

MINUTES of REGULAR Meeting #2023-20 of the Council of the City of Whitehorse called for 5:30pm on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, in Council Chambers, City Hall.

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Jeff O'Farrell
Director of Community Services Krista Mroz
Director of Corporate Services Valerie Braga
Director of Development Services Mike Gau
Director of People and Culture Lindsay Schneider
A/Director of Operations and Infrastructure Richard Graham

*Indicates electronic participation

Mayor Cabott called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

CALL TO ORDER

CONDOLENCES

Mayor Laura Cabott acknowledged and gave condolences to all those affected by the tragic home explosion at Bates Crescent on November 14, 2023, which resulted in the death of one person and critical injury of another.

Explosion at Bates Crescent

AGENDA

2023-20-01

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT the Agenda be amended to add delegates Gurdeep Pandher and Sharon Shorty and adopted as amended.
Carried Unanimously

MINUTES

2023-20-02

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting dated October 23, 2023 be adopted as presented.
Carried Unanimously

DELEGATE SUBMISSIONS

Ramesh Ferris appeared as a delegate in support of the motion for Snow and Ice Policy Accessible Stalls from Councillor Friesen, and presented examples of winter snow-clearing challenges he has experienced.

Ramesh Ferris – Snow and Ice Policy Accessible Stalls

Darryl Tait voiced his support for Councillor Friesen’s motion on Snow and Ice Policy Accessible Stalls and urged Council to consider improvements to winter accessibility for those with mobility challenges.

Darryl Tait – Snow and Ice Policy Accessible Stalls

Marney Paradis shared the experience of her elderly mother who had chosen not to attend the meeting due to not feeling safe enough due to winter conditions and lack of consideration for accessibility and urged Council to make accessibility improvements.

Marney Paradis – Snow and Ice Policy Accessible Stalls

Gurdeep Pandher spoke in support of Councillor Friesen’s motion for accessible stalls under the Snow and Ice Control Policy.

Gurdeep Pandher – Snow and Ice Policy Accessible Stalls

Sharon Shorty appeared as a delegate to advocate for improvements to accessibility in the winter for everyone, highlighting personal dignity.

Sharon Shorty – Snow and Ice Policy Accessible Stalls

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Cabott advised that a Public Hearing was scheduled at this meeting to hear any submissions with respect to the Zoning Amendment for 68 Mascot Street.

Zoning Amendment - 68 Mascot Street

Mayor Cabott called for submissions with respect the Zoning Amendment for 68 Mascot Street.

Zoning Amendment - 68 Mascot Street

Two letters were received, one opposed, and one in support.

David Strands, the owner of 68 Mascot Street, suggested parking permits and signage for the streets to help alleviate parking concerns raised in opposition to the Zoning Amendment.

David Strands

Mayor Cabott called a second and third time for submissions with respect to the Zoning Amendment for 68 Mascot Street.

Zoning Amendment - 68 Mascot Street

Hearing no additional submissions come forward, Mayor Cabott declared the Public Hearing for the Zoning Amendment for 68 Mascot Street now closed.

Public Hearing Closed

COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Budget Committee

Mayor Cabott presented the 2024 to 2026 Capital Budget.

Mayor's Budget Address –
2024-2028 Capital Budget

Development Services Committee

A debrief report on the Main Street Town Square Pilot Project was presented along with a summary of the engagement survey. Administration provided additional information on retail profits and losses, stakeholder and organization consultation, timeline constrictions and potential improvements, and strategies that could be applied to make a second Town Square project more successful.

Main Street Town Square
Pilot Project – Engagement
Summary and Debrief Report
– For Information Only

City Operations Committee

Delegate Ramesh Ferris presented on the winter mobility challenges of those with physical disabilities and provided recommendations for amendments to the Snow and Ice Control Policy to increase downtown accessibility.

Delegate – Ramesh Ferris –
Snow and Ice Control Policy

Paul Sheridan, owner of Yukon Spring, appeared as a delegate with concerns about the potential risk to the quality of the water supply his company uses due to the proposed increased usage of the Kulan snow storage site.

Delegate – Paul Sheridan,
Yukon Spring – Importance of
Water for Consumption

A Committee member questioned if there were plans to monitor water quality impacts caused by City snow storage sites. Further questions were asked regarding alternative sites. It was confirmed that there are processes in place to monitor the water quality, and that alternative locations continue to be explored.

New Business – Monitoring
Water Quality

A question was raised regarding the potential of Transportation Network Companies operating in Whitehorse, and what possible challenges or barriers may be hindering their operation. Administration clarified that outreach is something that would be done during phase two of the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw review.

New Business – Canadian
Rideshare Organization
Outreach

A Committee member requested information on the feasibility of including snow clearing on accessible stalls and curb cuts as Priority 2 under the Snow and Ice Control Policy.

Administration responded that many roads mentioned are located in the City's Priority 1 designated areas, so would currently get a faster response time than proposed. Also, under the Maintenance Bylaw, the responsibility for snow clearance of the para-ramps and curb cuts falls to adjacent property owners with a shorter response time than proposed. The City continues to employ fines, enforcement, and education strategies to gain further compliance.

New Business – Snow
Clearing for Accessibility

Information was requested on plans to remove accessibility barriers during an upcoming para-snowboarding event. Administration confirmed that research on the event will be done.

New Business – Sima Para-
Snowboarding World Cup
Event

A Committee member asked if concerns for accessibility under the Snow and Ice Control Policy were considered when brought up at the Inclusivity Advisory Committee. It was confirmed that the topic was considered generally, but the Advisory Committee had not advanced to detailed work on any draft workplan topics.

