

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

MEETING NO. 17
OCTOBER 6, 2026

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration
Cam Lockwood – CAO
Brandie Keene – A/Municipal Clerk

Absent

Norma Puckett – Councillor

Public

J. Hartle M. Timmons D. Burdes *
C. Craft * J. Carlson *

*Electronic attendance **

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

AGENDA

MOTION 026-017-152

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 026-017-153

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Council Meeting of September 22, 2026, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PROCLAMATIONS

**Pregnancy and Infant Loss
Awareness Day – October 15, 2026**

Mayor Hanchar proclaimed October 15, 2026 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day in Watson Lake.

PAYABLES

MOTION 026-017-154

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$160,731.55 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification for payables to Business Grant recipients, Thomas Slager and Eramie Trucking Ltd.

REPORTS
CAO Report

CAO Lockwood provided the following verbal report on the following:

- FCM Funding approved for \$75,000 to purchase commercial refrigeration system at the Rec Centre.
- An application was submitted to CanNor for \$1,000,000 for Community Hall upgrades for emergency resilience.
- An application to FCM is also being submitted for a back-up generator at the Rec Centre for approximately \$1,000,000.
- A new interactive fire mapping app developed in-house that shows addresses, hydrants, and transportation routes, among other features, and is now in all Watson Lake fire trucks.
- Asset Management inventory complete and working with YG on an SOP.
- A new interactive zoning map was created to capture zoning amendments. The Zoning Bylaw will be brought before Council for amendment adoption once the map is finalized.
- Hockey ice has been installed. Ice installation training completed by all Parks Caretakers. Curling ice is anticipated to be installed by November 1st.
- It was a great season at the NLC with over 4000 movie attendees. The NLC is now closed, however the Recreation Department will be showing regular movies on weekends during the off-season.
- It was a very successful season at the Dennis Ball Pool and the longest season on record. The pool now has a group of certified staff and are continuing to build a junior lifeguard staff to build continuity.
- There were some issues with the lock system for the gym but parts are on order.
- The dog park is finalized with signs installed this week.
- Parks and Recreation are working on Halloween festivities.
- Remembrance Day Service on November 11th.
- The SCADA technician is completing the final connections for the new system.
- Public Works have completed ditch brushing and pot holing.
- Sewage lagoon flushed; work completed by YG. This has not been done in many years but will now be done on a regular basis.
- Fire Training Structure being installed this week.
- Sand and gravel structure at MSB installation is almost complete.
- Fireworks are moving to a pre-programmed system.
- New fire apparatuses are on track to arrive in April 2027.
- Emergency preparedness pamphlets were mailed out but registration uptake has been slow.
- Rec Centre boiler project is moving ahead; waiting on a valve for the system.

**Admin Report – Financial Auditor Services
Contract Award Recommendation**

Council was provided with an Admin Report with information about the RFP that was issued for a three-year contract for external financial auditor services. Two submissions were received from BDO LLP and MNP LLP. Both submissions were compliant and Administration made a recommendation to award the contract to the lowest bid, which was BDO LLP.

MOTION 026-017-155

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council award the contact for external financial auditor services to BDO LLP in the amount of \$153,759.00 over a 3-year term.

- CARRIED -

**Admin Report – Council
Indemnity Bylaw Review**

At the request of Council, Administration provided information for a review of the Council Indemnity Bylaw, which included examples of other municipal bylaws that withhold a portion of Council remuneration when council meeting attendance requirements are not met. After discussing the matter, Council decided to table the review of the Council Indemnity Bylaw to the November 3, 2026, Council Meeting, once a full Council is present.

MOTION 026-017-156

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council table the Council Indemnity Bylaw review to the November 3, 2026, Council Meeting.

- CARRIED -

**NEW & UNFINISHED
AYC Quarterly Meeting Report**

Mayor Hanchar, Councillor Paquette, and CAO Lockwood attended the quarterly AYC meeting in September and provided the following updates:

- Minister Bellemore outlined various Community Services priorities, including the Community Infrastructure Development Plan. Bellemore indicated that work was being completed to develop a rural land development strategy to improve land availability and spoke about the National Building Code engagement.
- The Yukon Ombudsman presented on information on services provided and the proposed amendments to the *Ombudsman Act*.

- Heard from the Anti-Poverty Commission about the work being done to reduce homelessness. Data in rural communities and hidden homelessness needs improvement.
- The Board discussed advocacy strategies, updated financial reports, and provided updates on the 17 AYC Resolutions and other priorities moving forward.
- Community visits are ongoing and have been a great opportunity to hear municipal issues.

MOTION 026-017-157

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The quarterly AYC report be accepted.

- CARRIED -

**Community Lottery Fund –
Recreation Grant Approvals**

Councillor Slager provided a report on the September Intake for the Community Lottery Fund and sought approval for the three applications received by the Recreation Advisory Committee, as well as an approval for an extension for the Watson Lake Bonspiel Club to spend funding.

MOTION 026-017-158

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Watson Lake Bonspiel Club be granted an extension to purchase equipment in the amount of \$3,452.88 under the Community Lottery Fund.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 026-017-159

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Council approve the Community Lottery Fund applications as recommended by the Recreation Advisory Committee.

- CARRIED -

AYC Festival of Trees Donation

Council received a request from AYC for a donation to the Yukon Hospital Corporation Festival of Tree for the AYC sponsored tree. Council discussed donation ideas and were in support of donating a Mt. Maichen Ski package.

MOTION 026-017-160

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Paquette THAT:

Council donate a Mt Maichen weekend ski package, which would include a weekend ski pass, rentals, accommodation and a meal.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Slager:

- Expressed concern with the new sidewalk at the intersection of the Alaska highway and 8th Street. Administration explained that it is not a Town project and has contact information that can be provided to anyone wishing to inquire about the project.
- Asked that Darryl Peters be formally thanked for leading the ice installation training for the Parks and Rec team.

Councillor Paquette:

- Asked if the Public Waste Drop-Off is in use. Administration explained that there has been a high staff turnover and damage to the weigh scale PA system which has delayed the implementation of the new system.
- Asked if there has been communication about joint leadership meeting with Liard First Nation. Administration explained that there have been discussions about meetings but no confirmation.
- Asked if there would be a question forum for candidates of the by-election. Due to the tight turn around of the by-election, there will not be a forum. Candidates are welcome to provide bios to the Town, which would be shared on the Town website and social media.

Mayor Hanchar:

- Shared that Council met with Premier Dixon, Minister Lang, and MLA McLeod to discuss infrastructure needs, Highway right-of way brush cutting, the *Animal Protection and Control Act*, interim protected land and responsibilities, the HAF Mortgage Accessibility Report, criminal activity within the community, decentralization of government positions, and long-term care. A public meeting was held afterwards with a decent turn-out.
- The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation gathering and dinner, hosted by Liard First Nation was attended by Mayor Hanchar and Councillor Paquette.
- Reminded everyone of the Municipal By-Election on October 15, 2026.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

M. Timmons:

- Suggested that skating passes be gifted to Darryl Peters for assisting with ice installation training.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 026-017-161

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

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

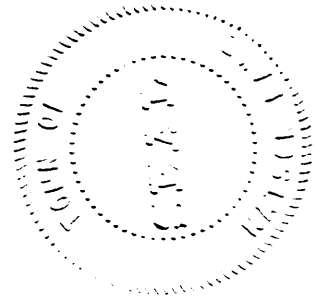
- CARRIED -



Thomas Slager – Deputy Mayor



Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk



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