

MINUTES of **REGULAR** Meeting #2022-13 of the Council of the City of Whitehorse called for 5:30 p.m. on June 13, 2022, in Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Laura Cabott  
Deputy Mayor Ted Laking  
Councillors Dan Boyd\*\*  
Kirk Cameron  
Jocelyn Curteanu  
Michelle Friesen  
Mellisa Murray\*\*

ALSO PRESENT: Interim City Manager Jeff O'Farrell  
Acting Director of Community Services Krista Mroz  
Director of Corporate Human Resources Lindsay Schneider  
Director of Corporate Services Valerie Braga  
Director of Development Services Mike Gau  
Manager of Legislative Services Wendy Donnithorne

\*\*Indicates electronic participation

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**2022-13-01**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT the agenda be adopted as amended with the changes being:

1. Under the Bylaw section, delete first and second reading of a Land Disposition Bylaw for the 5<sup>th</sup> and Rogers parcel; and
2. Under New and Unfinished Business, add a new item titled Update on Revised Transit Routes.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Carried Unanimously

**2022-13-02**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting dated May 24, 2022 be adopted as presented.

**MINUTES**

May 24, 2022

Carried Unanimously

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Health and Safety Committee**

Aja Mason from the Yukon Status of Women Council and Nina McKinnon from the Safe at Home Society addressed the Committee to request that the City join a coordinated response to the urgent need for housing options.

EMERGENCY HOUSING  
SITUATION

For Information Only

.../continued

(Continued)

The delegates noted that homelessness has almost doubled in recent months, and the number is expected to increase with the recent wave of evictions from hotels and motels to accommodate tourists. People without stable, long-term housing may have responded to individual emergent needs for temporary living spaces by camping under and on the clay cliffs. With the heightened concern surrounding the instability of the Whitehorse escarpment, camping in these areas is an increasingly unsafe option for people.

The delegates asked the City to immediately consider temporary suspension of certain provisions of the *Parks and Public Open Space Bylaw* to allow Robert Service Campground and the Takhini Arena to be reviewed and considered as centralized site camping and accommodation areas. The also asked that Bylaw Officers and other front-line City staff be given harm reduction and trauma-informed training, stressing that creating options that prioritize safety and meet this emergency are both necessary and consistent with the City's commitment to the values in the Safe at Home Action Plan.

Administration confirmed that the City is working with the Government of Yukon to consider a number of short term options, and noted that the Mayor is scheduled to meet with the Minister this week to discuss the issue.

In response to questions raised, Administration advised that no instances of camping on the escarpment have been identified, and noted that the amount of camping around the City is similar to previous years. Administration stated that the City is a government partner in the Safe at Home Initiative, and is part of a sub-group formed to identify solutions when hotel evictions started. The *Parks and Public Open Space Bylaw* specifies that camping in non-designated areas is an offence, but the City and Government of Yukon are considering short-term options if a demonstrated need is identified.

With respect to training for frontline staff, Administration advised that a number of programs are offered to City staff throughout the year, including conflict resolution, de-escalating, FN101, and naloxone training.

Administration noted that Robert Service Campground is not a viable option at this time due to the closure of the access road and trails in the area, and also due to the pending construction project.

In response to queries regarding zoning issues, Administration advised that usage triggers zoning applications and complaints drive enforcement issues.

EMERGENCY HOUSING  
SITUATION  
(Continued)  
For Information Only

ESCARPMENT CAMPING  
For Information Only

Administration advised that the closure of Robert Service Way is expected to continue for at least another week as sheet pilings and a berm are put in place. Crews are working on the escarpment to identify new tension cracks and seepage, and a significant crack in the Takhini area is being closely monitored.

UPDATE ON ROAD AND  
TRAIL CLOSURES  
For Information Only

**Corporate Services Committee**

**2022-13-03**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT Bylaw 2022-20, a bylaw to authorize the allocation of Community Service and Municipal Charges Grants for the year 2022, be brought forward for consideration under the bylaw process.

BRING FORWARD  
GRANTS BYLAW  
Community Service and  
Municipal Charges Grants

A Council member questioned the grant allocation for the MacBride Museum and referred to a 2015 resolution that provided for the museum to receive the full amount of taxes owed.

Administration confirmed that the resolution was passed for that year, but the relevant policy was not amended. The Community Service and Municipal Charges Grant Policy and City Grant-making Policy were subsequently reviewed and adopted with revisions that made them equitable for all eligible organizations.

Discussion

**2022-13-04**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT the resolution be amended to add an additional clause stating that museums that hold title to their own property be exempted from the provisions of the Municipal Charges and Community Services Grant Policy and the City Grant-making Policy and be provided with a tax grant equal to the full amount of property tax owed.

