

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 24
December 3, 2019

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

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

PUBLIC
G. Amann
P. McLeod
J. Holt
R. Wilkonson

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD - CAO
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk
SHANNON BERGERON – Finance Comptroller

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Acting Mayor Irvin.

AGENDA

MOTION 019-24-301

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

The Agenda be amended to delete item #3.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 019-24-302

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

The minutes be adopted from the Regular meeting of November 19, 2019.

-CARRIED-

REPORTS

CAO REPORT

Administration provided an update on the following items:

- Tender Documents for the abatement and demolition of the buildings on the Watson Lake Hotel property closes December 12th. There have been 15 tender packages pulled. A site visit was conducted with Lyon Kechika and Northern Environmental Services.
- Infrastructure scope work is complete.
- Cam and Thomas are attending the AYC Board meeting in Whitehorse on December 7th & 8th.
- The Town hired two Water Operators as part of the 2-year training program who commenced work December 2nd and will alternate between the Water treatment plant and Public Works. Stan and Chad are now performing on-call duties.
- The tender for the supply of a motor grader closes December 23rd. Three companies have expressed an interest to date.
- Work at the Admin building is proceeding. There was a change to the tender as there will be no changes to the windows for a difference of \$200,000.
- District Heat parts are with the contractor in Whitehorse being welded and should be in WL within the next week.

NEW & UNFINISHED

**2020 PROVISIONAL O/M AND
CAPITAL BUDGET**

Council was in receipt of the draft 2020 Provisional O/M and Capital Budgets. Administration provided an update on various line items. Mayor O'Brien discussed the Town reserves and expressed concerns that no additional funding was allocated for reserves, and stressed the importance of continuing to build the reserves annually.

Council addressed the budget for the purchase of a steamer truck and suggested that this item be removed from the budget as this would be competing with two local contractors that the Town could utilize if needed.

Councilor Slager requested that budget information include a detailed list of various outside funding received including the monies held in reserves.

**TOWN HALL
MEETING**

Council discussed potential dates to hold a Public Town Hall meeting and agreed to January 9th at 6:00 pm. Council agreed to present the 2020 budget at that time. Council will also include discussion on land development, cemetery fees, street lights to 2 & 2 ½ mile and provide an update on other Council matters. Council agreed to consider any additional agenda items and introduce them at the next Council meeting.

**BUSINESS LICENCE BYLAW
REVIEW**

Acting Mayor Irvin abstained from this conversation. Mayor O'Brien suggested the possibility of a sliding scale for businesses that operate more than one business from their establishment.

Councilor Labonte expressed that there has been no change to the business licence fees since 2006 and they are very outdated in comparison to other communities. She suggested that Air B&B's be included in the bylaw.

Councilor Slager suggested that with the increases in water/sewer rates, garbage fees, and the increase in taxes, that the Town support local business and maintain business licence fees at their current rate.

Councilor Hanchar addressed various wording in the bylaw that needs to be updated or amended, and addressed the section regarding hawkers/peddlers.

Council agreed to review the bylaw and provide Administration with recommended changes and reintroduce in February.

**CEMETERY BYLAW
REVIEW**

Council discussed the cemetery bylaw and various sections that need to be updated that are contradictory. The interment fees were addressed and Council agreed they are too low in comparison to the actual cost. Administration suggested the Fees & Charges Bylaw be reviewed for all fees as opposed to individual bylaws and forward any proposed changes to Administration.

**WL AIRPORT
HISTORIC SITE**

Council was in receipt of a letter from YG Minister of Tourism and Culture advising that the Watson Lake Air Terminal Building is now a designated Yukon Historic Site effective September 17, 2019.

COUNCILOR OPEN FORUM

Councilor Hanchar provided an update on the meeting that she and Councilor Labonte attended November 27th to review Animal protection and control legislation.

Councilor Labonte requested a report on the recplex hours of operation and statistics of usage of the facility.

Mayor O'Brien addressed a financial partnership to install street lighting to 2 & 2 ½ mile.

Mayor O'Brien thanked the Chamber of Commerce for agreeing to host Moonlight Madness in Watson Lake on Friday, December 6th.

GALLERY
OPEN FORUM

Ruth Wilkinson and Patti McLeod discussed a presentation held by YG in Watson Lake November 20th to discuss Energy Solutions. The presentation was very poorly attended as there was no advertising done. It was suggested to engage with Council and invite them back to Watson Lake to repeat their presentation.

Patti McLeod addressed the Capital Budget and questioned the purchase of equipment identified as a Capital expense that she believes should be an O/M item. Administration advised that the auditors have identified these items as a Capital expense under the PSAB regulations.

Patti requested an update on land development in Watson Lake and future rural lot development aside from Country residential.

Jim Holt questioned where money is identified in the 2020 budget for District Heat and maintenance costs.

Jim Holt enquired what commercial/retail space is available in the recplex as the Curlers were asked to leave the building in order to accommodate an event that was booked at the same time that curling was taking place.

Acting Mayor Irvin thanked the public for attending the meeting and appreciated their questions and comments.

IN-CAMERA

MOTION 19-24-303

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

Council go In-Camera.

-CARRIED-

MOTION 19-24-304

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

Council revert to an Open meeting.

-CARRIED-

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 019-24-305

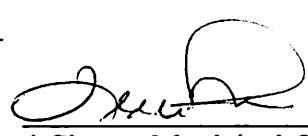
Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 pm.

- CARRIED -


Cheryl O'Brien – Mayor

Chris Irvin


Terri Close – Municipal Clerk