

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

MEETING NO. 15
September 8, 2026

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration

Shannon Bergeron – A/CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public

P. McLeod * J. Skelton * R. Wilkinson
L. Dicknoether *

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

MOTION 026-015-134

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The draft agenda be amended to change #7. Admin Report – Approval of Property Tax Grants under Business Grant Bylaw 18-10, to #7. Admin Report – Review of Property Tax Grants under Business Grant Bylaw 18-10 and be adopted as amended.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 026-015-135

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The draft minutes from the Council Meeting of August 18, 2026, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 026-015-136

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$293,843.02 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification for payables to Stream Pro Resources, Terus Construction LTD., and Ecofor Consulting.

CORRESPONDENCE
Chief Medical Officer, Sudit Ranade
DDT In Lake Trout from Watson Lake

Mayor Hanchar read aloud the correspondence received from Yukon Chief Medical Officer, Sudit Ranade, in response to correspondence Council sent inquiring about public health and safety in relation to DDT identified in lake trout from Watson Lake. Although Dr. Ranade confirmed that the health risks due to DDT ingestion from lake trout from Watson Lake were found to be negligible, other questions about ground water and ongoing testing were not answered. Council will wait until a formal response is received from Yukon Government, Highways and Public Works, regarding contaminated barrels removed from Watson Lake before pursuing the matter further.

Minister Linda Benoit – Request for Information
Regarding Barrels Removed from Watson Lake

Mayor Hanchar read aloud the correspondence received from the Honorable Linda Benoit, Minister of Highways and Public Works, in response to correspondence Council sent inquiring about contaminants found in the barrels removed from Watson Lake in 2017 and 2018. Minister Benoit explained that multiple agencies will be involved in gathering necessary information and once available information is determined Council should expect a comprehensive response addressing the questions posed.

REPORTS
Admin Report – Water Well
Drilling and Testing Proposal

Council was provided with an Admin Report containing background information and a contract award recommendation for the development of a new municipal water well. The new well will provide redundancy in the drinking water system in the event that one of the existing wells fails. A proposal was submitted from Arctic Flow Testing, with two different quotes provided, based on two subcontractor prices. Administration recommended that Council accept the proposal from Arctic Flow Testing and the preferred subcontractor, Northern Sonic Drilling and Consulting, for a total price of \$349,600.00 plus GST.

MOTION 026-015-137

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The contract for the development of a new water well be awarded to Arctic Flow Testing in the amount of \$349,600.00 plus GST.

- CARRIED -

**Admin Report – Review of Property Tax
Grants under Business Grant Bylaw 18-10**

Council was provided with an Admin Report detailing the applicants and eligibility requirements for 2026 business property tax grants.

MOTION 026-015-138

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council table Property Tax Grant approvals under business grant bylaw 18-10 to the Regular Council Meeting of September 22, 2026, to allow additional time to review applicant eligibility.

- CARRIED -

**BYLAWS
Third and Final Reading of Municipal
Councillor By-Election Bylaw 2026-04**

Municipal Councillor By-Election Bylaw 2026-04, to fill one vacant Councillor position, was before Council for Third and Final Reading.

MOTION 026-015-139

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Municipal Councillor By-Election Bylaw 2026-04 be introduced for Third and Final Reading.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hanchar:

- Visited Mayo and Carmacks as a part of AYC Community Tours and attended Council meetings. Mayor Hanchar shared that there may be potential for advocacy partnerships related to mortgage accessibility and the Housing Accelerator Fund.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

R. Wilkinson:

- Asked if there would be a Household Hazardous Waste Day in September, noting that no advertisements had been shared.
- Advised Council that a group of university students worked with DKI Land Guardians to test Watson Lake water and suggested reaching out to DKI for more information.
- Expressed concerns with the improvements being completed at the intersection of 8th Street and the Alaska Highway, as it is being narrowed and may pose challenges for large vehicles turning.
- Shared that Hidden Lake's Bible Camp was featured in Air North's Yukon Magazine.

P. McLeod:

- Noted that there has been no public communication about the ongoing Yukon government pedestrian safety improvement project.

L. Dicknoether:

- Asked if the Town provided input on the Yukon government pedestrian safety improvement project, noting that there is a lot of confusion in the community.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 026-015-140

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

Council move to an In-Camera meeting to discuss a potential legal matter.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 026-015-141

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Council revert to an Open Meeting.

- CARRIED -

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 026-015-142

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

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

- CARRIED -



Lauren Hanchar – Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



