MINUTES of **REGULAR** Meeting #2022-04 of the Council of the City of Whitehorse called for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022, in Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Laura Cabott

Deputy Mayor Dan Boyd Councillors Kirk Cameron

Jocelyn Curteanu Michelle Friesen Ted Laking Mellisa Murray

ALSO PRESENT: Interim City Manager Jeff O'Farrell

Acting Director of Community Services Landon Kulych
Director of Corporate Human Resources
Director of Corporate Services
Valerie Braga

Director of Development Services Mike Gau

Director of Operations Tracy Allen

Manager of Legislative Services Wendy Donnithorne

Assistant City Clerk Norma Felker

Mayor Cabott called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cabott noted that the City of Whitehorse is flying the Ukraine flag as a symbol of solidarity and support for the people of Ukraine.

Flying the Ukraine Flag

2022-04-01

It was duly moved and seconded THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

ADOPT AGENDA

Carried Unanimously

2022-04-02

It was duly moved and seconded

MINUTES

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting dated February 14, 2022 be adopted as presented.

February 14, 2022

Carried Unanimously

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corporate Services Committee

2022-04-03

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 2022-01, a bylaw to adopt the 2022 Operating Budget and the provisional budgets for 2023 and 2024, be brought forward for second and third reading under the bylaw process; and

2022 OPERATING BUDGET AND ASSOCIATED BYLAWS

.../continued

2022-04-03 (Continued)

THAT the associated 2022 Tax Levy Bylaw 2022-02 and Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2022-03 be brought forward for second and third reading under the bylaw process.

2022 OPERATING BUDGET AND ASSOCIATED BYLAWS (Continued)

Carried (6-1)

A Council member reiterated previous concerns regarding the budget process, stating the opinion that the timing does not adequately allow for meaningful public input, especially in the initial preparation of the budget. The current process also does not allow time to consider changes between the public input session and presentation of the budget for second and third reading.

Discussion

With the understanding that legislated deadlines and the date of the municipal election add to the complexity of budget preparations, it was suggested that a better process needs to be developed to allow citizens to have more input.

IN FAVOUR Mayor Cabott, Councillors Boyd, Cameron, Curteanu,

Friesen and Murray

OPPOSED Councillor Laking

Recorded Vote

2022-04-04

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT the 2021 Council Member summary reports on attendance, expense claims, travel and voting records for the members of Council elected in 2021 be accepted as presented.

2021 COUNCIL SUMMARIES

Carried Unanimously

A Committee member cited a request for lease forgiveness received from the Whitehorse Curling Club due to the impact of COVID-19, and asked if there is anything that can be done to assist the club.

Discussion on the issue noted the importance of the facility, especially in light of the bid to host the 2027 Canada Winter Games, and the possible consequences of the club defaulting on their lease.

Committee members also noted that every organization in the City has been impacted by the pandemic.

Administration agreed to confirm what the Curling Club is requesting and what assistance may be available from other governments. Information will be provided as an update at an upcoming Council and Administration Roundtable meeting.

WHITEHORSE CURLING CLUB LEASE For Information Only

City Planning Committee

2022-04-05

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT the proposed lease agreement with Alkan Air Ltd. for a float plane base on Schwatka Lake be sent back to Administration for further review.

ALKAN AIR LEASE AGREEMENT

Carried Unanimously

Council members noted that the significant increase in the lease price would be difficult for a company to accommodate, but acknowledged that the lease terms are in accordance with the provisions of existing policy. Administration was encouraged to examine the current policy to see if there are any options available to allow for a seasonal rate or other alternative to a market value lease.

Discussion

2022-04-06

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Administration is authorized to commence the procurement of planning services for project number 720c00220, Tank Farm Master Plan.

TANK FARM MASTER PLAN PROCUREMENT

Carried Unanimously

Council members spoke of the significant potential of this site, especially with respect to the addition of new residential options to meet the growing demand for housing. It was also noted that the City's role as one of the landowners on the site is important.

Discussion

In response to questions raised, Administration confirmed that the gravel resources on the site would be considered during the planning process.

Development Services Committee

2022-04-07

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Administration is directed to proceed with the development of a Housing and Land Development Advisory Committee.

HOUSING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carried Unanimously

Council members encouraged the formation of a committee with an uneven number of members in order to avoid the possible issue of tied votes, and also encouraged the recruitment of members with a broad base of interests in housing and land development issues.

