

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

MEETING NO. 16
October 21, 2025

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration

Cam Lockwood– CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public

P. Agana	M. Palmer *	C. Ellis
B. Walters *	C. Craft *	L. Dicknoether
P. McLeod *	C. Irvin *	D. Stubenberg

Delegation

Jordan Cropper – RCMP
Jordan Stackhouse – Elevator Yukon

*Electronic attendance **

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mayor Hanchar.

AGENDA

MOTION 025-016-133

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The draft agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 025-016-134

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Council Meeting of September 23, 2025, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 025-016-135

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$280,349.98 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on payables to Olde Tyme Construction, Union Tractor Ltd., North Lynx Inc., Terus Construction Ltd., and a foreign transaction on the Visa statement.

DELEGATION
RCMP – Policing Updates

Sgt. Cropper provided Council with policing updates, including detachment staffing and community involvement. Cropper acknowledged that file numbers were up over last year, partly due to traffic initiatives. Drug related files decreased over last year, however there are still active investigations underway. Drug enforcement and interception will be an ongoing focus for the next quarter. Council inquired about the working relationship between RCMP and SCAN Officers, shared the AYC Resolutions pertaining to the Justice Department and RCMP that were pursued, and asked if staffing numbers were adequate for community needs.

CORRESPONDENCE
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Canada Post Mandate Review

Council received correspondence from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers advising that the Federal Government is planning a Canada Post mandate review and asking that Mayor and Council adopt a resolution to request a delay in the review and for a fully transparent and public process. Council discussed the importance of mail service in the north and the limited alternative options and expressed support for passing a resolution. Council asked Administration to provide resolution examples for consideration.

MOTION 025-016-136

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council table the adoption of a Canada Post mandate review resolution to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 4, 2025.

- CARRIED -

Halton Region – Request for Resolution
Regarding Public Safety Requirements
to Protect Communities

Council received correspondence from the Regional Municipality of Halton asking that Mayor and Council adopt a resolution that calls on the Government of Canada to prioritize and expedite the introduction of Bill C-48, which aims to strengthen community safety through reforms to the Criminal Code related to bail and sentencing. CAO Lockwood explained that Bill C-48 had been passed and is being followed up on closely by FCM on behalf of municipalities across Canada. Mayor and Council wish to send a letter in support of Halton Region and FCM's lobbying efforts.

REPORTS
CAO Report

Council was provided with a CAO Report which Administration read aloud (attached). Administration also provided updates on the following:

- Administration is awaiting funding decisions on multiple federal funding applications, which will not be made until after government budget announcements are made.
- The dog park being installed on Hyland will have sufficient waste receptacles and Administration confirmed that a dog park policy will be formed and adopted.
- In answer to a question asked by Mayor Hanchar in response to complaints received about the condition of the roads in 2 Mile, Administration explained that only hard surface roads in the 2 Mile are maintained by the Town.
- Administration asked for potential dates and topics for a Town and LFN leadership meeting; topics will include 2 Mile roads and playground, animal control, joint community events, and LFN flag raising.
- A one-year agreement was made with Circular Materials who will provide the Town with \$50,500.00 toward operating costs to handle packaging and paper products that enter our facility under the extended producer responsibility program.

**Admin Report – Vacant &
Unoccupied Buildings Bylaw**

Administration provided Council with an Admin Report with rationale for enacting a Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings Bylaw and permit system. The purpose of the bylaw and permit system is to reduce safety hazards by bringing vacant and unoccupied buildings to a certain standard, improve community beautification and potentially increase the number of available properties by encouraging owners to make properties occupiable. Council expressed support for introducing a draft bylaw for consideration but asked Administration to research smaller municipalities and consider various exception options to ensure it will serve our community.

MOTION 025-016-137

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Whimp THAT:

Council direct Administration to proceed with research and the creation a draft Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings Bylaw for further consideration.

- CARRIED -

**Admin Report - HAF Service
Standards Manual Contract**

Administration brought attention to a procedural error in the contract award process for the HAF Service Standards Manual. For this reason, Administration asked that motion

025-014-118 (September 9, 2025) and motion 025-015-126 (September 23, 2025) be rescinded, as the two are contradictory. Administration further requested additional time to review the Request for Proposals document and proposals received, in order to provide Council with the necessary information for a contract award decision.

When asked why the higher bid had been recommended for the contract award, Administration and Stackhouse explained that the two proposals differed in approach and anticipated outcomes. Administration supported the proposal that included technical drawings within the manual, as this was considered to provide greater value.

MOTION 025-016-138

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council rescind motion 025-014-118.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 025-016-139

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council rescind motion 025-015-126.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 025-016-140

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council table the decision on the HAF Service Standards Manual contract award to the meeting of November 4, 2025.

- CARRIED -

**Admin Report – Public Auction Outcome
For Property at 206 9th Street South, Watson Lake**

The property located at 206 9th Street South, Watson Lake, was obtained by the Town through the tax lien process and put for sale through public auction with a minimum reserve bid and a building commitment requirement. At closing, one bid was received, which met both the minimum reserve bid and build commitment. Administration recommended that the bid be accepted.

MOTION 025-016-141

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council accept the bid from Alyssa Bergeron and Devaughn Davies in the amount of \$13,500.00 for the property located at 206 9th Street South and direct Administration to draft an Agreement with the two-year build commitment clause.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED
Review of Procurement
Policy 2022-02

The Town's Procurement and Purchasing policy was reviewed during Council Strategic Planning sessions held earlier in the month. Council determined that the policy is sufficient for Town's needs, and no amendments will be made at this time.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Paquette:

- Asked when highway flags would be taken down for the season; Administration explained that this is scheduled to be completed later in the week.

Councillor Whimp:

- Has heard good feedback from the community about the ice being installed at the Rec Centre early this year.
- Asked if an Auxiliary/On-call position has been considered for the Rec Centre to address staff shortages when staff are sick or unable to attend work.
- Would like to see the Town assist with brush cutting at Mount Maichen as they get the hill ready for the upcoming season.

Mayor Hanchar:

- Commended the graduating class, LFN and Town for the successful dinner for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Advised the public that Council held strategic planning sessions and a formal 3-year plan will be drafted and adopted by Council.
- The Canadian Filipino Association of Yukon held an outreach event in Watson Lake, and from it, a Watson Lake hub and executive was formed.
- Attended the Yukon bioenergy Conference with Councillor Whimp in Whitehorse on October 7th and 8th. The conference had enlightening presentations, including a video sharing the successes of First Kaska and Heartland Timber Homes.
- Will be attending FCM Advocacy Days in Ottawa on behalf of AYC.
- Commended the Parks and Rec staff for exciting slate of Halloween events.
- Encouraged the public to attend the volleyball tournament being hosted by Watson Lake Secondary School over the weekend.
- Reminded the public of the MLA Candidates Forum taking place October 22nd.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

D. Stubenberg:

- Asked that when the draft Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings bylaw is being formed, some consideration be made for properties that recently changed ownership.

C. Ellis:

- Would like to encourage more public interest in Council meetings and asked for advice on ways to do so.

C. Irvin:

- Asked if a Town Hall meeting will be held this fall; Administration and Council hope to hold a Town Hall in December to discuss 2026 budgets.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 025-016-142

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Meeting move in-camera.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 025-016-143

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council revert back to an Open Meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 025-016-144

Moved by Councillor Slager, 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

