

MINUTES of **REGULAR** Meeting #2019-17 of the council of the City of Whitehorse called for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2019, in Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Dan Curtis  
Deputy Mayor Jan Stick  
Councillors Dan Boyd  
Jocelyn Curteanu  
Samson Hartland  
Stephen Roddick

ABSENT Councillor Laura Cabott

ALSO PRESENT: Acting City Manager Valerie Braga  
Director of Community and Recreation Services Jeff O'Farrell  
Acting Director of Corporate Services Lindsay Schneider  
Director of Development Services Mike Gau  
Director of Infrastructure and Operations Peter O'Blenes  
Manager of Legislative Services Catherine Constable  
Manager of Strategic Communications Myles Dolphin  
Assistant City Clerk Norma Felker

Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Curtis proclaimed October 2019 to be United Way Month in the City of Whitehorse.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Curtis proclaimed October 6 to 12, 2019 to be Fire Prevention Week in the City of Whitehorse.

**2019-17-01**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT the agenda be adopted as amended with the addition of Maryne Dumaine, Bob Jickling, Kalia Graham, Sophie Molgat, Justin Lemphers, J.P. Pinard, Brook Land-Murphy and Lesley Cabott as delegates, all speaking to the Climate Change Action Motions.

**AGENDA**

Carried Unanimously

**2019-17-02**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT the minutes of the regular council meeting dated June 24, 2019 be adopted as presented.

**MINUTES**

June 24, 2019

Carried Unanimously

**DELEGATIONS**

Eleven citizens urged council to declare a climate emergency. They asked council to show leadership by making climate change issues a priority so that the city can make progress on reducing harm to the environment. Council was encouraged to use resources available from other sources to make the assessments necessary to get started on substantive programs for harm reduction. The declaration of a climate emergency is seen as a first step in acknowledging the urgency of the situation and the need to take action so that the planet will be able to support future generations.

CLIMATE CHANGE  
EMERGENCY  
DECLARATION  
For Information Only

The citizens who addressed council were:

Peggy Land	Jody Overduin	Emma Marnik
Maryne Dumaine	Bob Jickling	Kalia Graham
Sophie Molgat	Justin Lemphers	J. P. Pinard
Brook Land-Murphy	Lesley Cabott.	

List of Delegates

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Services Committee**

There was no report from the Corporate Services Committee.

No Report

**Public Health and Safety Committee**

Michelle Stimson advised the Committee that in addition to being a resident of the area she is also a client of the shelter. She cited some of the services offered to those seeking help and praised the dedicated people providing those services.

She showed a picture of a bench located in close proximity to the shelter and explained that it has been there for a long time and has never been vandalized. She recommended that the City proceed with plans to provide amenities and beautification features for the area.

Ms. Stimson also suggested that there are many opportunities to integrate the shelter clients into the community by initiating programs such as bringing in elders and seniors to tell stories, young people to add vitality, and dogs from the animal shelter for clients to walk.

Ms. Stimson also suggested that musical events similar to the Arts in the Park series would help to create a welcoming atmosphere and help turn the area into a pleasant place to live, work and play.

MICHELLE STIMSON  
COMMUNITY-BASED  
IDEAS FOR THE  
SHELTER AREA  
For Information Only

**Development Services Committee**

In June 2019 council referred two motions to administration for review and analysis with respect to potential actions, costing, implications, barriers to implementation, and the information required to prepare a carbon budget. Implementation of either motion would require redeployment of existing resources and/or additional resources, with consequential impacts on the delivery of existing programs and services as well as activities arising from Council’s identified priorities.

Terms of reference for a task force would have to be developed, identifying staff participants. Creation of a task force would add to existing management workloads and would require additional staff time or redeployment of staff resources. From time to time the task force might also require contracted expertise not currently available within staff, to properly consider specific issues.

To identify actions that accelerate the implementation of existing climate plans and strategies within the context of Council’s approved priorities, the current capital budget process was followed to develop the 2020 capital budget. This included considering criteria to prioritize projects that make progress on Council priorities and towards sustainability goals as set out in the Sustainability Plan.

