

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

June 5, 2019

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

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

PUBLIC

R. Wilkinson
L. Bruce
J. Carlson
K. Ristau
A. Durante
E. Pendulbury

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor O'Brien.

AGENDA

MOTION 019-13-209

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to include:

Engagement on Economic Development's funding programs.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

Council reviewed the draft minutes of the last regular meeting of May 21, 2019.

ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE

Council reviewed the Open Payables in the amount of \$234,861.56. Mayor O'Brien informed Council that the Open Payables will be approved on a monthly basis.

REPORTS

CAO Report

Administration informed Council that the Public Works staff are fixing potholes, flushing hydrants and mowing ditches. There have been problems experienced with the equipment due to its age.

The Recplex kitchen renovation is to be complete and equipment installed by Friday, June 7th.

Interviews for the summer positions at both the NLC and Recreation department have been completed and staff will be hired and in place once the school year is complete.

The pool is open for the season and has been very busy.

Administration provided Council with renderings of the Admin Building retrofit. Councilor Labonte commented on the design of the building and expressed her disappointment that the decks will be removed.

Administration addressed the CAMA and FCM Conference that was held in Quebec City. CAMA was very informative, however the FCM Conference was intended more for a larger community, and not worthwhile for a community the size of Watson Lake.

The 2018 audit has been completed and a Budget Variance report will be provided at the July Council meeting.

Council enquired about the concession at the Recplex and whether there had been any interest expressed in taking it over. There has been no further interest in the concession tender, however it has been re-advertised and will remain posted until filled. Council suggested amending the tender to accommodate any expression of interest from the public.

AYC REPORT

Mayor O'Brien provided an AYC update as follows:

- Council attended the AYC AGM in Haines Junction in May.
- Watson Lake will be hosting the 2020 AYC AGM.
- Bev Buckway, Executive Director has resigned. The position will be posted shortly.
- Council has been invited to attend the YG "Taking the pulse" – a Health & wellness conversation teleconference on June 7th.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REPORT

Councilor Hanchar informed Council of various items that were addressed at the Chamber of Commerce meeting that she attended. Coeur Mining has advised that with increase mining activity in the region, Air North will commence offering chartered flights as of June 20th.

The Chamber of Commerce is looking to form an Economic Development Committee and will be seeking community input on the subject,

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT

Councilor Labonte informed Council that a Recreation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled next week and she will have a report afterwards. Mayor O'Brien asked if whether a special intake could be arranged if there were any excess funds remaining. Councilor Labonte advised that the committee is addressing adding an extra funding intake and having three intakes for the year.

NEW & UNFINISHED

NORTHERN ENVIRO
SPECIAL WASTE

Council discussed an application from Northern Enviro Services who have applied to YG for a commercial dump permit to dispose of industrial waste which includes asbestos, and construction waste by way of constructing a burial cell on the property. YG will not approve the permit as the burial of solid waste is not permitted under the Town of Watson Lake Zoning Bylaw. NES is requesting an interim approval be granted by the Town to begin construction and use of its commercial dump until such time that the OCP and Zoning Bylaw can be amended. Council were in agreement that the Town will not approve the issuance of a permit until such time that a review of the Zoning Bylaw is complete to determine if burial of any form of waste will be permitted.

Council suggested a meeting be arranged with YG Environment prior to any decision being made.

LOT ENLARGEMENT
REQUEST

Council was in receipt of a letter from YG Land Management denying a land application for Mr. Ristau for a lot enlargement. Mr. Ristau is appealing the decision as his application for a lot enlargement will bring his property into compliance with the Town of Watson Lake RC Zoning. Council discussed and agreed to send a letter of support to YG for the lot enlargement for Mr. Ristau.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL
DAYS EVENTS

Mayor O'Brien informed Council that Liard First Nation is hosting National Aboriginal Days in Watson Lake June 21st and is planning an event in Wye Lake park. LFN is requesting to rent various Town equipment for the event in addition to hiring Town staff to assist. Council agreed to support National Aboriginal Days and allow LFN to rent the Town equipment at the applicable rate and hire staff to assist with the event.

