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

MEETING NO. 22
November 5, 2024

ATTENDANCE
*Electronic attendance **

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

Delegation
Corporal Harbor – RCMP
Constable Leclaire – RCMP
Constable Greg McDonald – RCMP

Administration
Cam Lockwood – Chief Administrative Officer
Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk

Public
C. Ellis A. Miller * L. Dicknoether
D. Burdes * J. Carlson *

Other unidentified zoom attendees *

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Mayor Hanchar.

AGENDA

MOTION 024-022-171

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Agenda be adopted with an to amendment #5. to reflect the correct payables amount and to #7. to remove Wildland Fire Management delegation.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 024-022-172

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The draft minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of October 1, 2024, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MOTION 024-022-173

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The draft minutes from the Special Council Meeting of October 8, 2024, be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

PAYABLES

MOTION 024-022-173

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of $310,652.98 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Council sought clarification on payables for Union Tractor, YuCan Planning, Miranda Lane, Olde Tyme Construction, Northern Front Studios and Balanced Environmental Services.

MOTION 024-022-174

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Slager THAT:

The Open Payables in the amount of $310,652.98 be approved and paid.

- CARRIED -

Administration stated on record that the payables amount was amended due to stale dated cheques being re-issued that had already been reflected in past approved payable totals.

Council sought clarification on payables for Steam Pro Services, 45006 Yukon Inc., Adrea's Hotel, Signpost Services, Liard Golf Association, Brenda Leach, The Legion, Cedar Lodge Motel, Watson Lake Foods, Clear Water Controls, Sun Corp Valuations, North 60 Petro and Dall Contracting. Several of the payables questioned were the reissuance of stale dated cheques, while several others were for the annual Economic Grant for local businesses. Council asked that information about the Economic Development Grant be provided to Council for review at the next Council meeting.

DELEGATION
RCMP

New RCMP Members, Corporal Harbor and Constable McDonald were welcomed to the community by Council. Councillor Whimp asked that there be an increase in RCMP presence at night, to help prevent ongoing crime in the community and offered assistance.

CORRESPONDENCE
Donation Request
Humane Society Yukon

Council was in receipt of correspondence from Humane Society Yukon, seeking financial assistance by way of a one time or ongoing annual donation, to help with operating costs to run the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter. Council discussed the importance of the service that Humane Society Yukon provides, and the significant number of animals taken from the

community over the past year. Administration explained that the donation, if approved, would come out of one of Council's budget lines, and provided year to date budget line amounts and clarified the intended purpose of those funds. Council asked that the request be brought forward for decision at the Regular Council Meeting of November 19, 2024.

In relation to Council's conversation about budget lines, Councillor Slager would like there to be cash prizes awarded for best Halloween house decorating and asked that this be discussed further when setting the 2025 budgets.

Donation Request
Watson Lake Ski Club

Council was in receipt of a donation request from the Watson Lake Ski Club for their annual Ski Hill Auction fundraiser. Administration confirmed that past donations have included cash or an item for auction, and that Council has moved away from donations for Town facility usage. Councillor Puckett asked if the WL Ski Club receives any other funding from the Town throughout the year; Administration explained that there is a MOU in place between the Town and the WL Ski Club for the use and O&M costs for the Ski Chalet. Council asked that the request be brought forward for decision at the Regular Council Meeting of November 19, 2024.

REPORTS
Q3 Department Reports

Council was in receipt of Department Reports for Q3 (excluding Bylaw). Council commended Administration and staff for the detailed reports and sought clarification or additional information about the significant decrease in water usage due to leak detection and repairs, who was responsible for the pothole repairs that were caused by high usage during the Frances Avenue development and why the Town's budget was impacted, if there was a plan to show movies at the NLC during winter, the Fire Smarting project funding and contract process and timelines for completion, as well as medical calls that the Fire Department is responding to and if compensation was being received for such calls. Mayor Hanchar also congratulated Fire Chief Smith for the appointment of Vice Presidency for the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs.

MOTION 024-022-175

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

The Q3 Department Reports be adopted.

