

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

MEETING NO. 14
August 18, 2026

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration

Cam Lockwood – CAO
Kaitlyn McCulloch – A/ Municipal Clerk

Delegation

Jordan Stackhouse, Elevator Yukon *
Graham White, Elevator Yukon *

Public

C. Ellis P. McLeod *
C. Quinn (YG, Community Advisor)

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

CAO Lockwood provided that there will be a municipal by-election due to the recent resignation of Councillor Whimp. CAO Lockwood shared by-election timelines and processes and asked that the meeting agenda be amended to complete First and Second Reading of Municipal Councillor By-Election Bylaw 2026-04.

MOTION 026-014-123

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft agenda be amended to add First and Second Reading of Municipal By-Election Bylaw 2026-04 and be adopted as amended.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 026-014-124

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

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

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 026-014-125

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$304,629.57 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification for payables to Nadia Loder, Clark Skelton, Werner Scneeberger, Duka Environmental, highway cleanup initiative payments and senior property tax grants.

MOTION 026-014-126

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payable in the amount of \$92,697.31 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification for payables to Lianne Cranfield.

MOTION 026-014-127

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$286,136.21 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification for payables to FloraTek Consulting, Fire Training Solutions, Scrappy Larry's, Martin Marvel Joy, and Olde Tymer Legacy Contracting.

CORRESPONDENCE
Canadian Institute of Forestry
National Forest Week

Council received a request from the Canadian Institute of Forestry requesting that Council proclaim September 20 – 26, 2026 as National Forest Week in Watson Lake.

MOTION 026-014-128

Move by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council proclaim September 20 – 26, 2026, as National Forest Week in Watson Lake and direct Administration to share suggested promotional materials provided.

- CARRIED -

REPORTS
CAO Report

CAO Lockwood provided a verbal CAO Report and shared the following:

- Administration had some difficulties dealing with Borealis Fuels since Superior propane was awarded the propane delivery contract, as they were not willing to fulfill the installation of a vaporizer at the Water Treatment Plant, as previously agreed upon. Administration has met with Superior and discussed the takeover of the contract and they will be completing the vaporizer work at the Water Treatment Plant.
- Recreation Centre boiler project is moving forward.
- Work starting on the MSB apron replacements. YG is working with Administration on this project.
- YG is working with Administration to complete a scoping project for the sewage lagoon gravity feed, which will include cameraing the system.
- CAO Lockwood completed an interview with CBC about the most recent HAF initiatives. After the interview aired, CAO Lockwood was contacted by a pre-fab home business owner to better understand some of the housing and development barriers being faced in the community.
- Attended the Forestry Summit held in Watson Lake. The summit was well attended and focused on forestry in the Watson Lake area, which included presentations from First Kaska and LFN.
- Council met with Minister Cathers and other YG officials regarding long-term care in Watson Lake, including possible locations for such a facility.
- Discovery Day events were very successful and well attended. Have had great feedback on the live music and family activities.
- National Parks Day was celebrated at Wye Lake Park and included family activities, live music, and an invasive weed pull along Wye Lake Trail.
- Advised that the highway/intersection/pathway project is moving ahead, and residents will notice barriers up at various intersections and near the Signpost Forest and high school.

**Quarterly Department
Reports for Q2**

Council was provided with Q2 department reports. Councillor Slager asked for clarification on the use of crush at the Landfill and Public Work's shortage of cold mix and asked for an update on the SCADA system, which is almost complete. Mayor Hanchar appreciated the work done on emergency preparedness in the community and the update on the new firefighter role being filled; CAO Lockwood noted some department struggles and advised Council that there will be a new recruit campaign in the fall. Mayor Hanchar also commended Parks and for the great work being done and has heard great feedback from the community about the events and activities taking place; Administration recognized Liard First Nation Community Safety and Daylu Dena Council for various events and activity partnerships.

MOTION 026-014-129

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Council accept the Q2 Department Reports as presented.

- CARRIED -

**Admin Report – Property Tax
Homeowner Grants**

Council was presented with an Admin Report recommending that the Senior Homeowner Grant Bylaw be amended to align with the Yukon Government grant program criteria and processes, and to repeal the Disabled Homeowner Grant Policy, as the program is not authorized under the *Municipal Act* due to it being implemented by policy, rather than bylaw. Council supported the recommended changes to the bylaw and for repealing the Disabled Homeowners Grant Policy.

MOTION 026-014-130

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Administration amend Senior Citizen Homeowner Grant Bylaw 90-08 as per the recommendations presented and bring back to Council for review and adoption.

