

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 **

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 vandalization 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 10th.

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 10th.

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 2nd 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 17th 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 10th 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 11th, the Community Christmas Craft Fair on November 22nd, and the next Council Meeting on December 2nd.
- Advised that Mayor Hanchar, Councillor Paquette and CAO Lockwood would be attending the quarterly AYC meeting November 29th, followed by a strategic planning session.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 025-018-170

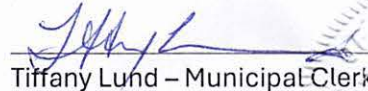
Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

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

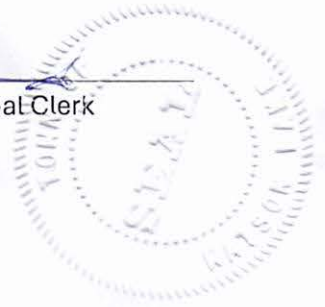
- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



1. The first part of the report is a summary of the work done during the year. It is a brief statement of the results of the work, and is intended to give a general impression of the progress made.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed account of the work done during the year. It is a full and complete statement of the results of the work, and is intended to give a detailed account of the progress made.

3. The third part of the report is a summary of the work done during the year. It is a brief statement of the results of the work, and is intended to give a general impression of the progress made.

1914-1915

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