

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM

MEETING NO. 9
May 4, 2021

ATTENDANCE

PUBLIC

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

Angela Spencer
Patti McLeod

ADMINISTRATION

CAMERON LOCKWOOD – Chief Administrative Officer
GRO BRODERSEN – A/Municipal Clerk
SHANNON BERGERON - Treasurer

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

AGENDA

MOTION 021-09-60

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Devries
that:

The Agenda be adopted as amended to include #14 CF Correspondence.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

MOTION 021-09-61

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

The minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2021 be adopted.

-CARRIED -

ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE

MOTION 021-09-062

Moved by Councilor Slager, Seconded by Councilor Devries
that:

The Open Payables in the amount of \$87,891.87 be paid.

-CARRIED -

Council discussed various line items.

BY-LAWS

MOTION 021-09-063

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

By-Law 21-04, being a By-Law to consolidate all fees and charges by amending "Appendix A" of By-Law 20-19, be introduced for First Reading.

-CARRIED –

Council discussed garbage collection for non-profit groups, emergency response call-outs and the Recreation Centre fees for rentals. Administration will speak with staff regarding the fees for more clarity and information. Administration explained that if we have the fees in place then they can be implemented if needed or waived.

DELEGATION

BDO REPORT

Angela Spencer of BDO in the Salmon Arm office spoke regarding the 2020 audit. Angela explained various items on the Financial Report. Council inquired about Amortization which is not part of the budget process. Angela explained that amortization is recorded after year end.

MOTION 021-09-064

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Devries that:

The 2020 Auditors Report be accepted.

-CARRIED –

Shannon Bergeron answered questions from Council regarding COVID funds and the surplus which has been budgeted.

REPORTS

CAO Cam Lockwood gave a verbal presentation of his report.

Administration commended Shannon Bergeron and the office staff for their good work on the financials and is very happy with the auditors report. The audit was done remotely so there was a substantial savings on the cost of the audit. Administration explained that electronic accounting has been implemented and cross-training has taken place.

Due to the significant fire which took place at Fireside Minerals, the Town plow truck was in the building for repairs and was completely damaged. The insurance pay out will be \$45,162.57 which would not cover the cost of a new truck. Research is being done to find a replacement truck.

The new Public Works building and Fire Hall are on track to be ready for July 21, 2021.

Both the Northern Lights Centre and Pool will be open this year with staff already in place. Training for the Pool staff might be held in Dawson Creek this year for certification to teach lessons. The Northern Lights Centre will be open seven days a week. The Parks Department has had 3 applicants so far.

The Recycling Depot has had 5 applications to date. The EO1 position posting, which is a combined position including garbage collection, closes on May 14.

All the interior painting at the Administration building is complete. A site visit will take place at the new Public Works and the Firehall this week. Colliers Project Leaders will be doing Capital projects for the Town in 2021. This will include the roof at the Northern Lights Centre and an energy upgrade for the Recreation Centre. The roof at the Recreation Centre needs repairs and the Town may be able to receive funding for this through FCM, which Administration is researching.

Yukon Government has approved Phase One funding for the Town's in-ground infrastructure with the worst areas being done first. The engineering will be done in 2021 and the work will commence in the Spring of 2022. Council inquired if Liard First Nation would be involved in this endeavour. Administration explained that they will not.

NEW AND UNFINISHED

SOLVEST WATER TREATMENT PROPOSAL

Solvest Inc. of Whitehorse has proposed installing solar panels at the Water Treatment Facility. This would cost approximately \$60,000.00 which could be funded through the Energy Solutions and Community Development Fund. Administration explained that an engineering report needs to be done first then it would be advertised for Tender.

MOTION 021-09-065

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Town of Watson Lake have solar panels installed at the Water Treatment Plant.

-CARRIED -

CEMETERY DESIGN

Council discussed the cemetery designs concept plan and layout. Funding for this project would come out of the Town Capital Budget. It would have natural groundcover and there will be enough space between rows to plow the snow. There would be an additional one hundred and seventy-six plots and 48 family grouping areas. There would also be a ceremonial area. A public consultation would take place first.

MOTION 021-09-066

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Cemetery Design Plan be approved as presented.

-CARRIED -

YUKON HOSPITAL CORPORATION

The Town received a letter dated April 26, 2021 regarding the need for more street lights on Ravenhill Drive between the Watson Lake Community Hospital and Johnson Elementary School. Yukon Hospital Corporation is willing to partner in this project as outlined, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and citizens of Watson Lake.

ADMIN BUILDING
LANDSCAPING

Council suggested cobblestones for the area in front of the Administration Building. Administration explained that it would be expensive and pea gravel could be used instead. A flagpole and a monument with a platform could be set up for certain ceremonies. This project is eligible for Gas Tax funds. There would be a kiosk set up with wheelchair accessibility. A walkway would go all around the Administration Building.

MOTION 021-09-067

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
That:

The landscape design for the Administration Building be accepted.

-CARRIED-

TENDERS

HEATING FUEL
TENDER

There was one tender submitted for the Town of Watson Lake heating fuel contract from North 60.

MOTION 021-09-068

Moved by Councilor Devries, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

The Town accept the tender from North 60 for fuel supply.

- CARRIED -

CORRESPONDENCE

CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Council was in receipt of a letter from the Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce regarding putting up signs at both ends of Town thanking truckers for their hard work. They have requested a donation to this cause.

MOTION 021-09-069

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

The Town of Watson Lake donate \$100.00 for the truckers signage.

-CARRIED -

GEO-THERMAL
PROJECT

The Town received a letter from Barkley Project Group requesting a letter of support for Liard First Nation's funding application to the Northern REACH program for a geothermal exploration project. The funding would cover a significant portion of the proposed work.

MOTION 021-09-070

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Town of Watson Lake send a letter of support for Liard First Nation funding application to the Northern REACH program regarding Geothermal exploration.

-CARRIED -

CF LETTER

The Town received a letter from CF Yukon regarding their annual walk and fund raising.

MOTION 021-09-071

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar that:

The Town of Watson Lake accept the letter from CF Yukon and make a proclamation to Declare the month of May as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in the Town of Watson Lake, and that the last Friday of the month of May to be Purple Shirt Day.

-CARRIED -

COUNCILOR
OPEN FORUM

Councilor Devries inquired about the AYC AGM, and was advised it will be held on Saturday May 8, 2021 at 9:00 am and will be a virtual/Zoom meeting.

Councilor Labonte spoke about the Tourism report. She suggested putting a garbage can out front. Fire-smarting was discussed.

Councilor Slager mentioned that the free truck load to the Landfill for May and June is per household.

Councilor Devries inquired about the Campground Services property. Administration explained that the roof has caved in on the building and it will be demolished. He also inquired if the ongoing environmental issues with Northern Environmental Services has any impact on the Town of Watson Lake. Administration explained that it does not.

Mayor Irvin suggested that letters be sent congratulating the successful candidates in the Yukon Election.

Council discussed the dedication ceremony planned for the new Fire Hall and Public Works buildings. A list of names for dedication will be prepared.

GALLERY
OPEN FORUM

Mayor and Council congratulated MLA Patti McLeod on her re-election success. Patti will meet with Administration this week.

IN- CAMERA

MOTION 021-09-072

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Labonte that:

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Council go In Camera.

-CARRIED -

MOTION 021-09-073

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

Council revert to an open meeting.

-CARRIED -


ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 021-09-074

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

There being no further business, the meeting be adjourned.

-CARRIED-



Christopher Irvin – Mayor

Terri Close – Municipal Clerk