

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration
Cam Lockwood – CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Absent

Norma Puckett – Councillor

Public

J. Carlson * C. Craft * B. Walters *
P. Agana * A. Hill * J. Stackhouse*
A. Tannock D. Stubenberg
L. Dicknoether *

Delegation

Angela Spencer – BDO Canada LLP *

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

MOTION 026-08-056

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The draft agenda be adopted as presented

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 026-08-057

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Council Meeting of April 7, 2026, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 026-08-058

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$234,521.25 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on payables to CIBC, Dimensions Tech Services Inc., Olde Tyme Construction, and Yukon Worker’s Compensation Board. Administration also

provided information about an ATCO Electric payment on the payables list the previous meeting.

REPORTS
Auditor's Report
2025 Financial Statements

Angela Spencer of BDO Canada LLP presented the 2025 Auditor's Report and Financial Statements. BDO found no issues during the audit and confirmed that financials were in accordance with accounting standards. There were no significant changes to accounting policies in 2025, however Spencer explained that there will be new financial statement standards and budget requirements moving forward and offered support to the Director of Finance.

MOTION 026-08-059

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council accept the 2025 Auditor's Report and Financial Statements.

- CARRIED -

**Infrastructure Condition and
Capital Planning Report**

Administration presented an Infrastructure Condition and Capital Planning Report which was created in collaboration with Yukon Government, Infrastructure Development Branch. The report provided an overview of the Town's fixed municipal infrastructure, assessed the condition of major assets and identified investment required to ensure long-term service reliability over the next twenty years. The purpose of the report is to support decision making, guide long-term planning, and identify critical risks and service vulnerabilities. Administration highlighted that there was \$103M forecasted over the 20-year planning period, with \$2.7M dedicated to current capital projects. Council expressed concern with the limited funding streams available for future capital projects and the limited means that the municipality has to raise revenue. Administration was asked to seek permission to share the report with the public.

AYC Quarterly Meeting Report
Mayor Hanchar

Mayor Hanchar provided a report on the Q1 AYC Meeting that was held on March 7th. Hanchar shared that Jordan Stackhouse of Elevator Yukon presented the Mortgage Accessibility Report, developed through one of the Town's Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives. Other highlights included ongoing FCM advocacy, presentations from MP Hanley and MLAs, a review of AYC's financial position and asset management, an introduction of the new AYC website, and an update and follow-up on 2025 AYC Resolutions. AYC has accepted a record number of 17 Resolutions which will be presented at the AYC AGM in May.

**Admin Report – Contract Award for the
Purchase of a Sand and Gravel Structure**

Administration provided a report with background information and a contract award recommendation for the supply, delivery, and installation of a structure for sand, gravel and asset storage. There were a total of 7 bids received in response to the Request for Tender and Administration recommended that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, Multi-Build Solutions Group, whose bid came in slightly under budget. Council had questions about the building structure and location and confirmed that the capital purchase was from Gas Tax funding.

MOTION 026-08-060

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council award the contract for RFT 2026-01 for the supply, delivery, and installation of a fabric covered storage building to Multi-Build Solutions Group in the amount of \$175,876.00 plus GST.

- CARRIED -

CORRESPONDENCE
Nicole Donovan
Campbell Way Concerns

Council was in receipt of correspondence from resident Nicole Donovan, expressing safety concerns due to vehicles speeding along Campbell Way, where many children play. Donovan suggested the Town reduce the speed limit in residential neighborhoods and install speed limit signs and/or speed bumps. Council discussed various ways to tackle the issue, including signage, reducing speed limits, a social media blitz, and advocating for higher RCMP presence.

MOTION 026-08-061

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Whimp THAT:

Council direct Administration to investigate speed limit signage in residential areas, request that the RCMP increase patrols, and conduct an online information blitz.

- CARRIED -

BYLAWS
First Reading of Accommodation
Levy Bylaw 2026-02

Draft Accommodation Levy Bylaw 2026-02 was before Council for First Reading. The bylaw was initially introduced in 2017 to levy fees on accommodation rooms sold within the municipality. The bylaw was adopted in 2019 but was repealed before it came into effect due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During Council's strategic planning in 2025, the bylaw added as a priority to re-explore and since that time the Yukon Government and industry associations started exploring the implementation of a similar territory-wide

levy. Council expressed dissatisfaction with the draft bylaw as presented but agreed that a municipal levy would have more of an impact on Watson Lake than a territory-wide levy. Council was opposed to passing First Reading of the bylaw and asked that it be rewritten with further consideration for business reporting requirements, how levied funds would be allocated and expended, and benefits to business owners collecting the levy on the Town's behalf.

**Third and Final Reading of
Animal Control Bylaw 2024-011**

Animal Control Bylaw 2024-011 was before Council for Third and Final Reading.

MOTION 026-08-062

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Animal Control Bylaw 2024-11 be introduced for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

**Third and Final Reading of Fees
and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2025-04**

Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2025-04 was before Council for Third and Final Reading. After further reflection, Councillor Slager determined that the residential water and sewer fee increases were too drastic considering property tax and property assessment increases realized in 2026. Council had an extensive discussion about rising costs impacting residents and the municipality, resident affordability, comparable fees throughout the Yukon, and the importance of demonstrating efforts to increase own-sources revenue to qualify for future government funding.

A motion was made by Councillor Paquette but failed for lack of second. Administration to check procedure on how to proceed with bylaw amendment.

**Third and Final Reading of Bylaw
Enforcement Bylaw 2025-08**

Bylaw Enforcement Bylaw 2025-08 was before Council for Third and Final Reading.

MOTION 026-08-063

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Bylaw Enforcement Bylaw 2025-08 be introduced for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Whimp:

- Asked why the potholes along Ravenhill Drive were not filled with gravel prior to Councillor Whimp's vehicle being damaged by them. Mayor Hanchar advised Councillor Whimp that the best course of action for this would be to seek an explanation from Administration as the issue falls within municipal operations.
- Expressed disappointment with the municipality's limited support for local industry and shared insights from his experiences working in Haines Junction over the past four months. Councillor Whimp shared how the lack of industry and a local economy impacts local residents and the consideration being made to relocate their family for work. Mayor Hanchar asked Councillor Whimp to provide examples of ways the municipality could support industry in Watson Lake.

Councillor Slager:

- Asked Administration to investigate the amount of electricity the solar panels on the Town Office create, in light of rising Atco Electric prices.
- Asked how index figures are determined under the Community Municipal Grant. Administration explained that it is based on Vital Statistics population figures.

Councillor Paquette:

- Asked for an update on summer position staffing. Administration provided that staffing is going well and the Town is on track to open summer facilities on time.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 026-08-064

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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