

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

MEETING NO. 07
April 7, 2026

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration
Cam Lockwood – CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Absent
William Whimp – Councillor

Public
C. Ellis J. Carlson * C. Craft *
K. Ristau

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

MOTION 026-07-049

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft agenda be amended to remove AYC Quarterly Meeting Report – Mayor Hanchar and be adopted.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 026-07-050

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Council Meeting of March 17, 2026 be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 026-07-051

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$196,986.03 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on payables to Tate's Custom Trailer Sales and BDO Caada LLP and inquired on the reissuance of cheques.

REPORTS
CAO Report

CAO Lockwood read the written CAO Report aloud and provided information and updates on the inground infrastructure replacement project, current projects out for Tender and emergency procurement initiated for the purchase of necessary equipment at the Water Treatment Plant, which was an unexpected expense which will be cash managed. Administration also provided information about groundwater testing for DDT and pesticides at the Landfill and explained that the Town is lobbying YG to help cover some of this cost as a part of the landfill operating agreement, once it is clear which pesticides the Town is required to test for. Administration will provide a detailed infrastructure report at the Council Meeting of April 21.

BYLAWS
Review of Animal Control
Bylaw 2024-011

Animal Control Bylaw 2024-011 was before Council for review prior to Third and Final Reading. Administration was asked to strike section 6.04(b), which specified the length that a leash must be, prior to adoption.

MOTION 026-07-052

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Animal Control Bylaw 2024-011 be tabled to the Council Meeting of April 21, 2026, where it will be brought forward for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

Review of Fees and Charges
Amendment Bylaw 2025-04

Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2025-04 was before Council for review prior to Third and Final Reading. Administration highlighted recent changes, including new fees for business licences and animal permits, a reduction in the fee for tipping brush and other compostable materials, and the addition of senior water and sewer rates. Councillor Paquette noted that there was no fee added for a vacant and unoccupied building permits, as the associated bylaw had not yet been adopted. Administration suggested that the bylaw be adopted as presented, and the permit fee be added as an addendum.

MOTION 026-07-053

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2025-04 be tabled to the Council Meeting of April 21, 2026, where it will be introduced for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED
Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings
Bylaw 2026-01 – Next Steps

Administration provided Council with timelines and background information on the draft Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings Bylaw adoption process and sought direction from Council on next steps. Administration was directed to advertise the draft bylaw on Town social media to try to engage the community prior to the bylaw being sent for legal review. Council directed that section 16.03 be amended to replace daily fines with monthly fines and further directed Administration to investigate the scope of the bylaw provisions as they pertain to outbuildings and commercial properties.

MOTION 026-07-054

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings Bylaw 2026-01 be tabled to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 5, 2026.

- CARRIED -

Short-term Accommodations
Next Steps

Administration sought direction from Council on next steps for creating regulations for short-term accommodations in the municipality. Mayor Hanchar shared that the topic was also being discussed at AYC, with some municipalities in support of YG implementing territory-wide regulations. Council discussed the importance of having regulations that meet the needs of the community, which may differ from place to place. Council directed Administration to draft regulations for consideration and further community consultation. Administration will attempt to have draft regulations for the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 5th.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hanchar:

- Asked what is planned for the cemetery for upgrades and redesign. Administration explained that there are some funds budgeted for work this summer, but overall redesign will be done over several years, as the budget allows.
- Inquired about YG funding to cover tipping fees for FireSmarting initiatives; no current funding available for this. Mayor Hanchar asked that the Landfill accept a free load of brush on top of the free load of residential garbage during the Spring Clean-up initiative.
- Asked for an update on seasonal staffing. Administration confirmed that there has been interest in all positions posted and interviews will commence soon. The Northern Lights Centre is scheduled to open on May 1st with the Pool on track to open mid-May, weather permitting.

- Asked when the municipal signs would be upgraded. Administration explained the difficulties in procuring someone to do the work.

CAO Lockwood:

- Added that YG is doing an official opening of the Visitor Information Centre on May 9th. The space is looking great with YG doing interior upgrades including new interpretive displays.
- Explained that additional cold mix and calcium chloride was purchased this spring to help with potholes and dust control.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

C. Ellis:

- Asked if there are plans to remove stickers from the Sign Post Forest sign. Administration confirmed this would be done once summer students are hired.

K. Ristau:

- Advised Council that YG Wildland Fire did not intend on staffing the Tom Creek Fire Tower this season and encouraged Council to advocate for the position to be filled for the safety of the community.

C. Craft:

- Thanked Public Works for snow removal efforts and commended the Parks and Rec staff for successful Easter events.
- Asked when BST would be done on Frances Avenue; Administration confirmed this work would commence in May.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 026-07-055

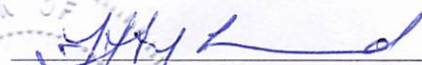
Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

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

- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



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