

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM

MEETING NO. 14  
July 2, 2019

ATTENDANCE

PUBLIC

CHERYL O'BRIEN – MAYOR  
ERIN LABONTE – COUNCILOR  
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR  
CHRIS IRVIN – COUNCILOR  
THOMAS SLAGER - COUNCILOR

Sandy Sierra

ADMINISTRATION

CAMERON LOCKWOOD – Chief Administrative Officer  
SHANNON BERGERON - Treasurer  
GRO BRODERSEN – A/Municipal Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mayor O'Brien.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 019-14-225**

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Irvin that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

**MINUTES**

Council discussed the Draft Minutes from the Council Meeting of June 18, 2019.

**CAO REPORT**

CAO Cam Lockwood gave a verbal presentation of his report.

- The Town now has three certified Water Operators
- Chad Hamer continues as the Acting Public Works Manager
- Work continues on the Lagoon. There is just enough room to fit the cells in.
- Cement will be poured soon at the Lagoon
- The back-up generator at the Lift Station needs to be removed and worked on. More paperwork is also needed.
- Administration will be doing training in Whitehorse in the Fall
- The Northern Lights Centre was not open last weekend due to a staff shortage. This has now been rectified and the NLC will be open on weekends.
- The posting for Heavy Equipment Operator closed and the Town received 4 applications.
- There is new Gas Tax Funding and vehicles will now be eligible. Recommendations from Administration will be available by the end of the week. This can be added to next years' budget.

**AYC REPORT**

Mayor O'Brien spoke about the AYC Resolutions and respectful engagements. The Resolutions have been emailed to Council.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
REPORT**

Councilor Hanchar presented the Chamber report:

- The main runway at the Watson Lake Airport is being resurfaced.
- Repairs are also being done to the roof, boilers and septic.
- Falcon Aviation has a three year contract to supply fuel.
- Health and Social Services is under review and there is a survey online.
- The Spring Fling will continue with some changes being made

**RECREATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilor Labonte did not have a report since there was not enough people to attend so there was no meeting. Council inquired if we can actively seek members.

**DEPARTMENTAL  
QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Council mentioned how thorough the Water report was. Discussion took place regarding water meters and water leaks.

Fire Chief Charlie Crane has approached Yukon Housing about having outdoor sprinklers installed on their rentals units. Charlie has requested that Council write a letter to Yukon Housing urging them in this regard. Council discussed the Watson Lake Campground when there is a fire ban on. Charlie would like to see the Town have jurisdiction during a fire ban and requested that Council look into this.

Discussion took place regarding the website and its maintenance. Administration is looking at a company (All-Net) which also does websites for Carmacks, Dawson and Faro.

In Parks and Recreation there is an issue with the Signpost Forest. The locals are using it as a drinking site and as their personal bathroom. They also throw their garbage all over. With all the tourists in town the garbage cans are always full.

Council mentioned that there is not a lot of money in the budget for the Signpost Forest. Council discussed the site being owned by Yukon Government.

**BUDGET VARIANCE  
REPORT**

Shannon Bergeron presented the Budget Variance Report and explained various line items. The budget will be done more clearly for next year and will be done earlier in the Fall.

**OCP/ZONING CHANGE  
REQUEST**

Bud Larson has requested that his property at 32 Adela Trail be re-zoned from Commercial Highway to Country Residential. The change is needed to be able to apply for funding for renovations.

Council discussed and requested that Administration send a letter to Bud indicating that they will not consider a change at this time but would review the use of the area during the OCP and Zoning Review.

**BY-LAW 18-11  
ACCOMMODATION LEVY**

Council discussed at length.

- The allocation of the revenue.
- If collected from Tourism it should be used for that purpose.
- The Town needs to have a policy regarding the funds collected, allocation and use.

- Would like to move forward with this.
- The hotels will do the collecting and it would be based on a percentage amount.
- A report is needed for the monies the hotels collect.
- If not compliant, what is the next step
- Soften the wording on audit portion in By-Law.
- Are RV Parks and B & B's included in the levy
- Remove RV Parks and B & B's from revenue
- Five percent would be fair
- The hotels could do a quarterly remittance
- The hotels would not receive a portion of the revenue

**BY-LAW 06-01**  
**BUSINESS LICENSE**  
**REVIEW**

Council requested more information from Administration. Administration will provide recommendations by September 2019.

**BY-LAW 19-11**  
**TAX GRANT REVIEW**

**MOTION 019-14-226**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager  
that:

First and Second Reading for By-Law 19-11, being a By-Law to Provide For  
Grants be approved.

-CARRIED-

**DRAFT DISTRICT**  
**HEAT AGREEMENT**

**MOTION 019-14-227**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager  
that:

The Town of Watson Lake accept the Draft District Heat Agreement.

-CARRIED –

**ASSET MANAGEMENT**  
**POLICY**

The Asset Management Policy is not available at this time. It will be  
available for the August Council of the Whole Meeting.

- CARRIED –

**GALLERY OPEN**  
**FORUM**

Sandy Sierra inquired with Council about starting a Grow Operation for  
cannabis. The zoning requirements need to be met. If he would like  
confirmation, he can send a letter to the Town requesting this.

**COUNCILOR**  
**OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Slager inquired about a memorial for Sharon Miller. A sitting  
bench near the Community Garden was suggested.

Councilor Hanchar would like to have an infrastructure tour for Council.  
CAO Cam Lockwood will arrange it. Councilor Hanchar also inquired if we  
had received any word regarding Minister Streiker's community tour.

Councilor Labonte inquired about the Lakeview Apartments and if all the residents are now evicted. If not, would like to see the eviction enforced. Councilor Labonte also spoke about the Town Administration Building and the locals hanging out and sitting on the hill. There is a need to make it more welcoming and friendly for the tourists and deter the people hanging around. A Kiosk for tourists could be put up at the top.

Mayor O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

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Cheryl O'Brien – Mayor



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Terri Close – Municipal Clerk