

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

**MEETING NO. 06
March 19, 2024**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

Lauren Hanchar – Deputy Mayor

Christopher Irvin – Mayor *

Dale Burdes – Councillor

Denina Paquette – Councillor

Thomas Slager – Councillor

Delegation

Randy Mitton – Yukon Wildland Fire

Tyson Cole – Yukon Wildland Fire

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer

Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public

J. Bruce P. Agana* C. Craft*

J. Stackhouse*

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

AGENDA

MOTION 024-06-049

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 024-06-050

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 5, 2024 be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 024-06-051

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Mayor Irvin THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$221,889.66 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on the payment to Yukon Government, Community Services.

DELEGATION

Yukon Wildland Fire Management

Randy Mitton and Tyson Cole of Yukon Wildland Fire Management provided a briefing document to Council and spoke to and answered questions about the information provided. Council was provided updates on how wildland fire priorities are set, the Cross Border Response Agreement with BC, 2024 staffing, the draft Community Wildland Protection Plan, Fire Smart initiatives, prescribed fires, cross-training opportunities with the Watson Lake Volunteer Fire Department, burn permitting, community outreach and relations, emergency planning and preparedness, and the 2024 season forecast. Council expressed the desire to receive regular updates from Wildland Fire; Mitton and Cole committed to providing regular updates during the off-season and possibly attending Council meetings on a regular basis, and explained ways that Council could stay informed during fire season.

TENDERS

**Tender Award Recommendation
RFT 2024-01 Crawler Loader**

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report and recommendation for the award of contract for the purchase of a new crawler loader for landfill operations. The crawler loader purchase was approved in the 2023 Capital Budget, from Gas Tax funding in the amount of \$528,000.00. Two compliant bids were received upon tender closing. Administration recommended that Council approve the lowest bid from Brandt Tractor for the purchase and delivery price of \$462,950.00 plus GST. Administration confirmed that the old landfill excavator will go to the Public Works Department.

MOTION 024-06-052

Moved by Mayor Irvin, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council accept the bid from Brandt Tractor for the supply and delivery of one John Deere crawler loader for the amount of \$462,950.00 plus GST.

- CARRIED -

**Tender Award Recommendation
RFP 2024-02 Pickup Truck Upfitted for Fire Command**

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report and recommendation for the award of contract for the purchase of a new three-quarter ton pickup truck, upfitted for Fire Command unit. The pick-up truck purchase was approved in the 2024 Capital Budget, from own funds, for \$115,000.00. Four bids were received upon tender closing, all of which came in over budget. Administration made the recommendation to award the contract to the lowest bidder, Whitehorse Motors Ltd., for the purchase and delivery price of \$124,657.32 plus GST. Council sought clarification on how the purchase would affect the overall budget and how the shortfall would be managed. Administration expressed concern that republishing the tender could result in higher bids, and that revising specifications would result in a truck

that does not meet the department's needs. Administration assured Council that the extra funds would be managed internally and would not require going into reserves.

MOTION 024-06-053

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Mayor Irvin THAT:

Council accept the bid from Whitehorse Motors Ltd. for the supply and delivery of a three quarter ton pickup truck upfitted for Fire Department Command unit for the amount of \$124,657.32 plus GST.

- CARRIED -

BYLAWS

**Second Reading of Fees and Charges
Amendment Bylaw 2024-04**

The draft Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2024-04 was before Council for Second Reading. Administration provided three different non-profit discount rates for consideration and brought attention to other minor changes made since First Reading. Council expressed support for a forty percent discount for non-profit facility rentals and asked for clarification on other fees. Council asked that Administration investigate the large BBQ listed to ensure it is not the Fire Dept's.

MOTION 024-06-054

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Mayor Irvin THAT:

Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2024-04, with a forty percent non-profit discount on regular facility rental rates, be introduced for Second Reading.

- CARRIED -

**Third and Final Reading of
Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2024-03**

The draft Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2024-03 was before Council for Third and Final Reading. The purpose of the bylaw is to rezone the property located at lot 1055, block 105A/2, Watson Lake, registered to Levich Holdings, from Rural Residential (RR), to Industrial, General (M2).

MOTION 024-06-055

Moved by Mayor Irvin, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2024-03 be introduced for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED
Draft Watson Lake Fire Department
Remuneration Policy 2024-01

Councillor Paquette declared a Conflict of Interest.

The draft Watson Lake Fire Department Remuneration Policy 2024-01 was before Council for review. The policy will see a new self-indexing pay structure based on department rank be implemented.

MOTION 024-06-056

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Mayor Irvin THAT:

The Watson Lake Fire Department Remuneration Policy 2024-01 be adopted.

- CARRIED -

Urban Visitor Sign Program
Policy 2024-02

The draft Urban Visitor Sign Program Policy 2024-02 was before Council for review. This policy will set guidelines and process for commercial highway advertisement signs along the Alaska Highway corridor into Watson Lake. Administration explained the minor changes made to the policy since Council's last review, which were discussed and agreed upon.

MOTION 024-06-057

Moved by Mayor Irvin, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The Urban Visitor Sign Program Policy 2024-02 be adopted.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Burdes:

- Asked if Liard First Nation had been in contact with the Town about their recent announcement about capturing loose dogs and if said dogs would be brought to the Town's Dog Pound. Administration shared that there has been no communication with Liard First Nation regarding the issue and without a formal agreement, the Town is not prepared to accept dogs captured by LFN. The Town's pound has been operating at high capacity by dogs captured within the municipality. Mayor Irvin asked Administration if LFN had authority to patrol within the municipality, aside from LFN areas, which they do not.

Irvin:

- Asked Administration if there was an update on whether YG properties assessment values increased, as all other properties within Watson Lake had. Administration is following up with YG as it appeared that they had not increased by the same rate as privately owned properties.

- Inquired on the status of the funding application that was submitted for a new sanitary dump station. Administration advised Council that the application had been denied but a new application would be submitted to CDF during the next intake.

Paquette:

- Asked if there was an update on the Welcome to Yukon sign replacement project. Administration shared that Tiffany Lund was on the review board and no information has been made public yet.

Hanchar:

- Advised Council that proposed AYC resolutions had to be received by April 1st. Hanchar asked if Council would be in support of a resolution that advocated for increased capacity at YG's EMO department or if there were other ideas from Council. Some ideas discussed were lobbying for improved services from EMS, allowing Permanent Residents to vote, or supporting resolutions that other communities are putting forward.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 024-06-058

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council move to an In-Camera meeting.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 024-06-059

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council revert back to an open meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 024-06-060

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

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

- CARRIED -



Christopher Irvin – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



