

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

**MEETING NO. 18  
November 18, 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  
Johan Madera – Director of Finance

**Delegation**

Maximus Johnson – Liard First Nation  
Dene K'eh Justice

**Public**

P. Agana \*      B. Walters \*      C. Ellis  
J. Carlson \*      L. Allen      C. Craft \*  
R. Wilkinson \*

*Electronic attendance \**

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

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 025-018-160**

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The draft agenda be adopted as amended, to remove #12. Closure of Watson Lake Court Registry, and table until further information is available.

- CARRIED -

**MINUTES**

**MOTION 025-018-161**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Council Meeting of November 4, 2025, be amended to rectify the clerical error in the contract award amount to WSP Engineers for the development of Service Standards Manual and be adopted.

- CARRIED -

**PAYABLES**

**MOTION 025-018-162**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$236,760.60 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on payables to Envy Construction Corp., SteamPro Resources, Pulver Crawford and Monroe LLP, Raymond James, Catalis PWE, and HVAC Tech.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Appointment of Designated Officer  
Director of Finance – Johan Madera**

CAO Lockwood congratulated Johan Madera on their permanent position as the Director of Finance for the Town of Watson Lake.

**MOTION 025-018-163**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council appoint Johan Madera as a Designated Officer for the Town of Watson Lake in the position of Director of Finance.

- CARRIED -

**DELEGATIONS**

**Liard First Nation Dene K'eh  
Justice – M. Johnson**

M. Johnson was before Council to provide a formal apology to Town leadership for the vandalism of a municipal facility. The apology was a condition of the Liard First Nation Dene K'eh Justice process that was conducted. Johnson expressed remorse for past actions and spoke about the life changes being made to ensure actions are not repeated in the future.

**BYLAWS**

**Road Maintenance and Repair  
Reserve Fund Bylaw**

A draft Road Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund Bylaw was before Council for discussion. The purpose of the reserve fund is to start setting aside funds for future road maintenance and repair needs, outside of regular O&M expenses. Council was prepared to complete First Reading of the draft bylaw, as presented.

**MOTION 025-018-164**

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Road Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund Bylaw 2025-012 be introduced for First Reading.

- CARRIED -

**Fire Department and Emergency  
Management Reserve Fund Bylaw**

A draft Fire Department and Emergency Management Reserve Fund Bylaw was before Council for discussion. The purpose of the reserve fund is to set aside funds for unexpected capital expenditures required by the Watson Lake Fire Department or for emergency management within the community. Council was prepared to complete First Reading of the draft bylaw, as presented.

**MOTION 025-018-165**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Fire Department and Emergency Management Reserve Fund Bylaw 2025-013 be introduced for First Reading.

- CARRIED -

**Second Reading of 2026 Capital  
Budget Bylaw 2025-09**

The draft 2026 Capital Budget Bylaw was before Council for Second Reading. Administration explained that after consulting the accountant, Housing Accelerator Fund income and expenses were moved from the 2026 capital budget to the 2026 O&M budget. No other amendments were made since Council's last review. The 2026 Capital Budget will be discussed at the Town Hall meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION 025-018-166**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The 2026 Capital Budget Bylaw 2025-09 be introduced for Second Reading.

- CARRIED -

**Second Reading of Fire Department and  
Emergency Management Reserve Fund Bylaw**

The draft 2026 O&M Budget Bylaw was before Council for Second Reading. There were no amendments made other than the Housing Accelerator Fund expenses moved from capital to O&M. The 2026 O&M budget will be discussed at the Town Hall meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION 025-018-167**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The 2026 O&M Budget Bylaw 2025-010 be introduced for Second Reading.

- CARRIED -

**2026 Property Tax Levy  
Bylaw 2025-011**

The 2026 Property Tax Levy Bylaw was before Council for Second Reading. The draft bylaw was presented without an increase to the property tax levy. At a previous meeting Council discussed a potential increase however, have also considered increases to some fees and charges, and recently completed a review of the Business Grant Bylaw and grant amounts advanced over the past five years. Councillor Slager asked that the Business Grants advanced in 2025 be investigated further; Administration will provide further information for the December 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting.

**MOTION 025-018-168**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council direct Administration to provide further information and breakdown to the business grants advanced in 2025.

- CARRIED -

**MOTION 025-018-169**

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Whimp THAT:

The 2026 Property Tax Levy Bylaw 2025-011 be introduced for Second Reading.

- CARRIED -

**NEW & UNFINISHED  
Art Prints for Council Donation**

Administration shared the Watson Lake related art prints created by Chris Caldwell and obtained by the Watson Lake Historical Society. Council would like to have prints created of the Sign Post Forest print for future donations, as well as swag and souvenirs made to sell at the Northern Lights Centre.

**COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Hanchar:

- Council met with Chief Charlie on November 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss topics of mutual concern and benefit. Town and LFN leadership have committed to holding quarterly meetings.
- Reminded everyone of the Town Hall meeting taking place on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Watson Lake Curling Lounge. Topics of discussion will include the 2026 capital and O&M budgets, infrastructure project updates, and short-term accommodations.

- Reminded everyone about the Community Christmas Dinner on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Community Christmas Craft Fair on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the next Council Meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Advised that Mayor Hanchar, Councillor Paquette and CAO Lockwood would be attending the quarterly AYC meeting November 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by a strategic planning session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION 025-018-170

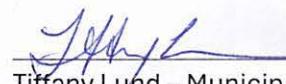
Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

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

- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

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