

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

October 1, 2019

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

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

C.Irvin

PUBLIC

G.Bruce  
M.Lexow

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD - CAO  
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk  
SHANNON BERGERON – Finance Comptroller  
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor O'Brien.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 019-20-269**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

**MINUTES**

Council reviewed the draft minutes of the last regular meeting of September 17, 2019.

**REPORTS**

CAO Report

Council reviewed the CAO Quarterly report. Administration provided an update on the following items:

- Water licence renewal
- Advertised for Coop Student for the Ec Dev/Tourism project – 5 applications received – All declined the offer of employment
- Gas tax funding was received for OCP/Zoning Bylaw review
- Collective bargaining negotiations – Renewal of agreement for 3 years
- Remediation of WL Hotel property approved through Gas tax
- Admin retrofit was awarded, work has started on Firehall/Public works building site

Financial Report

Shannon Bergeron provided Council with Financial information that included a revenue/expense cost comparison for 2018/2019 as well as the Budget Variance Report. Council asked questions on various line items.

Departmental Reports

Council acknowledged receipt of the quarterly departmental reports and tabled discussion to the next Council meeting as this will provide them the opportunity to review the reports further.

**NEW & UNFINISHED**

BUSINESS LICENCE  
REVIEW

Mayor O'Brien informed Council that the Town of Watson Lake is beginning the process of reviewing the Business licence Bylaw and suggested that Council go through the By-Law and provide comments for the November meeting. Council suggested that the bylaw be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce for comment.

Administration provided Council with copies of the Cemetery Bylaw and addressed various sections that need to be corrected. Council discussed maintenance concerns as the cemetery is in a state of disrepair and neglect. The cemetery fees and charges were addressed as they are outdated, other communities charge a significant amount more. The cemetery is expected to be expanded next year and will offer more burial plots. Councilor Labonte suggested that a review of the layout and design for the expansion of the cemetery be done prior to the sale of any plots. Council agreed to review the Whitehorse bylaw and table discussion until November.

#### **ACCOMMODATION LEVY POLICY**

Mayor O'Brien addressed the accommodation levy policy and suggested that Council initiate conversation in order to provide direction to Administration to assist in preparing the policy. Council suggested that funds be used not only to improve Tourism opportunities for the community but also to improve the stakeholders' business. A business incentive matching program to promote economic development would be beneficial. Council agreed the Town needs to maintain integrity on what the funds are used for and be specific. It was suggested that a portion of the funds be put into a reserve for a downtown revitalization program. Council agreed to discuss this as part of the Marketing and plan that is being done with the help of the Regional Economic Development funding. Once a policy has been drafted a meeting will be held with the stakeholders for input.

#### **WATSON LAKE BOWLING LEAGUE**

Council received a letter from the WL Bowling League requesting use of the bowling alley afterhours every Friday in order to accommodate the number of teams wanting to bowl this winter. This would also require access to the bowling computer system that is located in a separate area of the facility. The league is also requesting that a flat rate be charged as opposed to an hourly rate. Administration informed Council that the date proposed for the commencement of the bowling conflicts with the Collective Agreement in that it does not provide the appropriate notice for change in staffing. There is no budget or time to relocate or train league members in use of the computer system before that time. Council discussed further and requested that Administration work with the league to find a solution to address their request.

#### **COUNCILOR OPEN FORUM**

Mayor O'Brien and Councilor Labonte participated in a meeting held in Lower Post to support the residential school facility being demolished.

Mayor O'Brien informed Council that training is being offered to provide knowledge and information in comprehending LGBTQ2. Council suggested that staff at the recplex attend the training. Council support the training being offered. Mayor O'Brien will reply.

#### **GALLERY OPEN FORUM**

Gerry Bruce informed Council of a Community development planning meeting being held October 6<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is to discuss in detail a concept of community planning that can and will positively influence the long-term development of the Watson Lake area that is defined and driven by the citizens of Watson Lake.

Michael Lexow addressed the accommodation levy and informed Council that it is the business owners that have the knowledge regarding tourism and play a key role in forging a common voice and actions to influence, promote and assist the development of tourism in Watson Lake. He believes the Town should be looking at ways to save money that will help the community and that by implementing an accommodation levy is complicating the system and has divided the community. Mayor O'Brien thanked Michael for his comments, however Council believe they need to move forward with what is best for the community and this is a process of looking ahead.

Mayor O'Brien thanked the public for attending the meeting and appreciated their comments.

**IN-CAMERA**

**MOTION 19-20-270**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

Council go In-Camera.

-CARRIED-

**MOTION 19-20-271**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

Council revert to an Open meeting.

-CARRIED-

**MOTION 019-20-272**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

Council accept the proposal from Stantec Engineering for the Review and rewrite of the Official Community Plan.

-CARRIED-

Abstained: Councilor Slager


**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 019-20-273**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 pm.

- CARRIED -

  
Cheryl O'Brien – Mayor

  
Terri Close – Municipal Clerk