

**Village of Haines Junction
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2024**

Present:

Mayor Tomlin
Councillor Nassiopoulos
Councillor Charlebois

Absent:

Councillor Strand

CAO Fairbank, Recorder Ogden

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory

Mayor Tomlin acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

Adoption of Agenda

#94-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Motion #94-24 was **CARRIED**.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings

Council Meeting Minutes March 27, 2024

#95-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 27, 2024 are accepted as a draft and be brought forward for review at the next meeting.

Motion #95-24 was **CARRIED**.

Proclamations

Delegations

Positive Words

Present: Stephanie Twiss, Devaki Chatterton, Lisa Preto, Heather Callaghan, Lauren Manekin-Beille

Presentation:

- Yukonstruct is assisting with pulling together quotes for the project.
- Goal is to post positive words around Haines Junction in visible places. A little bit of positive can change the wellness of the community and promote health and wellness in the whole community.
- A handout with a list the of 52 positive words and virtues that will be put on signs was shared with Council.
- Council previously commented that previous design of the signs resembled street signs. Council also wanted to see a quote for the cost of the signs.
- The new design has cursive writing with cedar boards and colour.
- The cost is \$2500 for signs with metal/cedar/brackets.
- The Delegation is willing and able to look for other sources of funding.
- Could VHJ get back to delegation on what restrictions there are on placing signs (e.g. Highways, ATCO)? Can the signs be posted on lampposts? Where would Council like them to be mounted in Haines Junction?
- Would like to see signs spread out around Haines Junction and not clustered.
- Visitors to the community will see how the community puts an emphasis on mental health and will leave with a positive impression of the community.
- Children will not know all the words on the signs – signs will spark conversations and will become the talk of the town.
- Signs will have a reflective powder coating so will reflect in headlights and will be visible in the dark of winter.

Council discussion:

- Council thanked the delegation for not giving up on the idea and expressed its ongoing support for the project.
- Council's process for delegations is to confer following the presentation and get back to delegation.
- Council has supported this project before and has had this in the budget in the past, but do not believe this was put in this year's budget.
- Need to refresh memory of where this left off with Council in the past.
- Administration will investigate what restrictions exist on where signs can be placed.
- Would all signs go up at once?
 - Would like to see all signs up this year. They don't need to be interchangeable.
- Delegation asked to provide a map of where they would like to see signs go for administration to make a recommendation to Council.

Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions

Old Business

RTC Interim Regionalization Agreement

CAO Report:

- Staff recommend Council pass motion to sign the Interim Regionalization Agreement and to direct staff to begin work on the policies and bylaws to update landfill operations in accordance with the full Regionalization Agreement.
- The Interim Regionalization Agreement was discussed at the February 7, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Discussion:

- Still some outstanding concerns with the how the regionalization process has unfolded.
- The process, led by YG, is not how Council would like to see a negotiation process unfold.

#96-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council direct Administration to begin required work on the required Policies and Bylaws to update landfill operations in accordance with the Interim Regionalization Agreement and that the Interim Regionalization Agreement be signed.

Motion #96-24 was **CARRIED**.

RTC Non-Union Staff Bylaw Amendment #2

CAO Report:

- Salary range table has been amended since first reading.
- The CAO, Policy and Communications Manager, and the Project and Asset Manager show 10% salary increase, the Treasurer and Public Works Manager show a 20% salary increase.

Discussion:

- The salary range for the Recreation and Events Administrator seems low. Does it reflect overseeing contracts, supervising staff, policy review related to facilities and events?
 - Understanding was that this was not intended to be a managerial position.
- Housing Accelerator Funding has been officially announced so we can now share that we have received roughly \$1.2M funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
- Administration budget is \$300k over what it was last year
 - The CAO position was absent for much of the year last year
 - The HAF funding will be covering the costs of the Project and Asset Manager term position.

#97-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the RTC on the Non-Union Staff Bylaw Amendment be received and filed.

Motion #97-24 was **CARRIED**.

