TOWN OF WATSON LAKE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING **MEETING NO. 18**
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM OCTOBER 20, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Thomas Slager – Deputy Mayor
Lauren Hanchar – Mayor *
Denina Paquette – Councillor
Norma Puckett – Councillor
Dale Burdes – Councillor

Electronic attendance *

Administration
Cam Lockwood – CAO
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public
J. Carlson * C. Craft * P. Agana *
D. Stubenberg

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

AGENDA

MOTION 026-018-162

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

The draft agenda be amended to correct the payables amount listed to $500,566.04 and be adopted.

- CARRIED -

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Deputy Mayor Slager declared a perceived conflict of interest due to being listed in the cheque register list for a HAF payment.

MINUTES

MOTION 026-018-163

Moved by Mayor Hanchar, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Council Meeting of October 6, 2026, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 026-018-164

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of $500,566.04 be approved.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification for payables to Fire Training Solutions, Budget Plumbing and Heating Inc., Denina Paquette, Atlas Automation Inc., Steve Bergeron, and Raven Inn.

REPORTS

Admin Report – Additional Crushed Aggregate Under RFT 2026-06 Contract

MOTION 026-018-165

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Admin Report – Additional Crushed Aggregate under RFT 2026-06 Contract be opened for discussion.

- CARRIED -

Administration proposed that additional crushed aggregate be procured under the service contract with Nuway Crushing to double the quantity of material available at the current contracted price, resulting in cost savings by eliminating the need for future mobilization and reducing exposure to potential price increases.

MOTION 026-018-166

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Burdes THAT:

Council approve the purchase of an additional 4000m^3 of crushed aggregate from Nuway Crushing at a rate of \$14.82/m^3 for a total cost of \$59,280.00 plus gst.

- CARRIED -

BYLAWS

First Reading of Senior Home Owners Grant Bylaw 2026-05

Senior Home Owner Grant Bylaw 2026-05 was before Council for First Reading. The purpose of the bylaw is to replace Senior Home Owner Grant Bylaw 90-08 and change grant requirements to align with the Yukon government grant program.

MOTION 026-018-167

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Senior Home Owner Grant Bylaw 2026-05 be introduced for First Reading.

- CARRIED -

Council requested clarification on a few bylaw sections and directed Administration to amend the draft bylaw to improve clarity. The revised bylaw will be brought back to Council for further review prior to consideration of Second Reading.

NEW & UNFINISHED

Amendment to Flag Protocol Policy 2025-01

MOTION 026-018-168

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Flag Protocol Policy 2025-01 be opened for review and discussion.

- CARRIED -

Council discussed adding an appendix to the existing flag protocol policy listing flags that are of significance to the community. These flags would be flown on specific dates, without a request to Council. The flags under consideration included those for National Indigenous Peoples Day, Philippines Independence Day, Pride Week/Month, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and the Poppy Campaign/Remembrance Day. Council directed Administration to contact various groups to ensure the proposed flags and dates are appropriate.

MOTION 026-018-169

Moved by Councillor Burdes, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Flag Protocol Policy review be tabled to the Council Meeting of December 8, 2026.

- CARRIED -

Town Hall Meeting Topics

A Town Hall meeting will be held on November 24 to discuss the 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets, as well as provide updates on current projects. Council directed Administration to prepare project overview handouts for the public and make copies of Council's Strategic Plan available at the meeting.

Council also discussed additional opportunities to engage community members. Administration suggested hosting informal Mayor and Council coffee nights, which Council expressed interest in potentially doing in the new year.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Burdes:

- Noted that there was a draft Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw on the Town's website where it is listed as being under review and asked for a status update. Administration advised that the bylaw review had stalled with turnover of the Fire Chief position and that the bylaw review process would likely have to start over.

Councillor Paquette:

- Thanked the Municipal Election candidates and congratulated Councillor Burdes.

- Asked for an update on various projects, including the Fire Training Facility and Public Works gravel structure construction, Rec Centre boiler replacement, and right-of-way brushing.
- Inquired about the Fire Fighter position and job duties.
- Suggested that trail projects be discussed at the Town Hall, including an update on the YG trail project.

Councillor Slager:

- Asked that the Town Crier be published on a more frequent basis.
- Suggested consideration of a vehicle clean-up initiative during budget discussions to help improve town beautification. Administration shared that there was progress in this area this year with the Fire Department collecting derelict vehicles for extrication practice; Liard First Nation has also been working with their membership.
- Questioned which roadways were slated to be replaced under the next phase of infrastructure improvements and asked when Frances Avenue would be repaired. Administration will provide an infrastructure update at the Town Hall and explained that YG, Community Services, is responsible for Frances Avenue repairs, which should be completed in 2027.

Mayor Hanchar:

- Congratulated Councillor Burdes on recent appointment and thanked those who worked the polls during the by-election.
- Agreed that more frequent newsletters would be valuable and suggested soliciting topics from community groups.
- Noted that the RCMP had not attended Council meetings for some time and hoped that they would start attending on a regular basis again. Administration shared that they are hosting their first Coffee with Cops community event and encouraged Council to attend.
- Has received great feedback from the community about hockey ice being installed early and the various Halloween events taking place in the community; Mayor Hanchar thanked Parks and Rec staff for their work on these initiatives. Administration provided that curling ice should be installed by early November.
- Shared that HAF program deadlines had been extended by one year after AYC advocated that additional time was needed for northern project completions. Administration also shared that there is currently one final HAF grant intake underway.
- Reminded Council of upcoming elected officials' Asset Management and Roles and Responsibilities training being facilitated by YG, Community Services.
- Shared that the YG Infrastructure Branch will be presenting on the Build Communities Strong Fund at the November COW meeting.
- Will be attending the Yukon Forestry Forum with CAO Lockwood on October 21.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 026-018-170

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