If Council wishes to delay the 2020 capital budget schedule significantly, this work could be undertaken for 2020. Otherwise, it could be undertaken for the 2021 to 2024 capital budget. Additional staff time would be required to develop ranking criteria and for managers to address them in their submissions. Hiring a climate change specialist would cost an estimated \$115,000 per year. Updating the Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation Plan would cost an estimated \$60,000 for a consultant contract.

Work on the 2020-2023 capital budget is well underway and it is not feasible to integrate carbon budgeting into the current cycle. A framework or model approach is required to establish a carbon budget. Without an existing framework or model, it is unclear at this time whether or how carbon budgeting and accountability will be feasible at the municipal level. Development of a model for the City is outside the scope of existing staff expertise and would require outside resources.

To manage climate change risks, they must first be understood. The Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis Report provide some information on the City’s vulnerabilities.

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
ACTION MOTIONS  
For Information Only

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Systematic work has not yet been commissioned on the current and future impacts of climate change on infrastructure, operations and service delivery. The necessary expertise and capacity is not currently available within the City's staff complement.

Once vulnerabilities are understood, risk management is a recognized approach to decision-making, particularly around climate change adaptation. Adaptive measures are currently identified on an ad hoc basis within departments. Mainstreaming refers to integrating adaptation measures into various aspects of City business on a sustained, ongoing basis. A focussed and informed response to climate change impacts, mainstreamed into existing City processes, will inevitably have budget implications as adaptations are proposed.

Administration responded to a number of clarifying questions from members of council.

The Climate Change Action motions will be dealt with under New and Unfinished Business later in the meeting.

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
ACTION MOTIONS  
  
For Information Only  
  
(Continued)

**Corporate Services Committee**

**2019-17-03**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT the scope of the Mount McIntyre Ski Bridge Repair project be changed from repairing the bridge in place to removing the bridge and exploring options for temporary and permanent solutions; and  
THAT the 2019 to 2022 capital expenditure program be amended by changing the funding source of the 2019 Mount McIntyre Ski Bridge project from Gas Tax to the capital reserve in the amount of \$128,000.

Carried Unanimously

BUDGET AMENDMENT  
MOUNT MCINTYRE  
SKI BRIDGE

**City Planning Committee**

There was no report from the City Planning Committee.

No Report

**City Operations Committee**

**2019-17-04**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT administration be authorized to award stage one of the contract for consulting services for the Cook Street Reconstruction project to Associated Engineering Ltd. for a net cost to the City of \$181,921.00 plus GST.

Carried Unanimously

CONTRACT AWARD FOR  
CONSULTING SERVICES  
FOR THE COOK STREET  
RECONSTRUCTION  
PROJECT

**NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councillor Curteanu advised that after due consideration she would like to withdraw her motion to amend Councillor Roddick’s motion.

Discussion

**2019-17-05**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT the motion to amend Councillor Roddick’s action motion on climate change be withdrawn.

WITHDRAW THE AMENDING MOTION

Carried Unanimously

**2019-17-06**

It was duly moved and seconded WHEREAS the City of Whitehorse has taken important action to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change, and has developed a solid foundation of plans, strategies, and actions that address these challenges; and

WHEREAS the North is experiencing unprecedented and accelerating climate change that contributes to wildfires, extreme weather events and long-term impacts that affect municipal infrastructure and threaten the health, well-being, and property of Whitehorse residents; and

WHEREAS growing recognition of the urgency, severity, and financial costs of climate change for municipalities has galvanized cities across Canada to formally declare climate change emergencies as a means of acknowledging, enhancing and accelerating climate action;

**BE IT RESOLVED**

1. THAT the City of Whitehorse officially declares a climate change emergency for the purpose of enhancing and accelerating action on our commitment to protect our community, economy, and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change as we advance our strategic priorities; and
2. THAT administration be directed to enhance the City’s response to current and future impacts of climate change by:
  - (1) Improving coordination of actions that reduce our vulnerability to climate change by establishing an internal climate change adaptation task force; and