RTC 2024 Operating and Capital Budget

CAO Report:

- The Operating Budget anticipates revenue of \$4.372 million and expenditures of \$3.467 million. An O&M operating surplus of \$905,000 is anticipated.
- The combined Operating and Capital/Projects revenues are anticipated to be \$8.068 million with a combined expenditure of \$9.719 million, for a total combined deficit of \$71,000. This total includes reserve allocations and drawdowns; and assumes that all Capital projects are completed in the fiscal year; and that no additional outside funding sources are found.
- Historically the above factors have resulted in substantially lower capital expenditures than forecast in the budget, with substantial surpluses being the norm. Additionally, staff are frequently able to source outside funding for projects prior to completion.
- Several changes since first reading in the Capital Budget section.

Discussion:

- Concerns -- Landfill \$1.5 M.
 - If we are drawing down reserves, we need to make sure we are going to use the money.
 - Regionalization steps may be enough for residents this year without changing whole front end of the dump.
 - This line item is not related to the requirements of the Solid Waste Management Plan (that addresses regulatory requirements), this is addressed in a separate line item.
 - Front end work is based on preliminary drawings. It is not a modular project, and it will be hard to stage the work over several years.
- Concerns -- Repair and resurfacing roads and streets \$1.7M.
 - The road was left in terrible shape on Alsek, this should not have been left to us to fix. Appreciative of the funding that has come for new water and sewer pipes, but what has been left behind would not be accepted by any other municipality. This should be part of the letter that we send to YG on the Willow Acres Infill. YG needs to supervise contracts to ensure they are completed appropriately.

Planned subdivisions in Willow Acres will impact this road so it doesn't make sense to do the work a few years in advance of all the work that is scheduled to put into the new subdivision.

- Suggest dropping this by \$500,000 and press YG to address issues with the quality of the workmanship and how quickly issues have arisen (within a few years of work being completed). YG is not following through on holding contractors accountable for not finishing projects properly. We need to have this discussion with YG. This would not be acceptable anywhere else.
- Lower Alsek and Willow Acres was part of this budget, but much of the plan was to address areas where the major infrastructure repairs have been completed within a block or two of the highway. There are some short sections between intersections where it makes sense to pave rather than transition between asphalt and BST.
- Council has asked community to tolerate roadwork for many years, while we were getting free underground work. If it is YG's responsibility, or if it is our responsibility, this needs to be addressed. Residents do expect good roads for their tax dollars.
- Date in header needs to be updated.

#98-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the RTC on the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget be received and filed.

Motion #98-24 was **CARRIED**.

New Business

Accounts Payable to April 10, 2024

Materials provided: Municipal Accounts Payable to April 10, 2024

#99-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Municipal Accounts Payable to April 10, 2024 be approved as presented.

Motion #99-24 was **CARRIED**.

Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption

Bylaw 408-24 Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Staff Bylaw 356-20 Amendment

#100-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 408-24 Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Staff Bylaw 356-20 Amendment #2 be deemed read for the second time the 10th day of April, 2024

Motion #100-24 was **CARRIED**

#101-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 408-24 Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Staff Bylaw 356-20 Amendment #2 be deemed read for the third time and finally passed on the 10th day of April, 2024

Motion #101-24 was **CARRIED**

Bylaw 409-24 2024 Property Taxation Levy Bylaw

Discussion:

- The proposed residential mil rate for Haines Junction is 1.15. Compared to 2023 tax, this is lower than all other Yukon communities except for Whitehorse which is at 1.076.
- Council discussed dropping the rate to 1.05. This suggestion will be brought forward to the next Mayor in Council as a report would need to be prepared to support this decision and time is needed to discuss and consider this proposal.
- Regarding vacant and derelict lots, Council expressed a desire to raise the minimum tax levy for commercial lots, as discussed at the last Council meeting.
 - Administration did not submit a report for this meeting as the bylaw is scheduled for first and second reading this evening, and staff felt it is too late to introduce a change such as this that would require public input.
 - Zoning bylaw public engagement is scheduled for tomorrow evening where it is expected this will be discussed.
- Reducing taxes was not unanimously supported amongst Council as funding is needed to address potholes, provide a pool, etc.

