

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

**MEETING NO. 05
March 4, 2025**

ATTENDANCE

Lauren Hanchar – Mayor
Denina Paquette – Councillor
Norma Puckett – Councillor
William Whimp – Councillor

Administration
Shannon Bergeron – A/CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Regrets

Thomas Slager – Councillor
Cam Lockwood – CAO

Public

J. Carlson * P. Agana C. Ellis
C. Quinn * A. Miller *

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

MOTION 025-05-030

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Agenda be adopted with the amendment to add, under New & Unfinished, Change of Council Meeting Date.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 025-05-031

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Council meeting of February 18, 2025, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 025-05-032

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$173,480.30 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification several payables including those to BDO Canada LLP, Catalis PWE, Association of Yukon Communities, Borealis Fuels and Logistics, HVACtech Systems, and Spectrum Security.

NEW & UNFINISHED
Comprehensive Municipal Grant

The Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) advocated on behalf of all Yukon communities for a review of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG), as municipalities felt that the grant no longer met the needs of communities and growing costs. A task force was formed to conduct the review and recommendations were brought forward to Yukon Government for consideration during 2025 budgetary processes. Mayor Hanchar read aloud the correspondence from Minister Mostyn, which shared that the task force work was complete and that enhancements were made to the CMG based on the recommendations. As a result of the enhancements, an additional \$3.41 million will be added to the grant in 2025, bringing the total for the eight municipalities to a level 20% higher than in 2024. Mayor Hanchar noted that although not all task force recommendations were addressed, AYC is pleased with the favorable grant increase.

2025 O&M Budget Bylaw 2025-02

The 2025 O&M Budget Bylaw 2025-02 was before Council for discussion prior to Third and Final Reading. Amendments made since Second Reading included an increase to income lines to capture increases to the Comprehensive Municipal Grant and property tax income, as well a change in the amount transferring to capital expenditures. The bylaw will be before Council for Third and Final Reading at the following Regular Council Meeting.

2025 Capital Budget Bylaw 2025-01

The 2025 Capital Budget Bylaw 2025-01 was before Council for discussion prior to Third and Final Reading. Amendments made since Second Reading included the increased transfer from O&M and moving the Fire Department SCBA equipment purchase from 2026 expenses to 2025. The Director of Protective Services provided background information and rationale for the recommended change to the SCBA expenditure. The bylaw will be before Council for Third and Final Reading at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Animal Control Bylaw 2024-011

Council was provided with an Admin Report which provided recommended amendments to the Animal Control Bylaw. With public engagement complete, Administration asked for Council to provide direction for the proposed amendments. Council expressed support for the proposed amendments, noting that the new sections addressing bee apiaries and poultry, ducks, and livestock be carefully considered with property size and zoning factored in. Administration will bring the amended bylaw before Council at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting for further discussion prior to Second Reading.

Business Licence Bylaw 2024-09

Council was provided with an Admin Report which provided recommended amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw. Council expressed support for most of the proposed amendments but asked that Administration be mindful to not complicate processes or discourage business activities in the sections that address minor business activities and multiple businesses operating out of one location. Councillor Puckett suggested that a section be added that requires contractors conducting work on public lands to provide the Town with proof of liability insurance and that such insurance be made payable to the Town. Administration will bring the amended bylaw before Council at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting for further discussion prior to Second Reading.

AYC Resolutions

Mayor Hanchar asked that Council contemplate resolutions to bring forward for consideration at the upcoming Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) annual general meeting. Mayor Hanchar asked Council to consider resolutions that address extending RCMP postings, prolific offender programs, on-demand utility charges, and additional costs that municipalities may incur enforcing the *Animal Control and Protection Act*. Councillor Paquette asked for the consideration of a resolution to address the lack of veterinary care in communities. Council will discuss AYC resolutions further at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Change to Meeting Date

Mayor Hanchar proposed a change of date for the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for March 18, 2025. Mayor Hanchar will be away at the FCM Conference that week and asked that the meeting be moved to March 11, 2025.

MOTION 025-05-033

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Regular Council Meeting of March 18, 2025 be moved to March 11, 2025.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Paquette:

- Asked if there was an update on the Housing First project and who will be managing the program once construction is complete.

Councillor Whimp:

- Brought forward a traffic safety concern at the Dall Contracting property on Frank Trail. Due to the high volume of commercial vehicles and equipment that refuel at the Dall pumps, there are often access issues. Overflow vehicles park outside of the property blocking roads and accessways.

Councillor Puckett:

- Asked if non-resident user fees are different from resident fees. The topic will be discussed further during the review of the Fees and Charges Bylaw.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

C. Quinn:

- Explained new role as the YG Community Advisor for Watson Lake and shared plans to visit the community in April for formal introductions and discussions.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 025-05-034

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council move to an In-Camera meeting.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 025-05-035

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council revert back to an open meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 025-05-036

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

There being no further business to discuss that the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

