

MINUTES of REGULAR Meeting #2025-03 of the Council of the City of Whitehorse called for 5:30pm on Monday, February 10, 2025, in Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Kirk Cameron
Councillors Dan Boyd
Paolo Gallina
Jenny Hamilton
Eileen Melnychuk
Anne Middler
Lenore Morris

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Jeff O'Farrell
Director of Community Services Krista Mroz
Director of Corporate Services Valerie Braga
Director of People and Culture Lindsay Schneider
A/Director of Operations and Infrastructure Travis Whiting

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

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA

2025-03-01

Mayor Cameron declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding the Whitehorse Rifle and Pistol Club, confirming that no conflict exists.

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

MINUTES

2025-03-02

It was duly moved and seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting dated January 27, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mayor Cameron advised that a Public Input Session was scheduled at this meeting to hear any submissions with respect to the 2025-2027 Operating Budget Bylaw.

2025-2027 Operating Budget
Bylaw

Keitha Clark, representing the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, raised concerns about the administration of the free transit program. The delegate emphasized the need for equitable transit access, noting that organizations distributing passes

Keitha Clark, Yukon Anti-
Poverty Coalition

had run out. The delegate urged council to clarify the city's position on accepting external funding for transit support and to explore federal funding opportunities before increasing fares.

Julie Frish spoke against the proposed increase in Whitehorse transit fares. The delegate underscored the impact of higher fares on seniors, who rely on transit for medical appointments, social connections, and daily needs. The delegate questioned whether the fare hike would lead to more frequent and reliable bus service, emphasizing that without improvements, ridership could decline. The delegate called for a review of past transit studies and urged council to explore federal funding options before approving the increase.

Julie Frish

Leander Slykhuis raised concerns about the property tax increase, citing disparities in tax rates between older and newer neighborhoods. The delegate compared two properties—one in Logan and one in Porter Creek—highlighting significant tax differences despite similar access to municipal services. The delegate urged council to address inconsistencies in property tax assessments and ensure equitable tax distribution.

Leander Slykhuis

Mike McCormack, questioned the sustainability of the city's budget growth, noting that operational expenses had increased while population growth lagged behind. The delegate pointed to rising property taxes, utility fees, and service charges as signs of excessive spending. McCormack advocated for a "return to basics," prioritizing infrastructure maintenance, core services, and fiscal restraint.

Mike McCormack

Kristina Zahar spoke against the tax increase, citing its impact on low-income tenants. The delegate described financial struggles associated with operating a housing complex, where rising costs and limited municipal incentives made it difficult to keep rents affordable.

Kristina Zahar

Mayor Cameron declared the Public Input Session for the 2025-2027 Operating Budget Bylaw closed.

Public Input Closed

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corporate Services Committee

There was no report from the Corporate Services Committee.

No Report

City Planning Committee

2025-03-03

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council direct that Bylaw 2024-52, a bylaw to amend the zoning of the Copper Ridge Development Area Land Use Master Plan site, from PS – Public Services, PS(x) – Public Services Modified, and PR – Parks and Recreation to FP – Future Planning, be brought forward at second and third reading under the bylaw process.

Public Hearing Report –
Zoning Amendment – Copper
Ridge Master Plan

Carried Unanimously

2025-03-04

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council direct that Bylaw 2024-57, a bylaw to amend the zoning of 1702 Centennial Street from CH – Highway Commercial to CM2x(l) – Mixed Use Commercial 2 to allow for residential development, be brought forward for second and third reading under the bylaw process.

Public Hearing Report –
Zoning Amendment – 1702
Centennial Street

Carried Unanimously

2025-03-05

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council authorize the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to apply to the Minister for an extension to adopt a zoning bylaw until March 27, 2026.

Zoning Bylaw Rewrite
Extension

Carried Unanimously

2025-03-06

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2025-13 be referred back to Administration so that information regarding the application of Section 1 of the City's Lease, Encroachment, and Property Use Policy can be provided to Council prior to further consideration; and
THAT the matter be returnable within two months.

Lease Agreement – Rifle and
Pistol Club

Carried Unanimously

2025-03-07

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2025-14 be referred back to Administration so
that information regarding the application of Section 1 of the
City's Lease, Encroachment, and Property Use Policy can be
provided to Council prior to further consideration; and
THAT the matter is to be returnable within two months.

Lease Agreement – Mae
Bachur Animal Shelter

Carried Unanimously

Development Services Committee

There was no report from the Development Services Committee.

No Report

City Operations Committee

Council inquired about the Spring 2025 planning in respect to
any Robert Service Way closures. Administration confirmed
closures will be risk-based, not routine, with ongoing
monitoring to maintain access. The importance of public
communication was emphasized, and Administration noted
that long-term stabilization planning is in early feasibility,
requiring a multi-year approach and secured funding. It was
confirmed that decisions are guided by expert risk
assessments and that technical briefings are planned for
Council.

