

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

**MEETING NO. 24
December 3, 2024**

ATTENDANCE

*Electronic attendance **

Thomas Slager – Deputy Mayor
William Whimp – Councillor
Denina Paquette – Councillor
Norma Puckett – Councillor

Administration

Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Delegation

Jordan Stackhouse – Elevator Yukon *

Public

C. Ellis	R. Wilkinson	P. Agana
J. Carlson *	C. Craft *	D. Burdes *
C. Irvin *		

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

AGENDA

MOTION 024-024-189

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 024-024-190

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of November 17, 2024, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 024-024-191

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$65,802.15 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Administration provided an explanation for multiple voided cheques listed on the cheque register. Council sought clarification for the payment to SteamPro Services.

CORRESPONDENCE

**Christopher Irvin
Watson Lake Ski Club**

Council was in receipt of correspondence from the Watson Lake Ski Club which brought forward facility maintenance requests as well as a request for the purchase of a snowblower and the restoration or replacement of the recently condemned fireplace. Council asked Administration to provide additional information and recommended actions for consideration at the Council Meeting on December 17, 2024.

**All Nations Outreach
Indigenous Survivors Day**

Council was in receipt of correspondence from All Nations Outreach proposing that the Town of Watson Lake proclaim June 30, 2025, Indigenous Survivors Day in Watson Lake. After a thorough discussion, Council directed Administration to contact Liard First Nation about a collaborate proclamation and if approved, to ensure that the proclamation is done in a culturally respectful manner.

MOTION 024-024-192

Moved by Councillor Puckett, seconded by Councillor Whimp THAT:

Council direct Administration to write a letter to Liard First Nation seeking collaboration on a proclamation for Indigenous Survivors Day in Watson Lake.

- CARRIED -

TENDERS

**RFT 2024-06
Janitorial Services Tender**

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report with a contract award recommendation for the Town's janitorial services. The Tender will be before Council for award at the Council Meeting on December 17, 2024.

BYLAWS

**First Reading of 2024 Capital Budget
Amendment Bylaw 2024-010**

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report to explain the purpose and provide background information for the 2024 Capital Budget Amendment Bylaw 2024-010. The purpose of the bylaw is to amend the 2024 Capital Budget to reflect actual income and expenditure amounts for the fiscal year. The 2024 Capital Budget Amendment Bylaw 2024-010 will be before Council for discussion at the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2024.

Animal Control Bylaw #07-09

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report with the recommendation that Animal Control Bylaw 07-09 be opened for review. The Bylaw had not had a review since 2007 and since then Yukon adopted the new *Animal Protection and Control Act*. Administration recommended that a review be completed to ensure the Town's bylaw is in line with the new legislation. Council inquired about the upcoming Liard First Nation neuter program and sought clarification on bylaw enforcement in the 2 Mile village. Council agreed that the Bylaw go under review, with ample time to allow for community input. The Animal Control Bylaw will go before Council for First Reading at the Council Meeting of December 17, 2024.

NEW & UNFINISHED

Housing Accelerator Fund Vacant & Underutilized Property Incentive Policy

Jordan Stackhouse of Elevator Yukon provided Council with background information about the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) and the initiatives approved under it, as well as the draft policy and communication strategy for a grant program that will provide funding for housing development on under utilized or vacant properties within the municipality. Council provided Stackhouse with feedback on the program rollout and timelines and asked for consideration to be put into the length of time that people will have to apply. The draft Housing Accelerator Fund Vacant & Underutilized Property Incentive Policy will be before Council for further discussion at the Council Meeting of December 17, 2024.

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Puckett:

- Sought clarification on the HAF communication strategy and budget, and asked to be provided a copy of the HAF application that was submitted to CMHC/Canada.
- Asked if the Town collects income year-round for Ski Chalet facility rentals. Administration explained that there is a Letter of Understanding between the Town and Watson Lake Ski Club which outlines the responsibilities of the two parties and breaks down the shared rental income agreement. Administration will provide Council with a copy of the LOU for their information and review.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

C. Ellis:

- Asked if a specific commercial property could qualify under the HAF Vacant and Underutilized Property Incentive Program and if the funds received needed to be paid back. Ellis also asked if there would be a lot of 'red tape' to access the HAF funding. Council explained that the object of the fund is to create residential housing units and could not be used for developing commercial properties and that the grant administered to successful applicants would not have to be repaid. Administration is trying to ensure the funding is easily accessible and the application process is as simplified as possible.

C. Craft:

- Asked when the Frances Avenue lots would be available for purchase and if the sale prices were known. Administration shared that the lots will be for sale this winter and should have a better idea of the lot prices after the meeting with Yukon government later in the week.
- Sought clarification on the construction deadlines under the previous HAF Housing Development Grant program. Administration explained that the developments had to be market ready by December 2026.
- Thanked the Public Works team for their great work clearing snow.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Whimp THAT:

Being there no further business to discuss that the meeting be adjourned.

- CARRIED -



Thomas Slager – Deputy Mayor



Brandie Keene – A/Municipal Clerk



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[Signature]