CRA -WL MOTORS
PROPERTY TAXES

Mayor O'Brien provided an update on the Watson Lake Motors outstanding property taxes and recommendations from the Town of Watson Lake Lawyer regarding the tax lien on the property. As per discussion with CRA, the property has been sold as of June 1, 2019, and CRA would like the Town to compromise its claim to allow for the sale to proceed. It was suggested that the Town accept ½ of the total amount owing, after which it should discharge the tax lien and allow the sale to proceed. Council expressed its discontent with the proposal from CRA, however agreed to the recommendation from the Lawyer.

HIDDEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP
REQUEST FOR DONATION

Council addressed a letter from Hidden Lakes Bible Camp expressing an interest in acquiring the extra commercial grill/stove that the Town had recently replaced. Council support the request and suggested that a process be put in place where all non-profit groups would have the opportunity to bid on obsolete items.

MOTION 019-13-210

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

Council donate the extra commercial grill/stove to the Hidden Lakes Bible Camp.

-CARRIED-

CAMPING AT WATSON LAKE
AIRPORT

Council was in receipt of information provided by YG Energy, Mines & Resources with potential options if the Town of Watson Lake is interested in regulating camping at the Watson Lake airport. Council addressed the options provided. Mayor O'Brien held a conversation with a YG employee that informed overnight camping at the airport is prohibited and will be enforced. Any unauthorized occupant complaints should be directed to Compliance, Monitoring & Inspections.

YUKONER'S CONCERNED
NEWSLETTER

Council was in receipt of a copy of the Yukoners Concerned May/2019 Newsletter that included an article regarding Yukon Energy's plan to build another permanent thermal generation facility in Whitehorse area. The Newsletter is encouraging all those individuals concerned with fossil fuel generation to complete an online survey expressing their opinions. Council Labonte may write a letter on behalf of Council.

STAFF MEETING

Mayor O'Brien informed Council of the Staff meeting/BBQ scheduled for Wednesday, June 12th. The meeting is to introduce the Council strategic Plan to the employees.

ENGAGEMENT ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT'S FUNDING PROGRAMS

Council addressed information from the Department of Economic Development seeking input regarding modernization of three of its funding programs to support economic development activities in Yukon. YG is seeking input on ways to improve the programs and are requesting feedback.

COUNCILOR OPEN FORUM

Councilor Labonte has prepared a firesmart initiative brochure that will be distributed at the Town Hall Meeting. She addressed various properties in the community that are in contravention of the General Maintenance Bylaw and requested Administration provide an update on what action has been taken to bring the properties into compliance.

Councilor Hanchar requested an update on the District Heat system and where the Town is at with moving forward on this topic. Administration advised that it is being addressed.

**GALLERY
OPEN FORUM**

Janice Carlson requested information on what amount of the outstanding taxes on WL Motors were written off as a result of the CRA decision. Administration informed the public of the amount.

Ruth Wilkinson addressed various LFN properties that she suggested be cleaned. Administration advised that LFN is working on enforcing maintenance on their properties and have already made tremendous progress on certain properties in the community. Discussion continued regarding untidy areas around the Town Administration building and various Town facilities. It was suggested organizations and individuals be encouraged to take 20 minutes out of their day to clean up garbage around their homes or place of work.

Anais Durante thanked the Water Treatment staff for keeping the business community updated on any water/hydrant repairs being done that may result in water discoloration affecting their establishment.

Lelah Bruce addressed the garbage at the Signpost Forest, and suggested that as it is a tourist destination, the garbage should be removed and the area cleaned on a regular basis. Councilor Slager suggested that a class from WL Secondary as a fundraising opportunity be paid to clean and remove the garbage from the Signpost Forest.

Elise Pendulbury informed Council that funding for energy efficient projects is available from Yukon Government and could be available for the Administration building renovation.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 019-13-211

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

Council go In-Camera.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 019-13-212

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

Council revert to an Open meeting.

-CARRIED-

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 019-13-213

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Cheryl O'Brien
Cheryl O'Brien – Mayor

- CARRIED -

Terri Close
Terri Close – Municipal Clerk