

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING #C20-06 of the council of the City of Dawson held on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 7 p.m. by electronic means - Zoom Meeting ID#: 898 6777 9277.

PRESENT:

Mayor	Wayne Potoroka
Councillor	Natasha Ayoub
Councillor	Stephen Johnson
Councillor	Bill Kendrick
Councillor	Molly Shore

ALSO PRESENT:

CAO	Cory Bellmore
EA	Heather Favron

Agenda Item: Call to Order

The Chair, Mayor Potoroka called council meeting #C20-06 to order at 7:00 p.m.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Dan Davidson, Mayor Potoroka and Councillor Kendrick presented poetry readings.

Agenda Item: Agenda

C20-06-01 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the agenda for council meeting #C20-06 of April 29, 2020 be adopted as presented. Motion Carried 5-0

Agenda Item: Bylaws & Policies

a) 2020 Tax Levy Bylaw #2020-04 – Third and Final Reading

Council noted the response from the City to the Dredge Pond residents was still outstanding and a letter should be drafted.

C20-06-02 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Johnson that bylaw #2020-04 being the Tax Levy Bylaw be given third and final reading. Motion Carried 5-0

b) 2020 Annual Operating Budget and the 2020-2023 Capital Expenditure Program Bylaw #2020-06 – Third and Final Reading

C20-06-03 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Johnson that bylaw #2020-06 being the 2020 Annual Operating Budget and the 2020-2023 Capital Expenditure Program Bylaw be given third and final reading. Motion Carried 5-0

Agenda Item: Correspondence

C20-06-04 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Shore that council acknowledge receipt of the following correspondence: Tracy McPhee, Minister of Education RE: Yukon University Board of Governors Nominee; For informational purposes. Motion Carried 5-0

Agenda Item: Public Questions

C20-06-05 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Johnson that council move to committee of the whole for the purposes of question period. Motion Carried 5-0

Jackie Olson noted Dredge Pond residents initiated the discussion regarding rural tax rates and that the jump they experienced in 2012 was double what the core of town received, of which 0.10 of the increase for all residents was for recreation. All rural residents have the same tax rate as the town core without receiving the same services. It is very disappointing to not see a tax rate reduction for rural residents. Jackie Olson requested council include on their agenda for this year to have some community discussion around taxes, services and what residents can expect from their municipality. The hope is that council continues to listen to their residents no matter where they live.

Council noted a municipal services review was done several years ago and look forward to discussions with residents about services they receive.

Tao Henderson stated the letter sent to the city in July of 2019 was never acknowledged. He is curious what council's thoughts are on how council justifies this being fair for the rural residential public that is paying double what the town's increase was back in 2012. In reviewing what his annual costs are to operate, real lean and mean, it is about \$3,500 per year for water delivery and pumpouts. He explained he is not opposed to paying those rates but would like to see council take into consideration these above and beyond costs they have to incur.

Council confirmed that Dredge Pond residents will get a reply and do apologize for not sending it in the fall. It's important to note that there is common services that factor into the tax money residents pay. The water and sewer bill is a different rate altogether that is distinct from the tax bill, however it is a subsized service as is the trucked water delivery service. Why Dredge Pond residents were never on the trucked water delivery service goes back to when the subdivision was first developed by Yukon Government and the notices of sale.

Tao Henderson also wanted to bring to council's attention that many residents on the outskirts don't have a well, as they would have to drill 200 plus feet to get to good water. This means these residents are required to have a water room to accommodate and house the water tank and equipment. This square footage is considered part of the house for assessment purposes. Why do residents get penalized for this non-livable space by having to pay tax on this non-livable space. The square footage can amount to 150 to 200 square feet of heated non-livable space because there is no infrastructure in these areas.

Karine Bureau noted it was mentioned town residents had a different bill for the water and sewer, and commented that most of the residents who are not in town have to pay for those things as well and sometimes it is more expensive than what it costs in town and therefore does not understand why their taxes are double what people in town pay.

Council inquired what the average monthly cost would be for water and sewer for Dredge Pond properties. Jackie Olson explained her household, a family of four, requires 2 water deliveries a month which costs \$140, and then requires a septic pumpout a few times per year which costs \$150 for each pumpout. Tao Henderson explained his household of four conserves water immensely as they only have a septic tank that has to be pumped out. They require 1200 gallons every 3-4 weeks which costs \$60, and requires a pumpout every 5-6 weeks at a cost of \$235.

C20-06-06 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Johnson that committee of the whole revert to council to proceed with the agenda. Motion Carried 5-0

Agenda Item: In Camera Session

C20-06-07 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Johnson that council move to a closed session of committee of the whole, as authorized by Section 213 (3) of the Municipal Act, for the purposes of discussing a legal related matter. Motion Carried 5-0

a) Legal related matter

C20-06-08 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Johnson that committee of the whole revert to an open session of council to proceed with the agenda. Motion Carried 5-0

Agenda Item: Adjourn

C20-06-09 Moved by Mayor Potoroka, seconded by Councillor Johnson that council meeting #C20-06 be adjourned at 8:41 p.m. with the next regular meeting of council being May 12, 2020. Motion Carried 5-0

THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING C20-06 WERE APPROVED BY COUNCIL RESOLUTION #C20-07-05 AT COUNCIL MEETING #C20-07 OF MAY 12, 2020.

Original signed by:
Wayne Potoroka, Mayor

Cory Bellmore, CAO