New Business – Accessibility
Concerns at the Inclusivity
Advisory Committee

Councillor Michelle Friesen presented a Notice of Motion to bring forward at the next Regular Council meeting November 14, 2023, proposing the Snow and Ice Control Policy be amended to increase accessibility.

Notice of Motion – Councillor
Friesen – Snow and Ice
Control Accessible Stalls

Community Services Committee

Mayor Laura Cabott proclaimed November 8, 2023 to be Indigenous Veterans Day in the city of Whitehorse, a time to recognize more than 200 years of Indigenous contributions to military service.

Proclamation – Indigenous
Veterans Day

Mayor Laura Cabott proclaimed November 11, 2023 to be Remembrance Day in the city of Whitehorse, a time to honour all who have served our country.

Proclamation –
Remembrance Day

Public Health and Safety Committee

David Loeks and Sue Johnson of the Wildfire Awareness Society presented information on the danger of fire embers and the importance of fire-smarting residential structures. The delegates responded to questions asked by Committee members on data and local efforts.

Delegate – David Loeks and
Sue Johnson, Wildfire
Awareness Society – Wildfire
Risk Reduction

Delegate Florian Boulais gave a presentation on preparing for wildfires and overall climate change, specifying a unique budget is needed for wildfire resiliency and public education campaigns, and emphasizing the importance of the City leading change.

Delegate – Florian Boulais –
Different Ways to Organize
Wildland Fire Resources

A Committee member requested clarity over potential risk to the safety of drinking water. Administration confirmed that the water quality is constantly being monitored, is currently safe, and that the risk of boil-water advisories is low at this time. It was confirmed that design work on the Selkirk Facility is being done to further reduce the small risk and to plan for the future.

New Business – Safe
Drinking Water Risk

Corporate Services Committee

2023-20-03

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council approve Festival and Special Event Grant
allocations in the amount of \$50,000 dollars.

Festival and Special Event
Grant Allocations

Carried Unanimously

2023-20-04

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council approve the appointment of Michael Hale to the
Housing and Land Development Advisory Committee.

Housing and Land
Development Advisory
Committee Appointment

Carried Unanimously

2023-20-05

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council maintain current eligibility requirements which
require Advisory Committee members to be residents of the
city.

Inclusivity Advisory
Committee
Recommendations

Carried Unanimously

2023-20-06

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council direct that proposed Bylaw 2023-32, a Bylaw to
amend the Advisory Committee Bylaw, be brought forward for
consideration under the bylaw process.

Advisory Committee Bylaw
Amendment

Carried Unanimously

City Planning Committee

2023-20-07

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council approve the Conditional Use application for 22
Metropolit Lane to allow a 136 m² caretaker residence as a
secondary use, as shown on the submitted plans.

Conditional Use Application –
22 Metropolit Lane Public
Input Report

Carried Unanimously

A Committee member noted the accelerated population growth
expected over the next six years and questioned if growth
planning was on track. Administration confirmed there are
discussions between different levels of government taking
place for the next subdivisions already, and that policies and
bylaws such as the Housing Incentive Policy and Zoning Bylaw
will be reviewed and updated to accommodate a prepare for
the growth. It was also noted that the 2040 Whitehorse Official
Community Plan sets a focus on planning for the next 20 years
and beyond.

New Business – Population
Growth

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2023-20-08

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT in regard to Councillor Friesen's motion regarding the
Snow and Ice Policy Accessible Stalls, the matter be
postponed to the Standing Committee meeting on December
4, 2023.

Motion – Councillor Friesen –
Snow and Ice Policy
Accessible Stalls

Carried (5-2)

IN SUPPORT: Mayor Laura Cabott, Councillors Boyd,
Cameron, Curteanu, and Laking
OPPOSED: Councillors Friesen and Murray

Councillor Mellisa Murray presented a Notice of Motion to bring
forward at the next Regular Council meeting November 27,
2023 on the topic of Free Transit & the MMIWG2S+ strategy.

Notice of Motion – Councillor
Murray – Free Transit &
MMIWG2S+ Strategy

Mayor Laura Cabott presented a Notice of Motion to bring
forward at the next Regular Council meeting November 27,
2023, proposing a revaluation of the Inclusivity Advisory
Committee mandate.

Notice of Motion – Mayor
Cabott – Inclusivity Advisory
Committee Mandate Re-
evaluation

Councillor Michelle Friesen presented a Notice of Motion to
bring forward at the next Regular Council meeting November
27, 2023, proposing an honorarium policy for Council Advisory
Committees.

Notice of Motion – Councillor
Friesen – Honorarium Policy
for Council Advisory
Committees

BYLAWS

2023-20-09

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2023-27, a bylaw to adopt the 2024 to 2027
Capital Budget, be given First Reading.
Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2023-27
2024 – 2027 Capital
Budget Bylaw
FIRST READING

2023-20-10

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2023-32, a bylaw to amend the Advisory
Committee Bylaw, be given First Reading.
Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2023-32
Advisory Committee Bylaw
Amendment
FIRST READING

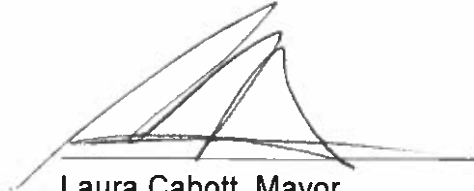
2023-20-11

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2023-32 be given Second Reading.
Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2023-32
Advisory Committee Bylaw
Amendment
SECOND READING

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**




Laura Cabott, Mayor


Corporate Services