#102-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 409-24 2024 Property Taxation Levy Bylaw be deemed read for the second time on the 10th day of April, 2024

Motion #102-24 was **CARRIED**

#103-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 409-24 2024 Property Taxation Levy Bylaw be deemed read for the third time and adopted on the 10th day of April, 2024

Motion #103-24 was **CARRIED**

Bylaw 410-24 Operating and Capital Budget Bylaw

Discussion:

- Change proposed to Section 4 to increase the CAO's authority to reallocate funds among line items to \$50,000 (previously \$20,000). This change was proposed as part of 1st reading but was not discussed.
 - This is not a pressing issue.
 - This type of issue could be addressed through a Report to Council.
 - Council is uncomfortable in making this type of change at this time (being an outgoing Council).

#104-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 410-24 to create the Operating and Capital Budget Bylaw for 2024 be deemed read for the second time on the 10th day of April, 2024 with the following changes:

- Road and street repairs are reduced to \$1.2M from \$1.7M
- CAO reallocation authority is kept at \$20k (same as last year)

Motion #104-24 was **CARRIED**

#105-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw 410-24 to create the Operating and Capital Budget Bylaw for 2024 be deemed read for the third time on the 10th day of April, 2024 with the following changes:

- Road and street repairs are reduced to \$1.2M from \$1.7M
- CAO reallocation authority is kept at \$20k (same as last year)

Motion #105-24 was **CARRIED**

Correspondence

Council Reports

Councillor Charlebois

- Attended CAFN Intergovernmental Working Group meeting on April 3, 2024 that was hosted by CAFN. Extended thanks to CAFN for hosting this meeting.
- Attended meeting with EMO today that was a bit confusing.
- Had a question from a resident requesting an update on the pool.

- Requested an update be put on the next Council agenda to summarize outcomes of IWG meeting with CAFN where this was discussed.

Councillor Nassiopoulos

- Attended CAFN Intergovernmental Working Group meeting on April 3, 2024 that was hosted by CAFN. Extended thanks to CAFN for hosting this meeting.

Mayor Tomlin

- Attended meeting with EMO today that is the next step to getting an updated Emergency Plan in place for the Village, working collaboratively with CAFN and YG and other agencies. This is a positive step forward for the Village.

Questions from the Public

- Does Council have Quorum?
 - Yes, two Councillors and Mayor make quorum.
- Would like to have a printed copy of the agenda package available for the public at the Council meeting so those attending in person can follow along with the discussion.
- Couldn't find the agenda package for today on our website but could find the agenda packages for other meetings.
- Is Castle Rock going to use the public works yard again this summer? Last year around 40 trucks per day. Lots of dust and impact on the roads. Concerned that they are driving too fast on the roads.
 - Yes, it will be used as a laydown area and as a storage area for their trucks, especially for higher value items as this is secure storage.
 - They do have a laydown area out at the site as well.
 - Phase 4 hasn't been awarded yet.
 - Will make sure roads have calcium and are watered/washed and graded to reduce the amount of dust. Road isn't worth fixing until the work is done.
 - CAO Will speak to Castle Rock to see if they can limit trips back and forth to the Municipal shop.
 - All Castle Rock trucks have speed monitors that is being monitored by dispatch and is being recorded. CAO has talked to them about this already. Told that trucks can appear to be speeding even when they are not because they are large and noisy.
 - Speed limit of 50km/hour may be too high for this area.
- Vehicles are being parked on the road on Wintergreen, and on a corner.
 - Staff will look into this.
- Solar-powered speed monitoring sign on highway is not currently working.

Motion to Close Meeting to the Public

#106-24 It was moved and seconded
THAT the meeting be closed to the public at 8:28pm.

Motion #106-24 was **CARRIED**.

Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public

#107-24 It was moved and seconded
THAT the meeting be extended beyond 9pm.

Motion #107-24 was **CARRIED**.

#108-24 It was moved and seconded
THAT the meeting be reopened to the public at 10:06pm

Motion #108-24 was **CARRIED**.

#109-24 It was moved and seconded
THAT Administration be directed to explore fire prevention program options that might be offered in Haines Junction.

Motion #109-24 was **CARRIED**.

Adjournment

#110-24 It was moved and seconded
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

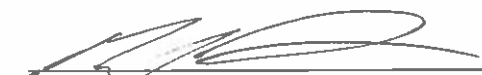
Motion #110-24 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 pm.





Mayor Bruce Tomlin



CAO David Fairbank