Motion to Amend

Mayor Cabott called for a 15-minute recess to allow time for all members of Council, including those participating by phone, to receive a written copy of the proposed amendment.

Recess

When the meeting resumed, Administration advised that the proposed amendment may require the amending of two policies as well as a budget amendment. Procedurally, a motion of substitution may be required rather than the motion to amend.

Administrative Advice

**2022-13-05**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT the issue regarding the MacBride Museum grant allocation be referred to the Standing Committee meeting on June 20, 2022 in order to allow time for Administration to prepare information on the history of this issue and the financial implications for this year and future years.

Motion to Refer

A Council member raised concerns about the consequences to the main motion if the motion to refer is passed.

Discussion

Mayor Cabott called for a recess in order to consult with the proponent of the motion to amend.

Recess

When the meeting resumed, Councillor Friesen stated her desire to withdraw the motion to refer.

Request to Withdraw Motion

Council members unanimously agreed to the withdrawal of the motion to refer.

Motion to Refer Withdrawn

Councillor Laking stated his intention to withdraw his motion to amend and bring forward a Notice of Motion at next week's Standing Committee meeting.

Request to Withdraw Motion

Council members unanimously agreed to the withdrawal of the motion to amend.

Motion to Amend Withdrawn

Mayor Cabott called for a vote on the main motion, which was the recommendation of the Corporate Services Committee to bring forward Bylaw 2022-20 for consideration under the bylaw process.

Vote on Main Motion

Carried Unanimously

**2022-13-06**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT Administration is hereby authorized to commence procurement for the preliminary and detailed engineering design of the Selkirk Pump House Multi-Barrier Treatment project.

PROCUREMENT  
Selkirk Pump House  
Multi-Barrier Treatment

Council members expressed concerns about the projected cost of the proposed project and the huge expenses associated with subsequent construction costs.

Discussion

Following discussion a motion was brought forward to refer this procurement back to Administration.

Discussion

**2022-13-07**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT the proposed procurement for the preliminary and detailed engineering design of the Selkirk Pump House Multi-Barrier Treatment project be referred back to Administration with the direction to undertake further analysis on the question of whether there are significant public health risks with the Selkirk Aquifer; and

Motion to Refer

THAT a report on the issue be returned to Council by mid-September, 2022.

Carried Unanimously

**City Planning Committee**

**2022-13-08**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT Bylaw 2022-23, a bylaw to amend the zoning of a parcel of vacant Commissioner’s Land on Copper Haul Road to allow for an interim quarry use, be brought forward for consideration under the bylaw process.

BRING FORWARD  
ZONING AMENDMENT  
Interim Quarry on  
Copper Haul Road

Carried Unanimously

**2022-13-09**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT the Government of Yukon is hereby requested to extend the current prohibition order restricting quartz claim mineral staking in the City of Whitehorse for an additional five-year period.

REQUEST EXTENSION  
OF QUARTZ CLAIM  
MINERAL STAKING  
MORATORIUM

Carried Unanimously

A Council member expressed concern that a number of consecutive five-year periods have drawn out a final decision on this matter.

Discussion

A 1996 Order-In-Council placed all streets, roads and lanes within municipal boundaries under the jurisdiction of the City of Whitehorse. In 2014 the City approved a subdivision and subsequent consolidation of lots along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Rogers Street and Hoge Street to prepare a development parcel for the Government of Yukon.

LAND DISPOSITION  
5<sup>th</sup> and Rogers Parcel  
For Information Only

.../Continued

(Continued)

The Government of Yukon is now proposing to subdivide the 5<sup>th</sup> and Rogers parcel into three lots, one for a development parcel, one for a geotechnical berm, and one for the existing St. Elias Group Home.

As part of this initiative, the property owner has indicated that additional administrative processes are required to complete the land titles plan registration process associated with this subdivision. The Government of Yukon has asked for a transfer of the portions of Hoge Street and lane in order to proceed with development and complete the necessary registration processes with the Land Titles Office.

LAND DISPOSITION  
(Continued)

Administration has now determined that the transfer of jurisdiction for the portions of street and lane to the Government of Yukon was accomplished when the original parcel was authorized for subdivision and consolidation in 2014 and 2016 pursuant to the provisions of the *Subdivision Control Bylaw*. This means that a land disposition process is not required and the proposed bylaw has been withdrawn.

**2022-13-10**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT the Yukon Breeze Sailing Society application for conditional use approval to allow an expansion of an existing Outdoor Participant Recreation Services use at km 1.5 Chadburn Lake Road is hereby denied.

