

**Village of Haines Junction  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2025**

Present:

Mayor Strand  
Councillor Busche  
Councillor McPhie

Absent:

Councillor Mackinnon

A/CAO and Recorder Ogden

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

**Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory**

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

#69-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the agenda be adopted as amended with the following additions:

- Update list of minutes to Feb 5, 2025 Committee of the Whole and February 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
- Late addition- 12d. Letter from Junction Arts and Music

Motion #69-25 was **CARRIED**.

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

**Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings**

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes February 5, 2025

#70-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 5, 2025 be adopted as presented

Motion #70-25 was **CARRIED**.

Council Meeting Minutes February 11, 2025

*Discussion:*

- Council asked staff to track down the Windows of Opportunities conference report mentioned on Page 3

#71-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 11, 2025 be adopted as amended

- Page 11 – the date in Motions 59 and 60 should be 2025

Motion #71-25 was **CARRIED**.

## **Proclamations**

## **Delegations**

## **Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions**

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

### Accounts Payable to February 26, 2025

Materials provided: Municipal Accounts Payable to February 26, 2025

#### *Discussion:*

- Yukon Hardwater Racing Lottery Funding Grant – were there not other successful applicants that are expecting to be paid?
  - This payable relates to the October Lottery Funding Grant Intake, not the Donated Refundables funding that was approved by Council at their last meeting.
  - Lotteries grants are not provided in advance – applicants are reimbursed when they submit receipts.
- Why is the Association of Yukon Communities membership fee for January to August 2025 and not for the full year?
  - Staff will follow up to provide an explanation to Council of how the membership fee is paid.

#72-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the Municipal Accounts Payable to February 26, 2025 be approved as presented.

Motion #72-25 was **CARRIED**.

### Topic: Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG) Update

#### *A/CAO Presentation:*

- There has been a fair amount of advocacy in recent years by the Association of Yukon Communities to see the Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG) increased

- AYC released a report several years ago providing rationale for why the grant needs to be increased (e.g. increasing regulatory requirements, impacts of climate change, expansion of municipal programs and services, etc.)
- The CMG formula does reflect cost of living increases. This year, the Village is receiving a 9% bump to our grant beyond inflation. This is a significant increase.
- The CMG accounts for almost 70% of the Village's revenues.
- The increase we received in absolute dollars is \$316,455 over last year.

*Discussion:*

- There was a committee at AYC that put a lot of effort into this.
- Population is a key factor in the CMG grant formula. One community (Faro?) did its own census because they didn't feel Yukon government's numbers were correct. This work led to all of the AYC delegates wanting to know more about how YG gets its numbers.

#73-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Staff draft a letter to AYC and to Yukon government thanking them for the hard work they put into securing this increase to the CMG.

Motion #73-25 was **CARRIED**.

#74-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Council take this report into consideration during the budgeting and strategic planning process.

Motion #74-25 was **CARRIED**.

**Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption**

#75-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Bylaw #421-25, 2025 Municipal By-Election (Councillor) has been read for a third time and adopted on February 26, 2025.

Motion #75-25 was **CARRIED**.

**Correspondence**

Haines Junction Health Centre Newsletter February 2025

#76-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the February 2025 Haines Junction Health Centre Newsletter be received and filed.

Motion #76-25 was **CARRIED**.

Request for Memorial Bench to honor long-time resident Joann Graham

*A/CAO Presentation:*

- This request, from the Graham family, is to place a memorial bench in her honor.
- A few locations that would be more meaningful to the family were noted, the first being the path along the Alaska Highway between the intersection with the Haines Road and the weigh scales. Alternately, the path to Source motors, or towards Pine Lake.
- The family indicated they would be happy to put a plaque on an existing bench or to have a new bench built and they indicated they didn't expect the town to cover any of these costs, they are just looking for permission for a location.

*Discussion:*

- Joann worked at the weigh scales so the path to the weigh scales would be a great location, there are two benches at the weigh scales
- Shortcomings along the trail for people with disabilities have been noted by Access Canada – there is no bench between the airport road and Pine Lake. This is too long a distance to walk without a bench.
- Ensure Public works is consulted regarding snow plowing/grass cutting considerations.
- Ensure approval is sought from Highways for benches to be placed within Highway right away.
- Ensure request from Monica Primozic was finalized.
- Instead of multiple benches, consider one bench with multiple plaques, so we don't have too many benches. The Millennial Trail in Whitehorse has benches with multiple plaques on a bench.

#77-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Staff further explore locations with Highways and Public Works, consider advice from Access Canada to locate benches between the airport road and Pine Lake, inform the Graham family that they may either put up their own bench or put a plaque on an existing bench, and send a letter to the Graham family confirming Council's support for their proposal.

Motion #77-25 was **CARRIED**.

Letter from Mayor of Haines Alaska

#78-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the letter from Mayor Tom Morphet of Haines Alaska be received and filed and staff are directed to prepare a draft response for Council's review that extends an invitation to the Mayor to bring his family to attend the upcoming Glacier Nights Festival.

Motion #78-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### Letter from Junction Arts & Music

##### *Discussion:*

- Diane and Deb will be in the office on March 8<sup>th</sup> for an AYC Board meeting.
- Diane is available to participate in the snow sculpture competition judging on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.
- Diane will send a response to JAM directly.

#79-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the letter from JAM be received and filed.

