern with a governor being set in the new fire trucks, which Administration explained is still being discussed with YG and RCMP and yet to be decided. Administration also addressed Councillor Burdes' question about why the Parks

and Rec Department Report not provided; Administration will send the report to Council once available.

BYLAWS

Feeding of Wild Birds and Animals Bylaw 2024-02

The amended Draft Feeding of Wild Birds and Animals Bylaw was before Council for review. Council expressed satisfaction with the draft bylaw amendments and Administration's recommendation to have legal review it to ensure it is enforceable, prior to it being introduced for Second Reading.

Fees and Charges Bylaw Bylaw 2022-08

Council was in receipt of an Administrative Report asking for an annual review of Fees and Charges Bylaw 202-08 to address fees currently missing from Schedule "A" and to consider recommended changes. Council asked that a draft bylaw be introduced for First Reading and discussion at the February 20, 2024 Council meeting.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

There were no questions or comments from Council.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

M. Palmer:

- Expressed concern with the draft Feeding of Wild Birds and Animals Bylaw, particularly the section that states that spilt bird seed must be cleaned up, as many songbirds will only feed off of the ground. Palmer does not believe that birdseed on the ground is a major attractant of other wildlife.

P. Carson:

- Expressed concern with the Feeding of Wild Birds and Animals Bylaw. Carson explained how intelligent ravens are and the unique relationship that they have with humans, and believes that due to this, ravens should not be considered 'wild' animals. Carson does not believe that it is in the Town's best interest to monitor the feeding of wild birds and expressed concern with the potential fines and enforcement. Carson proposed a solution to create a sanctuary where bird enthusiasts and tourists could view and feed ravens to reduce nuisance situations within the municipality.

P. McLeod:

- Asked if the Town knew why there were red crosses spray painted in the snow around the community. One potential explanation provided was that it could be ATCO mapping out transformers.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 024-03-025

Moved by Mayor Irvin, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Council move to an In-Camera meeting.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 024-03-026

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council revert back to an open meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 024-03-027

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Mayor Irvin THAT:

Being there no further business to discuss that the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Deputy Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



