

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

MEETING NO. 06
March 11, 2025

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration
Cam Lockwood, CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Regrets

Thomas Slager – Councillor

Public

J. Carlson *	P. Agana	J. Madera *
C. Craft *	J. Smith *	

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

MOTION 025-06-037

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 025-06-038

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The draft minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 4, 2025, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 025-06-039

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$138,158.89 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification several payables including those to Watson Lake Foods, Bee Jay's Towing, and Industrial Alliance and Financial Services Inc. Councillor Paquette asked why there were multiple cheque re-issued, which Administration explained was to replace stale-dated cheques issued in 2024.

REPORTS

RFT 2024-03 Supply and Delivery Of Two Fire Apparatuses

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report which included background information and contract award recommendations for RFT 2024-03 for the supply and delivery of two fire apparatuses for the Watson Lake Fire Department. One bid was received by Acres Industries in the amount of \$2,031,226.60; over budget by \$351,226.60. Council discussed the need for new fire apparatuses due to the department's current apparatuses age, condition, and NFPA standards. Administration also noted that the Town currently uses a YG Pumper apparatus to compliment its fleet, however this apparatus is on lease and the current MOU has expired.

Administration recommended that Council accept the bid from Acres Industries for the purchase of two apparatuses through Gas Tax Funding. Administration expressed concern with waiting and re-tendering the apparatuses in 6-12 months in fear that costs will continue to rise.

MOTION 025-06-040

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council accept the bid from Acres Industries in the amount of \$2,031,226.60 for the purchase of one pumper apparatus and one rescue apparatus as specified in RFT 2024-03.

- CARRIED -

BYLAWS

Third & Final Reading of Property Tax Levy Bylaw 2025-03

Property Tax Levy Bylaw 2025-03 was before Council for Third and Final Reading. The bylaw reflected a 1% property tax levy increase for residential, non-residential and vacant commercial properties.

MOTION 025-06-041

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Property Tax Levy Bylaw 2025-03 be introduced for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

**Third & Final Reading of
O&M Budget Bylaw 2025-02**

O&M Budget Bylaw 2025-02 was before Council for Third and Final Reading. No further changes were made to the bylaw since Council's last review and discussion.

MOTION 025-06-042

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

O&M Budget Bylaw 2025-02 be introduced for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

**Third & Final Reading of
Capital Budget Bylaw 2025-01**

Capital Budget Bylaw 2025-01 was before Council for Third and Final Reading. Amendments made since Second Reading included SCBA units being moved to the 2025 expenditure line and an addition of Sani-dump Installation added as a 2025 expenditure in the amount of \$12,500.00 from Town's Own Funds expense line.

MOTION 025-06-043

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Capital Budget Bylaw 2025-01 be introduced for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

**NEW & UNFINISHED
AYC Resolutions**

Mayor Hanchar proposed four resolutions in principle, to go before AYC for consideration:

Resolution #1 – RCMP Staffing in Rural Yukon. The purpose of the resolution is to help address RCMP detachment staffing challenges in communities by proposing that the Department of Justice allows suitable community postings to be extended if there is support from municipal and first nation governments, and the community.

Resolution #2 – On-demand Energy Charges to Yukon Communities. The purpose of the resolution is to propose that the Yukon Utilities Board re-assess and potentially remove on-demand energy charges that are charged to municipalities to off-set other shortfalls.

Resolution #3 – Sharing of Information for Prolific and High-Risk Offenders. The purpose of the resolution is to propose that Yukon government legislation be amended to allow for the sharing of information between agencies to allow for case

managements planning and to provide holistic approaches when dealing with high-risk offenders within the justice system.

Resolution #4 – Yukon Government *Animal Protection and Control Act*. The purpose of the resolution is to urge the Yukon government to create procedures and processes and to staff the positions that are required under the Act.

Council discussed the four resolution proposals in detail and provided support, in principle, for Mayor Hanchar to bring the resolutions forward for consideration by the AYC Board.

MOTION 025-06-044

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council approve the four AYC resolutions in principle to be brought forward to the AYC Board of Directors for further consideration.

- 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. Administration has reached out for an update, but no response has been received to date. Administration also provided an update on the Frances Avenue subdivision development and explained that pressure has been applied to the Yukon government to get the lots available for sale.

Councillor Puckett:

- Asked if the Housing Accelerator Fund grants could be stacked with other funding.

Mayor Hanchar:

- Will be attending the FCM spring board meetings in Quebec next week on behalf of AYC.
- Advised Council of the quarterly AYC board meeting that Mayor Hanchar and Councillor Paquette attended. Topics of discussion included the territorial election, advocacy points and the impact of tariffs on municipalities. There were also presentations from Minister Mostyn, other party leaders and the Yukon Employee's Union.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 025-06-045

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

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

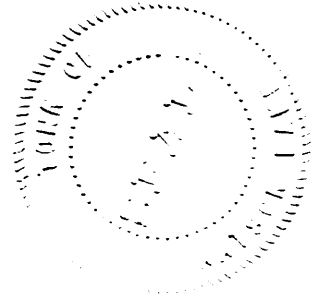
- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



References

1. *Pharmaceutical industry* – The pharmaceutical industry is the largest of the three industries, with sales of \$10.5 billion in 1997. It is the only industry that has a significant presence in all three markets.

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