

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

MEETING NO. 11
June 3, 2025

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration

Shannon Bergeron – A/CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Absent

William Whimp – Councillor

Delegation

Peter Skerget – Animal Control Bylaw

Public

J. Carlson * P. Agana C. Craft *

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

MOTION 025-011-086

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 025-011-087

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of May 20, 2025, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 025-011-088

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$186,248.83 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification several payables including those to Olde Tyme Construction, IG Wealth Management, First Due, and Gisler Building Construction.

DELEGATION

Peter Skerget
Animal Control Bylaw

Peter Skerget presented to Council to ask that there be further consideration for addressing cats running at large within the Animal Control Bylaw. The current bylaw and proposed changes under the new draft bylaw, treat cats the same as dogs running at large. Skerget believes that cats should be returned home rather than impounded, and that the responsibility to keep roaming cats from entering a property should fall on the property owner and not the cat owner. Skerget gave several examples of other municipalities that do not capture cats running at large. Council thanked Skerget for presenting and agreed to further consider how cats are handled within the Animal Control Bylaw. The bylaw is currently under review and will go before Council, with amendments, at the Regular Council meeting of June 17th.

REPORTS

CAO Report

Council was in receipt of a CAO Report, which Administration read aloud (attached). In addition to the updates provided in the report, Administration provided updates as follows:

- The Dennis Ball Pool is open and has been well attended. Registration has been filling up for swimming lessons, swim team, and bronze cross and bronze medallion certifications.
- The Rec Centre is offering an after-school program for children and will be facilitating a Summer Adventure Program once school ends.
- Fitness programs are ongoing and have had good attendance.

Admin Report **Flag Protocol Policy**

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report regarding a flag protocol policy. Administration sought Council feedback on the location of two new flagpoles, the proposed use of the flagpoles and highway flags. Council asked that one additional flagpole be installed at the Town Office alongside the three current flagpoles, to permanently fly the Liard First Nation Flag with other government flags. Council asked that the second flagpole be installed in a separate area at the Town Office for special interest/special occasion flags. Council would like the policy to include guidelines for highway corridor signs in addition to general guidelines and processes.

BYLAWS

Fees and Charges **Amendment Bylaw 2025-04**

Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2025-04 was before Council for further discussion. Council discussed Landfill scrap metal tipping fees and cemetery fees,

ultimately deciding to leave cemetery fees as is and increase scrap metal tipping fees to better align with other Yukon municipalities. The Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw will be before Council for Third and Final Reading once the draft business licence bylaw has had further readings, as fees may be added in the business licence fee section.

Building Commitment Restriction Bylaw 2025-05

Building Commitment Restriction Bylaw 2025-05 was before Council for discussion. Mayor Hanchar explained the purpose of the bylaw, being to formally impose building commitment timelines for properties purchased from Yukon government. There were no questions or comments from Council. The bylaw will be before Council for Second and Third readings at the Regular Council meeting of June 17, 2025.

Business Licence Bylaw 2025-06

Business Licence Bylaw 2025-06 was before Council for discussion. Council discussed several of the recommended amendments, including:

- adding a new section to require secondary business licences for businesses that operate different types of business activities from the same facility. Council expressed support for this but would like the secondary licence fee to be significantly lower than a primary licence fee;
- adding a requirement for organizers of markets/craft fairs to require a vendor licence, however not requiring a licence for all individual vendors;
- adding a section requiring proof of liability insurance for certain business activities operating on public lands; and,
- adding a section that lists excluded business types from requiring a licence;
- including a minor business activity licence for artists, makers, small home-based businesses, etc.

Council expressed support for the recommended amendments, but asked that fees for secondary licences, minor business activity licences, vendor licences and minor home-based businesses be kept low. The draft bylaw will be before Council for Second reading at the Regular Council meeting of June 17, 2025.

First & Second Reading of Community Services Grant Bylaw 2025-07

Community Services Grant Bylaw 2025-07 and Admin Report with application details and grant approval recommendations were before Council for First and Second Readings. The purpose of the bylaw is to provide property tax grants to eligible non-profit organizations. There were no questions or comments from Council.

MOTION 2025-011-089

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Community Services Grant Bylaw 2025-07be introduced for First and Second Readings.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hanchar:

- Provided a brief update on the FCM Conference that Mayor Hanchar and Councillor Slager attended. There were presentations on tariffs, rural infrastructure, wildfire and emergency management, and housing, among other topics. Next year's conference is in Edmonton and Mayor Hanchar asked Council to give some thought to attending.
- Advised Council that the June 16th meeting with Minister Mostyn had been cancelled, however, Administration is confirming if the Department of Justice is available to meet that day instead.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

Patrick Agana:

- Asked if the flag protocol policy would include flag raising ceremony guidelines for special interests and how requests would be prioritized. Council expressed their intent to include such guidelines and perhaps including important community initiatives or dates on an annual schedule.