.../continued

**2019-17-06** (Continued)

- (2) Within council’s strategic priorities, identifying actions that accelerate the implementation of existing climate plans and strategies, and developing new budgetary proposals to advance this work for council’s consideration in the 2020 to 2024 capital budget cycle; and
- 3. THAT administration be directed to enhance municipal efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions by:
  - (1) Improving accountability for the 2020 to 2024 capital budget and the 2020 to 2022 operating budget by including a ‘carbon budget’ that identifies, where applicable, the carbon emissions associated with each capital budget line item and the total relative impact of the capital budget on the City’s emission reduction goals; and
  - (2) Continuing and focusing engagement on climate change with the Government of Yukon and the Whitehorse business community to explore opportunities for ambitious new collaborative actions through the forthcoming Yukon Climate Change, Energy and Green Economy Strategy.

Councillor Roddick stated the belief that his motion does not have the votes to pass. He is proposing an amendment that will reach common ground and allow council to declare a climate change emergency, assess, and then use strategic planning to work together on solutions.

Discussion

**2019-17-07**

It was duly moved and seconded THAT the motion be amended by deleting the second and third “Be It Resolved” clauses and replacing them with new clauses that read as follows:

- 2. THAT administration be directed to assess the City’s capacity to respond to current and future climate impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by completing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ *Climate Adaptation Maturity Scale* self-assessment and *Municipal GHG Emissions Reduction Maturity Scale* self-assessment; and
- 3. THAT administration be directed to review the results of these assessments, review our current mitigation and adaptation priorities and targets, and report back to council with a range of options for enhancing our adaptation and mitigation efforts before the next strategic plan update.

Amendment

Carried (5 – 1)

Council members spoke of their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposed amendment. Some concerns were expressed about liability if a climate change emergency is declared, and other concerns were raised about costs and implications. It was noted that some actions will take longer than others to bring about change, but that the amended motion will provide a starting point for progress on this issue.

Discussion

IN FAVOUR Mayor Curtis, Councillors Boyd, Curteanu, Roddick and Stick  
OPPOSED Councillor Hartland

Recorded Vote

The main motion as amended was voted on and Carried (5 – 1).

Vote on Main Motion

Members of council spoke in support of establishing tools and ways of moving forward, and using the resources provided by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other sources to ensure that the necessary work gets done.

Discussion

IN FAVOUR Mayor Curtis, Councillors Boyd, Curteanu, Roddick and Stick  
OPPOSED Councillor Hartland

Recorded Vote

Mayor Curtis declared a Climate Change Emergency in the City of Whitehorse.

CLIMATE CHANGE  
EMERGENCY  
DECLARATION

**BYLAWS**

**2019-17-08**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT Bylaw 2019-19, a bylaw to amend the Fees and Charges Bylaw, having been read a first and second time, now be given third reading.

**BYLAW 2019-19**  
FEES AND CHARGES  
AMENDMENT  
THIRD READING

**2019-17-09**

It was duly moved and seconded  
THAT section 1 of Bylaw 2019-19 be amended by deleting all references to Schedule 9 (Planning); and  
THAT the explanatory notes forming part of Bylaw 2019-19 be amended by deleting all references to Zoning Bylaw amendment fees and Official Community Plan amendment fees; and  
THAT Appendix "A" to Bylaw 2019-19 be amended by deleting Schedule 9 (Planning).

Amendment

Carried Unanimously

The main motion, being third reading of Bylaw 2019-19 as amended,  
was voted on and Carried Unanimously.

Vote on Main Motion

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ORIGINAL MINUTES SIGNED BY:

"Dan Curtis"

Dan Curtis, Mayor

"N. L. Felker"

Norma L. Felker, Assistant City Clerk

ADOPTED by resolution at Meeting #2019-18 dated October 15, 2019.