New Business – Robert
Service Way Closure

Community Services Committee

2025-03-08

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Council direct administration to proceed with the pilot
project to provide snow and ice control to the Hamilton
Boulevard and the Elijah Smith paved trails until the spring of
2027, and that plowing on the Elijah Smith trail begin in
February 2025 while plowing on the Hamilton Boulevard trail
begin in fall 2025.

Paved Trail Pilot Projects –
Snow and Ice Control

Carried Unanimously

Delegate Keitha Clark, representing the Yukon Anti-Poverty
Coalition spoke on the importance of free transit, arguing it is a
government responsibility. The delegate raised concerns over
unclear pass distribution, funding gaps, and the proposed fare
increase, and urged the City to expand pickup locations and
work with the Yukon government to work out long-term
solutions.

Keitha Clark, Yukon Anti-
Poverty Coalition – Public
Transit

Delegate Jane Robinson-Boivin of the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre spoke to Council on the importance of extending transit hours for community safety, emphasizing its impact on women and gender-diverse individuals facing unsafe transportation options. The delegate highlighted examples of similar-sized cities with later transit service and called on the City to explore extending evening and early morning service.

Jane Robinson-Boivin,
Victoria Faulkner Women's
Centre-

Delegate Robin Reid-Fraser of Climate Action Yukon spoke to Council on the importance of expanding both transit and fare-free public transit, emphasizing the role transit plays in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving accessibility, and enhancing city liveability. The delegate highlighted the financial and environmental costs of car dependency and urged the City to invest in the transit system as a key climate action measure.

Robin Reid-Fraser, Climate
Action Yukon – Public Transit

Delegate Audrey Provan spoke to Council on the need for improved transit access for youth, emphasizing barriers created by service hours, and ridership costs. The delegate highlighted the impact transit has on students' ability to access school, work, and extracurricular activities and urged the City to make transit free, increase service frequency, extend hours, and consult youth in future transit planning.

Audrey Provan – Public
Transit

Delegates Forest Pearson of the Whitehorse Urban Cycling Coalition, and Colin McCann of the Klondike Snowmachine Association spoke on the Hamilton Boulevard trail pilot project, emphasizing the need for collaboration between the City, the Whitehorse Urban Cycling Coalition, and the Klondike Snowmobile Association. Both proposed delaying the pilot until fall to preserve the current snow base for all users and urged the City to establish a feedback process during the pilot for ongoing improvements.

Forest Pearson, Whitehorse
Urban Cycling Coalition, and
Colin McCann, Klondike
Snowmachine Association –
Hamilton Boulevard Trail
Winter Maintenance

As requested by a Committee member, Administration confirmed that in the event of a closure of Robert Service Way transit will be rerouted.

New Business – Robert
Service Way Transit Routes

Public Health and Safety Committee

There was no report from the Public Health and Safety Committee.

No Report

BYLAWS

2025-03-09

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2024-52, a bylaw to amend the zoning of the
Copper Ridge Development Area Land Use Master Plan site,
from PS – Public Services, PS(x) – Public Services Modified,
and PR – Parks and Recreation to FP – Future Planning, be
given Second Reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2024-52

Zoning Amendment –
Copper Ridge Master Plan
Area
SECOND READING

2025-03-10

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2024-52 be given Third Reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2024-52

Zoning Amendment –
Copper Ridge Master Plan
Area
THIRD READING

2025-03-11

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2024-57, a bylaw to amend the zoning of 1702
Centennial Street from CH – Highway Commercial to CM2x(I)
– Mixed Use Commercial 2 to allow for residential
development, be given Second Reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2024-57

Zoning Amendment –
1702 Centennial Street
SECOND READING

2025-03-12

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2024-57 be given Third Reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2024-57

Zoning Amendment –
1702 Centennial Street
THIRD READING

2025-03-13

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2025-15, a bylaw to amend the 2025 to 2028
Capital Expenditure Program to include re-budgeting 2024
capital expenditures in the amount of \$22,536,203, be given
Second Reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2025-15

Property Management
Advance Re-Budget Bylaw
SECOND READING

2025-03-14

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2025-15 be given Third Reading.

Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2025-15

Property Management
Advance Re-Budget Bylaw
THIRD READING

2025-03-15

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2025-06, a bylaw to amend the 2024 to 2027
Capital Expenditure Program with respect to budget
adjustments made throughout 2024, be given Third Reading.
Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2025-06
Umbrella Capital Budget
Amendment Bylaw
THIRD READING

2025-03-16

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2025-07, a bylaw to amend the 2024 to 2026
Operating Budget with respect to budget adjustments made
throughout 2024, be given Third Reading.
Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2025-07
Umbrella Operating
Budget Amendment Bylaw
THIRD READING


2025-03-17

It was duly moved and seconded
THAT Bylaw 2025-08, a bylaw to authorize the write-off of
uncollectible accounts, be given Third Reading.
Carried Unanimously

BYLAW 2025-08
Write-off Uncollectible
Accounts
THIRD READING

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**




Kirk Cameron, Mayor


Corporate Services