Janice Carlson:

- Commented that special interest flags should be removed after a specific timeframe and not left up until a new request is received.

Colleen Craft:

- Asked if all of France Avenue would be resurfaced. Council did not have an answer but will follow up with Administration.
- Suggested that the Town look into funding solutions for those who need financial assistance for cemetery fees.
- Asked that the Liard First Nation flag be permanently flown at the Town Office.
- Suggested special interest flags be flown at the Northern Lights Centre.
- Would like to see the highway flags be country flags only.
- Asked if the Rec Centre could get a large Canada Flag available to rent to the public.

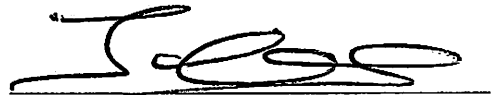
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 025-011-090

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

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

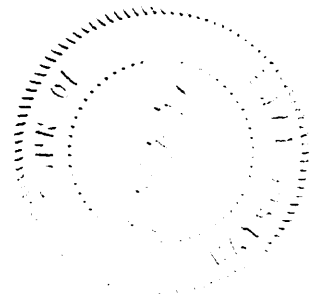
- CARRIED -

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Slager', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Slager – Deputy Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany Lund', written over a horizontal line.

Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk





CAO REPORT

PREPARED BY: Cam Lockwood

REPORT DATE: 2025-06-02

Project Updates:

Infrastructure: The inground infrastructure work is wrapping up and Norcope is dealing with project deficiencies.

The tender is currently open for the installation of the BST on Francis Avenue and the areas dug up during the inground infrastructure work.

We are currently waiting on a response from Ottawa on application for Phase 1B to Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.

YG has applied to ICIP for Phase 1C with their proposed work starting in 2027, the application is currently in Ottawa for review and approval.

Rec Centre Renovations: Administration and YG have submitted on a funding application through the federal Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program. This funding provides up to \$25 million in funding. Initial review of the building assessment has the full renovation at approximately \$55 million, however the high priority issues would be fully addressed if we received the GICB funding. This application was submitted on October 15th, and we have not heard anything from Ottawa.

HVAC: Budget Heating is planning on starting the work in July and proposed to be completed by November. The work will replace all the Rec Centre HVAC, Admin air handlers and NLC unit heaters.

Dry Hydrants: Administration is researching funding options to be presented to Council later this year. However, if funding is located the environmental assessment could take up to a year, so this would be a 2026 budget item.

Francis Avenue: Administration was briefed by YG and they have completed lot appraisal comparisons. They have prepared a submission to go to the Government Management Board to set the final lot purchase prices. They are still waiting for an installation date from ATCO for the power. Substantial completion of the lift station is currently scheduled for the week of June 16th.

Water Treatment Plant Boilers: The boilers are currently being installed.

Cemetery: The work is currently underway to complete the new plots and landscaping with work scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.

Playgrounds: The work is slated to be completed this spring summer; staff have been meeting with the Contractor. Work on the dog park will be completed this summer.

Rec Centre Backup Boilers: Administration is still working with the engineers on the design for the system which will then produce the tender documents. Administration is currently working with FCM on a funding stream that starts in July, which could potentially free up CCBF money for other projects.

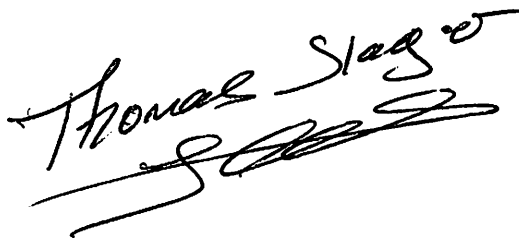
Flag Poles: Administration has ordered the new flag poles and Council has a new flag policy and questions before you regarding the location for the new poles.

Wye Lake Trail / Sign Post Forest Trail: Our environmental assessment has been completed by YESAB with only two minor conditions being recommended. Our consultants conducted oxygen level testing and eDNA sampling, which confirmed that Wye Lake is not a fish bearing water. The results have been forwarded to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, who responded confirming the results. Our application for the Active Transportation Fund is currently under review. Once funding is confirmed permit applications will be submitted.

Dump Truck Incident: The insurance adjustment has been completed and arrangements are being made to send to truck to Prince George for repairs.

Force Main: A scoping project is going to take place this fall to determine the condition and location of our sewer force main which runs from the lift station to the septage receiving station. This project is being funded by YG.

HAF: Work on the banking/mortgage initiative is underway with a report slated to be presented at the June 17th Council meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas Slagter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the name.