

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

MEETING NO. 01
January 6, 2026

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration

Cam Lockwood– CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public

P. Agana G. Bruce P. McLeod *
C. Ellis L. Dicknoether *

Delegation

Jordan Stackhouse – Elevator Yukon *

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

MOTION 026-01-001

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The draft agenda be adopted with an amendment to add an In-Camera item.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 026-01-002

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The draft minutes from the Council Meeting of December 16, 2025, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 026-01-003

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$295,958.15 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on payables to FCM, Community Solutions, JGV Services, and Watson Lake Youth Hockey Club. Councillor Paquette also commented on the higher than usual ATCO invoice.

CORRESPONDENCE

Proclamation Request – Environmental Sensitivities Awareness Day

Council received a request from the Environmental Health Association of Manitoba to proclaim May 12th as Environmental Sensitivities/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (ES/MCS) Awareness Day in Watson Lake. Council decided against a proclamation but agreed to share campaign materials on the Town's social media page during the month of May.

DELEGATION

Elevator Yukon – Mortgage Accessibility Engagement

Following the adoption of the Housing Accelerator Fund Mortgage Accessibility Report, Stackhouse presented a draft engagement letter and sought guidance from Council on the engagement content and distribution list provided. Council was satisfied with the letter and chose to limit the distribution at this time to territorial leadership, AYC, CMHC, Yukon Housing Corp., and YG Department of Community Services. Stackhouse will amend letters appropriately for each recipient and bring back to Council for formal distribution approval. Mayor Hanchar asked if a redacted version could be made available for the public.

REPORTS

Admin Report – Outstanding Property Taxes

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report outlining the process that the municipality must follow for outstanding property taxes and asked Council to acknowledge and accept the outstanding property tax list provided.

MOTION 026-01-004

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council acknowledge and accept the list of outstanding property tax accounts.

- CARRIED -

Admin Report – Water and Sewer Rate Change Recommendations

Administration provided recommendations for water and sewer rate increases. Councillor Slager disagreed with the recommendation for non-metered water and sewer accounts feeling it was too much of an increase. Administration explained that the purpose of a higher non-metered water fee was to encourage people to move to a lower cost metered service, which also allows the Town to monitor water consumption. Council had questions about the SRS fees and usage. The fee recommendations will come back to Council at the January 20th Council meeting for further discussion.

**Admin Report – Donation
Policy Review**

Administration brought forward the Town's Donation Policy with the recommendation that it be reviewed to ensure it remains effective and aligns with current municipal needs. Council expressed support for a review and asked Administration to bring forward amendment recommendations for consideration.

**Admin Report – Janitorial
Contract Award**

The contract award for janitorial services for the Town Office and Municipal Services Building (MSB) was back before Council for further consideration as no decision was made at the Council meeting held December 16th. The one bid received from JGV Services came in significantly higher than the current contract price, which led to Administration providing a recommendation that the scope of work be changed to remove the MSB from the contract by either, accepting the bid received and attempting to negotiate with JGV Services on the scope of work and contract price, or re-tendering the contract with a changed scope of work.

MOTION 026-01-005

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The contract award for janitorial services be tabled to the Council Meeting of January 20, 2026.

- CARRIED -

**BYLAWS
Unoccupied and Vacant
Buildings Bylaw**

A draft Unoccupied and Vacant Buildings Bylaw was before Council for consideration. The purpose of the bylaw is to regulate vacant and unoccupied buildings by implementing a permit system and requirements to safeguard and secure such buildings within the community. Council expressed support for the bylaw in principle but asked Administration to further investigate the requirement for liability insurance and asked for clarification on the Town carrying out work required when the property owner is unwilling to comply with the bylaw. The draft bylaw will be before Council for First Reading at the Council meeting on January 20, 2026.

MOTION 026-01-006

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings Bylaw be tabled to the Council Meeting of January 20, 2026.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED
**Adopt the Emergency
Management Plan**

The Emergency Management Plan was before Council for adoption. The document will serve as the basis for all emergency management planning and the creation of stakeholder and citizen information kits. Other emergency management related projects on the horizon will include a business continuity plan and return to community procedures.

MOTION 026-01-007

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council table the adoption of the Emergency Management Plan to the Council Meeting of January 20, 2026.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hanchar:

- Asked which bylaws are currently under legal review and what the expected timelines are for review completion.

Councillor Paquette:

- Brought forward a concern with high snow piles and banks at intersections and near the elementary school, creating safety risks for pedestrians and drivers. The discussion moved to snow removal and Councillor Puckett expressed concern with businesses pushing snow onto Town right-of-way and the Town having to haul it away.

Councillor Slager:

- Commended Public Works and the Fire Department for outstanding work during heavy snowfall and extreme cold weather.

CAO Lockwood:

- Acknowledged unpleasant Facebook posts regarding complaints about snow removal that were directed toward the Town and Public Works staff and commended staff for their efforts, which included working on scheduled days off and over the holiday to keep roads clear. Lockwood explained that there is a lot of misunderstanding about how the snow trap works and other factors that affect operations, such as broken equipment and limited staff.
- Commended the Fire Department for working at -50 temperatures. Despite challenges with freezing lines and equipment, the building was saved.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

G. Bruce:

- Commended Town staff for snow removal efforts.

- Advised Council of the recent appointment as the Watson Lake Historical Society President and explained the mandate of the society moving forward. Bruce hopes for Council and Administration support as the society moves forward with work.

P. McLeod:

- Inquired if Administration had determined the amount of income that will be realized if Council moves ahead with water and sewer rate increases.
- Asked what increase was made to property tax rates for 2026.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 026-01-008

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council move to an in-camera meeting.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 026-01-009

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Council revert back to an open meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 026-01-010

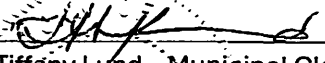
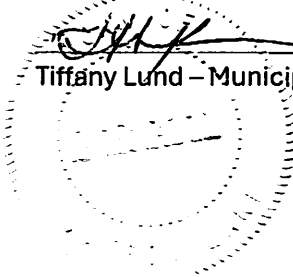
Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

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

- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Mayor


Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk


THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
JANUARY 1, 1964
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

TO: [Illegible]

FROM: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

3. [Illegible]

4. [Illegible]