DENY APPLICATION FOR  
EXPANSION OF EXISTING  
CONDITIONAL USE  
Yukon Breeze Sailing  
Society

Carried (4 – 3)

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

Recorded Vote

OPPOSED Councillors Friesen, Laking, and Murray

Council members expressed support for the goals and objectives of the Sailing Society, but also noted the merits of the objections received through the public input process. It was noted that the Society will be able to bring forward an alternative proposal if it wishes to do so.

Discussion

**2022-13-11**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT the application for conditional use approval to allow a major home-based business at 44A Stope Way is hereby approved.

APPROVE CONDITIONAL  
USE APPLICATION  
44A Stope Way

Carried Unanimously

**Development Services Committee**

There was no report from the Development Services Committee.

No Report

**City Operations Committee**

There was no report from the City Operations Committee.

No Report

**Community Services Committee**

Mayor Cabott proclaimed June 2022 to be *National Pride Month* and June 11, 2022 to be *Motorcycle Ride for Dad Day* in the City of Whitehorse.

PROCLAMATIONS  
For Information Only

Keith Lay addressed the Committee on behalf of Active Trails Whitehorse Association to allege that the construction of the alternate Pee Wee Hill trail defies logic, reverses without appropriate consultation a previous City commitment with regard to the original trail, and does not follow the requirements concerning new trail construction outlined in the Chadburn Lake Park Management Plan, the 2020 Trail Plan, and the City’s Trail Development Policy.

PEE WEE HILL  
ALTERNATE TRAIL  
For Information Only

In response to questions raised, Mr. Lay stated that there needs to be a better way for citizens to get information to Council. He also stated the opinion that, despite a commitment made in 2017, Administration implemented a fix that does not work and now that fix needs to be corrected.

A Councillor noted that June is National Indigenous History Month, a time to recognize the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples. She encouraged everyone to listen, learn and think about the need for Truth and Reconciliation.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS  
HISTORY MONTH  
For Information Only

In response to questions raised, Administration advised that since free transit service went into effect on May 18<sup>th</sup> there has been a 19% increase in ridership on Whitehorse Transit. However, since the free service was implemented without advance notice due to the traffic issues caused by the closure of Robert Service Way, there was no opportunity to implement means to measure whether or not free transit service would have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

IMPACT OF FREE  
TRANSIT SERVICE  
For Information Only

Administration advised that the recent damage done to a portion of the Grey Mountain Trail Network occurred during the drilling of groundwater monitoring wells. The equipment used for the project was heavier than anticipated, and this is what caused the damage.

DAMAGE TO GREY  
MOUNTAIN TRAIL  
For Information Only

Initial remediation focussed entirely on safety, but the City is committed to remediation that will return the area to recreational value.

The Committee was advised that Councillors Curteanu and Laking attended the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities this past weekend on behalf of the City of Whitehorse.

COUNCIL MEMBER  
ACTIVITIES

It was noted that Councillor Murray was recognized at the conference for her work to engage citizens through TikTok and social media.

For Information Only

**NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Administration provided an update on the new Transit Route Schedule that will come into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It was noted that the new route schedule was developed in response to the 2018 Transit Master Plan, and that the focus is on the highest frequency routes rather than on geographical coverage.

UPDATE ON NEW  
TRANSIT ROUTES

Administration advised that timing on the new routes will be significantly improved, and measures are in place to assist the public with route planning.

For Information Only

**BYLAWS**

**2022-13-12**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT Bylaw 2022-20, a bylaw to authorize the allocation of Community Service and Municipal Charges Grants for the year 2022, be given first reading.

**BYLAW 2022-20**

GRANT ALLOCATIONS  
FIRST READING

Carried Unanimously

**2022-13-13**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT Bylaw 2022-20 be given second reading.

**BYLAW 2022-20**

SECOND READING

Carried Unanimously

**2022-13-14**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT Bylaw 2022-23, a bylaw to amend the zoning of a parcel of vacant Commissioner’s Land on the Copper Haul Road to allow for an interim quarry use, be given first reading.

**BYLAW 2022-23**

ZONING AMENDMENT  
Interim Quarry Use on  
Copper Haul Road  
FIRST READING



Carried Unanimously

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**



A blue ink signature of Laura Cabott, Mayor, written over a horizontal line.

Laura Cabott, Mayor

A blue ink signature of Wendy Donnithorne, City Clerk, written over a horizontal line.

Wendy Donnithorne, City Clerk

ADOPTED by resolution at Meeting #2022-14 dated June 27, 2022.