

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING NO. 7  
April 6, 2021

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

CHRIS IRVIN – MAYOR  
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR  
JOHN DEVRIES – COUNCILOR  
THOMAS SLAGER – COUNCILOR  
ERIN LABONTE – COUNCILOR

PUBLIC  
J. Carlson  
R. Wilkinson  
G. Sundby  
L. Bruce  
C. Hamer  
Srgt. Bailey  
Cst. Benson

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD – CAO  
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

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

**AGENDA**

**MOTION 021-07-50**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager  
that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to include:

Solveest/1<sup>st</sup> Kaska Project.

-CARRIED –

**MINUTES**

**MOTION 021-07-51**

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

The minutes be adopted from the last Regular meeting of March 16, 2021 as  
presented.

-CARRIED –

**ACCOUNTS  
PAYABLE**

**MOTION 021-07-52**

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$188,700.14 be paid.

-CARRIED –

**DELEGATION**

RCMP Sergeant Aaron Bailey and fellow RCMP member Constable Brycen Benson of the Watson Lake Detachment provided a brief introduction to Council as they are both new members to the community. Sergeant Bailey provided Council with the March Policing Report and addressed various occurrences for the month. Council thanked both Sergeant Bailey and Constable Benson for attending the meeting and welcomed them to Watson Lake.

## **REPORTS**

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Council was in receipt of the Departmental Quarterly Reports. Discussion and various questions were addressed on the following:

Pool staffing: Advertising has been done and funding applications have been completed to hire pool staff for the 2021 summer season. There are currently 3 people who have expressed an interest in applying for various positions at the pool, however more properly trained staff are required, otherwise the pool may not open this year. Council discussed options for pool hours if the positions can be filled.

Council addressed the Northern Lights Centre report which discussed preparations taking place to open Mid May. Council was in agreement to have the NLC open as often as possible and pursue all avenues for staffing the centre to accommodate longer hours. The report detailed several topics that were well received by Council.

Council discussed the Recreation report and expressed concerns with the leaks in the roof and damage that is occurring in the facility as a result of the leaks. Curling was discussed as it was well attended this season. Councilor Devries suggested the idea of the curling lounge being taken over privately.

### **TOURISM REPORT**

Councilor Labonte presented Council with the Tourism Committee Report and addressed many topics from the report that will benefit tourism in Watson Lake and Yukon. Mayor Irvin thanked Councilor Labonte and the Committee for taking the time to prepare the report and commended the work that was done. Council questioned how the goals and ideas of the report will be implemented and what resources are required to move forward. The items are attainable and easy to implement, and it was suggested they be incorporated into the Strategic Plan. It was agreed that Council and Administration review the document further and provide direction on what items to adopt as part of the plan moving forward.

### **CAO REPORT**

Administration addressed a proposal from Solvest for the installation of a solar array at the Water Treatment Plant. The cost of the unit is \$60,000 but qualifies for a \$40,000 good energy rebate through YG. CDF funding is also available for approximately \$15,000. Council addressed potential benefits and cost savings and support the concept, however requested more information for consideration.

## **NEW & UNFINISHED**

### **ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY#2021-01**

The Asset Management Policy # 2021-01 was reintroduced for more discussion. Councilor Labonte questioned how this policy affects what is currently being done to implement asset management processes within the Town, and suggested a consultation process be done as part of the policy. Mayor Irvin provided the explanation that the policy is to define structure and guidelines and Council need to respect the level of trust in Administration. It is a policy that can be amended if needed.

### **MOTION 021-07-53**

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager that:

The Asset Management Policy #2021-01 be approved.

-CARRIED –

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES  
POLICY 2021-03

Council was provided with the Development Incentives policy #2021-03. Administration informed Council that the Policy is a rewrite of the initial policy that was done in 2017 as there were some contradictions in the policy regarding qualifications. The revised policy provides incentives to support affordable rental, and market rental housing. Council Slager presented several questions on the policy and suggested the policy be reviewed and the eligibility criteria incentives table item a) and e) be amended to be based on 10 years standard tax grant.

MOTION 021-07-54

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

The Development Incentives policy #2021-03 be tabled and reintroduced with recommended changes at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

-CARRIED –

RAVENHILL  
STREET LIGHTS

Administration introduced a report with recommendations regarding Ravenhill Drive Street Lights and a letter from Watson Lake School Council expressing safety concerns with children walking to school and the minimal lighting in the school zone. Administration has been in conversation with Atco and provided Council with the cost for the installation of 5 metal street lights with underground wiring at a cost of \$38,300. Council suggested that both the Yukon Hospital Corporation and Liard First Nation be approached to discuss providing financial assistance to offset some of the cost. Mayor Irvin agreed to meet with Administration to prepare letters to both organizations.

MOTION 021-07-55

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

The recommendations for Ravenhill Street lights be tabled and reintroduced at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

-CARRIED –

DISTRICT HEAT EXPANSION  
ASSESSMENT REPORT

Administration addressed the District Heating System Expansion options Assessment Report prepared by Clean Energy Consulting (CEC). The assessment report aims to identify the current operating issues of the system, recommend potential solutions, as well as identify future opportunities that can be integrated to benefit the Watson Lake Hospital and Elementary School. The report determined that despite the system generally performing without issue, there are a number of operational concerns and maintenance items that should be addressed to maintain its longevity as well as to fully utilize the system to the potential of the original design. The recommendations were: 1) Complete pipe inspection. 2) Implement corrosion mitigation. 3) Repair expansion tank(s).

Council agreed that due to the potential cost to complete the recommendations in the report, that all avenues of funding need to be investigated.

MOTION 021-07-56

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

Administration proceed with investigating options and actual cost to follow up on the recommendations in the report.

-CARRIED –

SOLVEST/1<sup>ST</sup> KASKA

Council discussed an initiative from Solvest/First Kaska to develop, build and operate a renewable energy system in Watson Lake. Administration addressed the proposed location as the project does not meet the current zoning and OCP. Council addressed concerns which Liard First Nation had previously expressed with spot zoning in and around Watson lake which has caused serious infringements to Kaska rights. Administration advised that numerous attempts have been made to meet with Liard First Nation. Council encouraged a meeting be held to discuss the application presented and the OCP.

MOTION 021-07-57

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar  
that:

The initiative by Solvest/First Kaska be tabled to May 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

-CARRIED-

**COUNCILOR**  
**OPEN FORUM**

Councilor Hanchar addressed the Town Newsletter and suggested it be reintroduced as it is missed in the community, and is a means of communication.

Councilor Hanchar enquired about whether supporting documentation could be available to the public for items that are on the agenda. Administration advised that only items that have received approval as per the Municipal Act can be provided to the public. Items such as bylaws and approved minutes, etc are posted on the website. Administration will address this with Community Affairs.

Council Devries suggested a letter be sent to the Minister of Environment regarding the Ace Asphalt Plant. It was suggested this be dealt with after the April 12<sup>th</sup> Territorial Election.

Councilor Labonte expressed concern with the amount of snow being plowed onto Town playgrounds and private property. Administration advised the lack of areas in the community to place the excess snow, and although it is not the best situation but due to the snow load is necessary.

**GALLERY**  
**OPEN FORUM**

Mrs. Ruth Wilkinson informed Council that she is impressed with the work that Council has done. She also enquired about the annual Spring Clean-up program and if it was being offered again this year. Mayor Irvin will discuss the potential of having the program being offered both May & June and will discuss further at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION 021-06-49

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte  
that:

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

- CARRIED –

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Chris Irvin – Mayor

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Terri Close – Municipal Clerk

