

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

**MEETING NO. 23
November 17, 2024**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

Lauren Hanchar – Mayor
Thomas Slager – Councillor
Denina Paquette – Councillor
Norma Puckett – Councillor

Delegation

Graham White – Elevator Yukon *
Randy Mitton – Wildland Fire Management

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public

C. Ellis	K. Durocher *	P. Agana
J. Rooney *	R. Wilkinson	B. Isbester *
S. Seitz *	D. Burdes *	C. Irvin *

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

AGENDA

MOTION 024-023-180

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 024-023-181

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

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

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 024-023-182

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$403,443.56 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on payables for Whitehorse Motors, Norcope Construction, Arc Angel Fireworks, Challenger Geomatics, and Crystal Clean Tank Cleaning.

DELEGATION
Randy Mitton
Wildland Fire Management

Randy Mitton of Wildland Fire Management presented to Council on wildfire management and response in the Watson Lake region, providing in depth information about various aspects of their department including, fire fighter and management positions and crews stationed in the region, wildfire preparedness, detection, fire bans, training standards, cross training and partnerships, resource sharing agreements, vegetation management, and community planning. Mitton shared that there were 13 fires in the Watson Lake region in 2024, resulting in 9 full responses and less than 1000 hectares of forest burned. There are fire smarting initiatives planned around the community with high priority areas identified west of Watson Lake. Focuses moving forward for the Watson Lake region are community emergency planning and education with continued work going into fire smarting and creating fuel breaks. Mitton's department is planning a community Town Hall meeting in the new year to share information with community members and will continue to work with the Town and other community stakeholders on emergency planning and incident command. Council sought clarification on the Fire Smarting initiatives under way and the various funding received for this. Mitton gave permission for the presentation deck to be shared with the public.

REPORTS
Admin Report – Housing Accelerator Fund
Vacant & Underutilized Property Incentive

Councillor Slager declared a conflict of interest and left Council Chambers.

Graham White of Elevator Yukon presented a draft policy for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Vacant and Underutilized Property Incentive Program. White provided background information on the five HAF initiatives and the progress made to date. The HAF initiative before Council has a budget of \$400,000 and will provide grants for housing development on eligible underutilized properties, including demolition and cleanup of properties. Once the draft policy is adopted, White and team will work on a communication strategy and application process, with the goal of opening applications in the spring of 2025. The policy will be before Council for adoption at the December Council Meeting.

TENDERS
RFQ 2024-05
Fuel Cardlock Tender

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report with a contract award recommendation for the Town's fuel cardlock service. Two bids were received and Administration recommended that the contract be awarded to Dall Contracting Ltd. based on the lower rack rates for gasoline and diesel.

MOTION 024-023-183

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council accept the bid from Dall Contracting LTD. for the supply of fuel cardlock services for a one year contract term.

- CARRIED -

BYLAWS

Business Grant Bylaw 18-10 Review

Business Grant Bylaw 18-10 was before Council for review, along with implementation background information, as requested at the previous Council Meeting. The bylaw was put into place to increase tax revenue for non-residential properties, without affecting local business property owners. Council was satisfied with the information provided and decided that no action was needed.

**First Reading of 2024 Capital Budget
Amendment Bylaw 2024-010**

The purpose of the 2024 Capital Budget Amendment Bylaw 2024-010 is to amend the 2024 Capital Budget to reflect actual income and expenditure amounts for the fiscal year.

MOTION 024-023-184

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The 2024 Capital Budget Amendment Bylaw be introduced for First Reading.

- CARRIED -

The 2024 Capital Budget Amendment Bylaw 2024-010 will be before Council for discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 3, 2024.

NEW & UNFINISHED
**Donation Request – Humane
Society Yukon**

Council was in receipt of a donation request from the Humane Society Yukon, which Council discussed at the November Committee of the Whole Meeting. Council expressed support for providing a donation, as the Humane Society has worked closely with the municipality to take animals out of the community and rehome them, reducing Town expenses for their care.

MOTION 024-023-185

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

A donation be made to the Humane Society Yukon in the amount of \$2,000.00, from Council's Community Partnership budget.

- CARRIED -

**Donation Request
Watson Lake Ski Club**

Council was in receipt of a donation request from the Watson Lake Ski Club for their annual Ski Hill Auction event, which Council discussed at the November Committee of the Whole Meeting. The annual auction is the WL Ski Clubs biggest fundraiser, with all money made going toward the annual operations of Mt. Maichen.

MOTION 024-023-186

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

A donation be made to the WL Ski Club in the amount of \$500.00, from the Council Public Relations budget for the Annual Ski Hill Auction.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hanchar:

- Asked for an update on the Town Emergency Measures Plan. Administration explained that Fire Chief Smith has continued working on the document and that incident command and emergency evacuation training is being organized to take place in 2025.
- Inquired when the new Council would start Strategic Planning sessions. Administration confirmed that planning could start as early as January 2025.
- Asked when a meeting would be set for the 2025 capital and O&M budgets. A preliminary O&M Budget will be presented to Council at the December Regular Meeting for approval, followed by capital and O&M budget sessions in the new year. A Town Hall Meeting will also be scheduled to present the draft budgets to the public for input.
- Advised that Mayor and Council are attending training and AYC meetings in Whitehorse November 29th to December 1st.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 024-023-187

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council move to an In-Camera Meeting to discuss a contract matter.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 024-023-186

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council revert to an Open Meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

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

- CARRIED -



Thomas Slager – Deputy Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