Discussion

City Operations Committee

Doug Gonder of Norcope Enterprises advised the Committee that the City is facing a shortage of gravel for the upcoming construction season. He noted that this could significantly impact the budgets on current projects, including residential building, as a particular quality of gravel is required for concrete.

Mr. Gonder stated that he has been looking for a new gravel source since 2010, but the Official Community Plan review has impacted quarry extraction. He urged Council to stop delaying the approval of new quarry leases via the Official Community Plan process.

A Committee member noted that there should be caution about assuming widespread concern based on one perspective. Another member noted that a number of contractors have expressed concern about the availability of gravel, and have stated that costs will be driven up if gravel has to be sourced from greater distances.

Administration confirmed that City approvals are in place for identified quarry sites within City limits, but it is up to the landowners to release the land for quarry use.

GRAVEL SHORTAGE
For Information Only

Community Services Committee

2022-04-08

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Administration is hereby directed to explore options to improve accessibility at Grey Mountain Cemetery.

OPTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AT GREY MOUNTAIN CEMETERY

Carried Unanimously

Council members noted that this exercise would be the first step in the exploration and expansion of accessibility throughout the City. The Interim City Manager noted that enhanced service comes with a cost, and advised that the projected costs will be provided when options for increased accessibility are brought forward.

Discussion

A Committee member acknowledged February 21st as International Mother Language Day and noted that Wednesday, February 23rd is National Anti-Bullying Day. Citizens were encouraged to wear pink on Wednesday to show support for a campaign to "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully".

COMMUNITY EVENTS
For Information Only

Public Health and Safety Committee

A Committee member advised that a number of Council members met with Blood Ties to continue the conversation about what Council can do to provide support in response to the Opioid Health Crisis. It was suggested that the donation of bus passes and advertising space on buses may be specific ways to support this organization.

In response to questions raised, Administration advised that other levels of government already supply free bus passes to those who need them. It was also noted that the City is developing materials such as posters to put in public spaces, and is using its communications platforms to raise awareness and increase education about opioid use and available supports.

Committee members discussed the donation of bus passes and other support, and determined that a broader level of discussion is needed before additional specific commitments for support can be made.

OPIOID HEALTH EMERGENCY For Information Only

BYLAWS

2022-04-09

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 2022-10, a bylaw to authorize a lease agreement with the Frostbite Music Society with respect to the Chambers House in Shipyards Park, having been read a first and second time, now be given third reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2022-10

LEASE AGREEMENT Frostbite Music Society THIRD READING

2022-04-10

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 2022-01, a bylaw to adopt the 2022 Operating Budget and the provisional budgets for 2023 and 2024, be given second reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2022-01

OPERATING BUDGET 2022 TO 2024 SECOND READING

Council members highlighted a number of individual line items in the budget and noted the minimal tax increase the budget requires.

Discussion

2022-04-11

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 2022-01, a bylaw to adopt the 2022 Operating Budget and the provisional budgets for 2023 and 2024, having been read a first and second time, now be given third reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2022-01

OPERATING BUDGET 2022 TO 2024

THIRD READING

2022-04-12

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 2022-02, a bylaw to levy taxes for the year 2022, be given second reading.

BYLAW 2022-02

2022 TAX LEVY SECOND READING

Carried Unanimously

2022-04-13

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 2022-02, a bylaw to levy taxes for the year 2022, having been read a first and second time, now be given third reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2022-02

2022 TAX LEVY THIRD READING

2022-04-14

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 2022-03, a bylaw to amend the Fees and Charges Bylaw in accordance with the Operating Budget, be given second reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2022-03

AMEND FEES & CHARGES (Budget Changes)

SECOND READING

A Council member noted that the bylaw increases a number of fees for seniors and youth, and encouraged the examination of ways to lessen impacts on these vulnerable sectors of the community.

Discussion

2022-04-15

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 2022-03, a bylaw to amend the Fees and Charges Bylaw in accordance with the Operating Budget, having been read a first and second time, now be given third reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2022-03

AMEND FEES & CHARGES (Budget Changes)

THIIRD READING

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Laura Cabott, Mayor

Wendy Donnithorne, City Clerk

ADOPTED at Meeting #2022-05 dated March 14, 2022