- CARRIED -

CAO Report

Administration shared the following updates with Council:

- Winter weather halted the inground infrastructure project early contributing to a list of deficiencies that will be completed in the spring. Once deficiencies are addressed the roads will be paved.
- The Frances Avenue lift station project is near completion.

- The Town's water licence renewal was before the Water Board for approval and Administration explained the challenges faced during the renewal process. Administration also shared that the Town's Landfill Permit was in the process of renewal.
- Administration shared information about ongoing scoping projects which included a Rec Centre retrofit, HVAC replacements at the Rec Centre, NLC and Admin buildings, Ski Chalet renovations and retrofit, hazmat assessments, and a new community well site.
- The Federal government has announced the new CHIF fund for infrastructure that relates to housing. Administration is meeting with Yukon government to learn more about the funding and explore a potential application for the ongoing inground infrastructure replacement project.
- The Cemetery Infill project had commenced and work was progressing.
- The Water Treatment Plant Boiler Replacement project work is set to start in the near future, with site plans received by the contractor. Mayor Hanchar also asked the status of the boiler replacements at the Rec Centre and Pool; Administration explained that the projects are still in the design stage.
- Hockey ice being installed and hockey groups anticipated to start the following week. Mayor Hanchar shared that there has been discussion in the community about installing ice earlier in the year. Administration can explore an earlier ice installation; things to be factored into this decision would include CIMCO availability, user groups, Town staffing numbers and cost.
- Mayor Hanchar confirmed the Community Christmas Dinner on December 12th.

TENDERS
RFQ 2024-05
Fuel Cardlock Tender

Council was in receipt of an Admin Report with a contract award recommendation for the Town's fuel cardlock service. Two bids were received and Administration recommended that the contract be awarded to the company with the lower rack rates for gasoline and diesel. The contract is to be awarded at the Regular Council meeting on November 19, 2024.

NEW & UNFINISHED
Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Hanchar explained the role of the Deputy Mayor and shared that Councillor Slager had expressed interest in filling the role.

MOTION 024-022-176

Moved by Councillor Paquette, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Councillor Thomas Slager be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the Town of Watson Lake.

- CARRIED -

Appointment of AYC Representative

Mayor Hanchar shared information about AYC and the roles and responsibilities of the organization and its members. Councillor Paquette was the AYC representative during the past Council term and expressed interest in continuing in the role.

MOTION 024-022-177

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Puckett THAT:

Councillor Denina Paquette be appointed as the AYC Representative for the Town of Watson Lake.

- CARRIED -

Appointment of Recreation Advisory Committee Representative

Councillor Slager was the Recreation Advisory Committee Representative during the past Council term and expressed interest in continuing in the role.

MOTON 024-022-178

Moved by Councillor Whimp, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

Councillor Thomas Slager be appointed as the Recreation Advisory Committee Representative.

- CARRIED -

COUNCILLOR OPEN FORUM

Councillor Whimp:

- Expressed concerns with the crime activity in the community and the need for action. Liard First Nation has initiated a Community Safety Committee with help from the Federal government to identify community safety needs and develop a community safety plan. Tiffany Lund has been attending the committee meetings on behalf of the Town of Watson Lake and hopes to continue to participate. Administration explained that there are regular meetings with RCMP and that safety concerns have been communicated.

GALLERY OPEN FORUM

C. Ellis:

- Commended and congratulated Council on their new roles.

D. Burdes:

- Asked if other areas of town could be repaired when the chip-seal company is in the community in the spring.
- Asked about progress of infill plot development at the cemetery.
- Sought clarity about the gas and diesel prices received for fuel cardlock tender.

A. Miller:

- Asked what items were deducted from the Cemetery Plot Infill project to bring the project within budget.
- Plans to attend the Community Safety Meeting and agreed that community safety needs to be a priority and increased RCMP presence would help.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 024-022-179

Moved by Councillor Slager, seconded by Councillor Paquette THAT:

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

- CARRIED -

Lauren Hanchar – Mayor

Tiffany Lund – Municipal Clerk