- CARRIED -

**Housing Accelerator Fund Update
Elevator Yukon**

Jordan Stackhouse and Graham White of Elevator Yukon presented their report which provided initiative updates, a financial update and next steps. Elevator Yukon has been working to utilize as much funding as possible as we come to the end of the CMHC funding agreement. There were a few more grant applications approvals under the last intake, and Administration is now recommending opening one last housing grant intake before year end.

MOTION 026-014-131

Moved by Councillor Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council approve \$120,000.00 for an additional intake for Housing Accelerator Fund grant programs for housing development.

- CARRIED -

Flag Protocol Policy Amendments

Council previously discussed amending the Flag Protocol Policy to add special occasion flags that would be flown annually on designated dates to recognize or commemorate occasions of significance to the community; Administration sought direction from Council for the policy amendment and provided the City of Whitehorse's policy as reference. Administration was advised to make amendments to the policy, based on Council feedback and bring back to Council for further discussion.

BYLAWS
First and Second Reading of Municipal
Councillor By-Election Bylaw 2026-04

Municipal Councillor By-Election Bylaw was before Council for First and Second Readings, to fill a vacant Councillor position.

MOTION 026-014-132

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Municipal Councillor By-Election Bylaw 2026-04 be introduced for First and Second Readings.

- CARRIED -

NEW & UNFINISHED
Minister Meeting Agenda Topics

Mayor and Council have a scheduled meeting with Yukon Government Ministers on September 24th. Potential meeting topics of discussion may include municipal infrastructure, forestry, housing/mortgage accessibility, long-term care, contaminants in Watson Lake, centralization of government positions, highway right-of-way responsibilities, and interim protected land responsibilities.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Slager:

- Brought forward a road access issue due to culvert locations.
- Thanked Parks and Rec for Wye Lake Trail maintenance.
- Commended various departments for their hard work.

Councillor Puckett:

- Asked if the Wye Lake Trail boardwalk needed major repairs after seeing complaints that several boards needed replacing. This portion of the trail will be replaced as the trail upgrade projects move ahead.

Councillor Paquette:

- Asked if there was an update on a vet clinic coming to Watson Lake; there was no update.
- Advised that there has been positive feedback received for the dog park. The park is almost complete; Town is waiting on signage, additional waste bins and seating. Grand opening is planned once park is completed.
- Thanked those involved in Discovery Day celebrations.
- Asked if there have been any meetings with LFN leadership; no formal meetings to date but discussions have started.
- Followed up with volunteer appreciation and the Council Christmas dinner plans. No formal decisions have been made on how to move forward with these events.

Mayor Hanchar:

- Would like to see some movement towards co-council meetings with LFN in time.
- Asked for a sani-dump update; Administration met with YG about the proposed location and an MOU may be needed for access. Administration awaiting an update. There may also be some changes to the scope of work for the project, due to cost estimates.
- Noted that the Sign Post Forest sign looks much better since stickers have been removed. Administration shared the idea to install selfie stands at the Sign Post Forest.
- Inquired about the water/sewer issue at the Wye Lake Cabin as the washrooms were out of order at a recent event. In this circumstance, the water was not filled prior.
- Asked if there had been any type of analysis on the Lucky Lake waterslide, and if the Town is doing anything to preserve the asset. This is the focus of the Director of Community Services and may be replaced if funding can be obtained.
- Asked when budget discussions would begin; Management has started working on this with a meeting in October.
- Discussed a potential Town Hall meeting date, as well as an amendment to the December meeting schedule, to accommodate Mayor Hanchar's schedule.

CAO Lockwood:

- Added that the first round of DDT testing that was necessary for the water license, tested clean.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

C. Quinn, YG Community Advisor:

- Reminded Council of the roles and responsibility and asset management training available. Administration suggested waiting until the vacant Councillor position was filled.

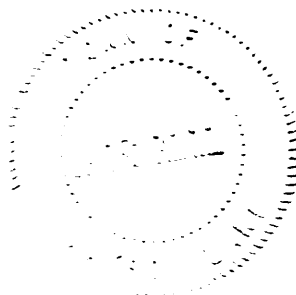
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 026-014-133

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

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

- CARRIED -

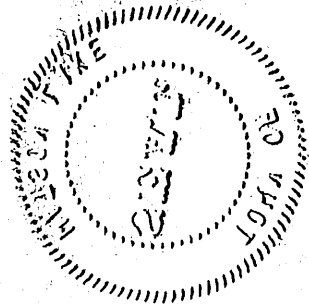


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Hanchar".

Lauren Hanchar – Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiffany Lund".

Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



Denver