Motion #79-25 was **CARRIED**.

### **Council Reports and Notice of Motions**

#### Councillor McPhie

- Has sat in on council meetings held in other communities.
- Participated in ice-fishing event put on by Champagne Aishihik First Nation at Dezadeash Lake that all were welcome to attend.

#### Councillor Busche

- Attended awards night for Haines Junction Minor Hockey held earlier this evening. Rob and Patty Moore received the Grandparents Award for all the work they contributed to Minor Hockey.

#### Deputy Mayor Strand

- Attended Mayor and Chief's Forum on February 19 in Whitehorse. All municipalities attended, along with 7 First Nations in attendance
  - Presentation from Animal Health Unit (AHU) – inquired about commitment made to staffing regional animal control officers that had been promised by the previous Chief Veterinary Officer. Current AHU staff were not aware that this commitment had been made. Commitment was made during a Committee of the Whole (staff to look for minutes so these can be shared with the AHU).
  - Presentation from Public Safety and Investigations in the Department of Justice - SCAN (Safe Communities and Neighbourhoods) Act is under review. This Act used to focus on the home, now there is a desire to focus on the people within

- the home. We heard that organized crime is prolific in Yukon. Gladue reports – where a Judge needs to consider the upbringing of Indigenous offenders -- were discussed. RCMP now have a psychologist on staff to assist with de-escalation.
- Presentation on Emergency Preparedness highlighted the importance of having civic address signs posted. Still a lot of these signs at the Village Office that have not been picked up by community members.
  - Municipal Boundary Expansion – Expanding boundaries to include voting for self-governing First Nations will be relatively easy to address; taxation will not be easy to address. First Nations want taxation to go to municipalities and not to YG; will require a service agreement between Yukon government and municipalities to transfer these funds to municipalities. Chiefs and Mayors were unanimous in desire to continue to push this forward.
  - Telephone discussion with Haines Mayor Morphet. Wants to come and visit. Wants Canada to stay Canada and for our communities to remain good neighbours.
  - Mayors met with Premier regarding tariffs. Mayors were updated on what Yukon government is doing to address tariff issue. Advised to consider this in next budget cycle e.g. if doing a major construction project or any major procurements if items are sourced from the US. Trump delayed to April 5<sup>th</sup> earlier today.
    - Notice of Motion – ask staff to look at the major things that we purchase on an ongoing basis and to see if we have options to purchase elsewhere if we purchase from the US. Need more research on what our position is regarding tariffs. Report for Council for next meeting so Council is more informed. We are a border town, also look into what the Border City Mayors Alliance is.

#80-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** staff prepare a report to council on the Border City Mayors Alliance, and on what we purchase from the US and whether there are options to make these purchases from Canadian companies.

Motion #80-25 was **CARRIED**.

### Questions from the Public

Comment from the Public - Thanks extended to Council and staff for issuing call for applicants for the Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group.

Comment from the Public – Also pleased to see call for applicants; this will help take the burden off Council and there is lots of people from the community would like to be more active in municipal affairs.

Question – Is March 5<sup>th</sup> still the date for tipping fees to begin? Yes!

Comment – Why is the Food Cycle discussion in camera?

- This proposal was sent to Council in confidence. Commercial proposals are held in confidence because they are the intellectual property of the business. Should Council accept the proposal it would be in the public domain.

#### **Motion to Close Meeting to the Public**

#81-25 It was moved and seconded  
**THAT** the meeting be closed to the public at 7:52.

Motion #81-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### **Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public**

#82-25 It was moved and seconded  
**THAT** the meeting be reopened to the public at 8:55.

Motion #82-25 was **CARRIED**.

#83-25 It was moved and seconded  
**THAT** CoW scheduled for March 5 be switched to March 11 at 5:00pm

Motion #83-25 was **CARRIED**

#84-25 It was moved and seconded  
**THAT** Regular Council Meeting be switched from March 12 to March 11

Motion #84-25 was **CARRIED**

#85-25 It was moved and seconded  
**THAT** staff the Advisory Group investigate the feasibility of the Food Cycler proposal

Motion #85-25 was **CARRIED**

#86-25 It was moved and seconded

That staff investigate federal subsidy opportunities, call Nelson to see how their community-wide FoodCycler program is going, and seek permission from Food Cycle Science Corp to share their proposal with our Advisory Committee

Motion #86-25 was **CARRIED**

#87-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Staff complete a Hazard Assessment for the gatehouse

Motion #87-25 was **CARRIED**

#88-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** staff are directed to purchase up to 36 WHL tickets for the September Exhibition Game in Whitehorse and the equivalent amount and price point of gift cards. Staff are further directed to develop a guideline on distribution of the tickets and gift cards that will reflect our appreciation to community members for their contribution to the community of Haines Junction.

Motion #88-25 was **CARRIED**

#### Adjournment

#89-25 It was moved and seconded

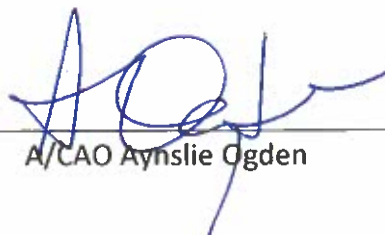
**THAT** the meeting be adjourned.

Motion #89-25 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 8:57.



Mayor Diane Strand



A/CAO Aynslie Ogden

