

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

September 3, 2019

ATTENDANCE

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

ABSENT

PUBLIC
L.Bruce A.Durante
J/R.Carlson P.McLeod
J.Johnson | A.Tannock
K/G. Vigeant M.Lexow
P.Bergeron J.Smith
C.Hamer

ADMINISTRATION
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

AGENDA

MOTION 019-18-251

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

Council reviewed the draft minutes of the last regular meeting of August 20, 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION 019-18-252

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

The Public Hearing for By-Law 19-09, being a By-Law to amend the OCP By-Law be open.

-CARRIED-

No written or verbal submissions were presented.

MOTION 019-18-253

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

The Public Hearing be closed.

-CARRIED-

TENDERS

One tender was submitted for the Town of Watson Lake propane requirements.

MOTION 019-18-254

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

Council accept the Tender from Superior Propane at the fixed price of \$0.760/litre.

-CARRIED-

NEW & UNFINISHED

Hydrogeological Assessment
Watson Lake Lagoon

Council was in receipt of a proposal for completion of the lagoon hydrogeological assessment.

MOTION 019-18-255

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

Council accept the proposal from Morrison Hershfield in the amount of \$58,095.00.

-CARRIED-

TOURISM STRATEGY

Mayor O'Brien and Councilor Labonte recently met with some tourism experts that visited Watson Lake to tour Watson Lake local attractions. A report will be received with feedback regarding improvements that could be made to our existing recreational assets that will encourage visitors to enjoy and utilize them more. With the help of the Regional Economic Development funds received, the Town can start working toward a marketing and tourism plan that is attainable and feasible for our community.

**LFN - WATSON LAKE
OCP**

Council received a letter from Liard First Nation regarding the reassessment of the Town Official Community Plan and Zoning By-Law. LFN expressed that the reassessment is an important and necessary step and look forward to working closely with the TOWL in this important undertaking.

**EMERGENCY HOUSING
INITIATIVE**

Council addressed a request from WL Elders' Society to allow the use of the lobby of the Northern Light Centre from October 1, 2019 to April, 2020 for a temporary emergency housing shelter. There is a number of people in the community that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and are in need of emergency shelter. Council expressed concern with the NLC being used as an emergency shelter, and suggested to invite the WL Elders' Society to the next Council meeting to discuss further.

**WL RECREATION ADVISORY
FUNDING MINUTES**

MOTION 019-18-256

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

Council approve the minutes from the Recreation Advisory August 15th lotteries intake as presented.

-CARRIED-

COUNCILOR OPEN FORUM

Councilor Slager addressed the administrative building renovations and the timing of the contract being awarded as the construction season is nearing an end as winter approaches. Mayor O'Brien suggested that Administration provide an update at the next Council meeting.

Councilor Irvin acknowledged the passing of former Premier & MLA Dennis Fentie and suggested the Town offer recognition for those that have passed away in the community. Councilor Hanchar discussed whether a flag can be mounted outside the Administration building that could be lowered to half-mast as done in other communities as a measure of respect and condolence.

Mayor O'Brien informed Council that she requires feedback on both the Animal Protection Act and the Yukon Parks Strategy. Council suggested that representatives be invited to Watson Lake to hold an Open House to address these items.

Mayor O'Brien addressed the Watson Lake website and a survey being prepared for public input to provide suggestions on the design/content of the website.

Mayor O'Brien reminded Council members of the dinner on September 10th with Minister Streicker and YG representatives.

GALLERY
OPEN FORUM

Lelah Bruce expressed concerns that the Northern Lights Centre had been closed for two consecutive weekends with no notice to the public and the Visitor Centre had received complaints. Lelah also addressed squatters that are residing in the buildings on the WL Hotel property and asked whether this could be addressed.

Kathy Vigeant enquired about the Recognition and Remembrance Program designed to recognize and remember people who have made a significant contribution to life in Watson Lake. There were a number of persons that had been acknowledged as part of the program and photos were posted in the Recplex. She suggested that this program could be resurrected.

Michael Lexow addressed the proposed Accommodation levy and the Town having the right to review company records to ensure compliance with the Bylaw. Mayor O'Brien explained the reasoning and that levels of government have the right of access to any information to ensure compliance.

Phyllis Bergeron expressed concerns with the Accommodation levy and asked how the rate was determined as it has been changed several times. She also questioned where the funding will be spent. Mayor O'Brien provided an explanation that a policy is being prepared that will provide direction and implement guidelines to oversee the spending of the funding/revenue and will ensure the policy is clear and concise.

Randy Carlson addressed the proposed lot development within the community and questioned the feasibility of lot development along Watson Lake. Mayor O'Brien provided an explanation that there is a need for more available property in WL and that lot development has been a discussion with YG for several years. Various areas have been identified that are under consideration by Council, however there are areas with a historical designation that need to be considered. Council informed the public that the Town does not receive revenue from the sale of the lots, only revenue from the taxes that are charged on the property. Mayor O'Brien informed the public that more consultation will be done prior to finalizing what areas are to be developed. Michael Lexow addressed lot development and not having proper infrastructure in place as this adds extra expense on the property owner when purchasing a lot in the community.

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

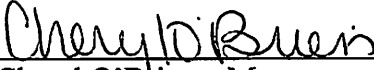
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 019-18-257

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 pm.

- CARRIED -



Cheryl O'Brien – Mayor



Terri Close – Municipal Clerk