CITY OF IQALUIT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING #23
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Deputy Mayor Solomon Awa – Chair
Mayor Kenny Bell – via teleconference
Councillor Ookalik Curley
Councillor Simon Nattaq
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson

ABSENT

Councillor Paul Quassa
Councillor Kyle Sheppard
Councillor Kimberly Smith

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer
Katrina Sarmiento, Executive Assistant/Acting City Clerk
Geoffrey Byrne, Economic Development Officer/Acting Communications and Customer Service Manager
Sumon Ghosh, Director of Engineering and Capital Planning
Stephanie Clark – Director of Recreation

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Deputy Mayor Awa opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with a moment of silence.

SWEARING IN

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Change:
9 (c) Revision to wording in Request for Decision

Motion #22-307

Moved by: Councillor Nattaq
Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

Adoption of agenda as amended. **Unanimously Carried**

1. MINUTES

a) Special City Council #21 Minutes dated August 17, 2022

Motion #22-308

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Special City Council #21 Minutes dated August 17, 2022. **Unanimously Carried**

b) City Council Meeting #22 Minutes dated August 23, 2022

Motion #22-309

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

City Council Meeting #22 Minutes dated August 23, 2022. **Unanimously Carried**

c) Emergency Services Master Plan Minutes dated August 24, 2022

Motion #22-310

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Emergency Services Master Plan Minutes dated August 24, 2022. **Unanimously Carried**

d) Engineering and Public Works Committee of the Whole Meeting #02 Minutes dated August 25, 2022

Motion #22-311

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Engineering and Public Works Committee of the Whole Meeting #02 Minutes dated August 25, 2022. **Unanimously Carried**

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. DELEGATIONS

None

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

None

5. STATEMENTS

Councillor Nattaq spoke about shots being fired on the hill. He commented that Inuit lands were being cleaned up. He indicated that he would like to see all of the cabins removed that are there. Councillor Nattaq mentioned a meeting that he participated in and that he wished not to be paid for, however, he received a per diem. He stated that it was a good meeting and that he had written materials with him.

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, indicated that the City could put out a Public Service Announcement (PSA) about using the shooting range, and that it is the only designated location in the city where guns should be fired. She also noted that the RCMP would be alerted.

Councillor Nattaq stated that no one should be shooting towards the water.

6. DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS

a) Mayor's Housing Task Force Update – Tabled – No Update

7. BY-LAWS

a) First Reading of By-law(s)

None

b) Second Reading of By-law(s)

None

c) Third Reading of By-law(s)

i. Traffic Safety By-law No. 943, Amendment to By-law No. 894

Motion #22-312

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Council approves Third and Final Reading of Traffic Safety By-law No. 943, Amendment to By-law No. 894.

Unanimously Carried

ii. Impounded Vehicle and Equipment By-law No. 944

Motion #22-313

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Council approves Third and Final Reading of Impounded Vehicle and Equipment By-law No. 944.

Unanimously Carried

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Iqaluit Rotary Club – 2022 Fall Fair at the Arctic Winter Games Arena on September 24, 2022

Mayor Bell indicated that a letter had been received from the Iqaluit Rotary Club regarding the 2022 Fall Fair at the Arctic Winter Games Arena on September 24, 2022. He asked Katrina Sarmiento to read the letter to Council.

Councillor Stevenson inquired as to whether there was information from the Recreation Committee as to why the request was denied.

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that she thought the letter was recent and that it was not brought to the Recreation Committee. The date of the letter was confirmed to be September 1, 2022.

Councillor Stevenson indicated that perhaps he had misunderstood the letter.

Councillor Nattaq indicated that the request should have gone to the Recreation Committee first and then to Council.

Ms. Elgersma clarified that the letter does state that when the Iqaluit Rotary Club heard that the fees for the Nunavut Trade Show were waived, they then decided to make a request as well. She noted that the fees are not strictly waived; there is an in-kind sponsorship that was approved by Council recently in exchange for the use of the facility. She indicated that due to the timeframe, Mayor Bell made the decision to bring the letter to the Council level so that a decision could be made before their fair was held.

Councillor Nattaq stated that the next Recreation Committee meeting is after the Fall Fair.

Motion #22-314

Moved by: Mayor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Council approves to waive the rental fees at the Arctic Winter Games Arena for the Iqaluit Rotary Club's 2022 Fall Fair on Saturday, September 24, 2022.

Unanimously Carried

b) Request for Decision – Solid Waste Facility Upgrades – Waste Transfer Station Construction Contract Award

Sumon Ghosh, Director of Engineering and Capital Planning, presented a Request for Decision for the Solid Waste Facility Upgrades – Waste Transfer Station Construction Contract Award.

Mr. Ghosh, indicated that the tender closed on August 26, 2022. He noted that two bids were received. Mr. Ghosh explained the costs associated with the project. He indicated that it was recommended to award the contract to Pilitak Enterprises Ltd., who was the lowest bidder.

Councillor Stevenson indicated that in 2018, there were in-depth conversations with Community and Government Services (CGS) and other government departments about cost sharing the Waste Transfer Station that was planned in the city at the time. He inquired as to whether those conversations were happening anymore and whether there was any continued talk about cost sharing in the facility with the Government of Nunavut.

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that there was a committee, that the City was involved with, looking at larger scale municipal waste solutions, with the Government of Nunavut (GN) taking the lead. She indicated that they have not heard anything about that committee in some time, therefore, nothing else has been brought forward to the City. Ms. Elgersma noted that there is an oversight committee made up of Government of Nunavut officials from CGS and City of Iqaluit representatives that reviews the project on a regular basis.

Ms. Elgersma indicated that Mr. Ghosh and his team were working on an amendment to the City's business case to ask for additional funding, but that has not yet been confirmed. She stated that the City is seeking additional funding from the Government of Nunavut, as well as having assistance from a consultant who is helping to secure funding for other items that Council felt were important.

Mayor Bell noted that he had several conversations with the GN in 2019. He stated that the GN has recently put out a call for a study for solid waste management across the territory. He indicated that he felt this matter should be pushed back until the City can have a conversation with the GN regarding the study. He noted that he does not support spending that much money on garbage disposal and he would prefer to wait to see what the Government of Nunavut's plan is.

Councillor Nattaq inquired about whether the contract amount exceeded what the City could spend.

Ms. Elgersma indicated that the bid did come in quite a bit over budget. She stated that they have prepared cash flow requirements for Council's review that are included in the package. She noted that they have also included the source of funds that would be required until 2025.

Ms. Elgersma stated that while the project was over budget, information has been provided that would fund the project through available block funding (Government of Nunavut Capital Funds), General Fund, Sanitation Fund and the remaining ICIP, which is the federal funding issued to the City.

Ms. Elgersma indicated that the City has been saving the block funding that has been received from the Government of Nunavut for several years in anticipation of these expenses. She stated that it has been shown that the City can make the payments and the project can go ahead. She noted that because this project is over budget, other projects may not be able to go ahead if this critical project is prioritized.

Ms. Elgersma stated that if the project was deferred, additional funds would be required to make more room at the landfill. She indicated that engineering work would be involved, as well as shipping out of metal in order to use the metal side of the landfill. She noted that three quarters of a million dollars worth of metal was shipped out this year and recycled. She indicated that the remaining scrap metal, with the exception of the cars, is likely not recyclable, and that would mean higher costs to ship that metal out.

Deputy Mayor Awa inquired about Council's authority to approve some of the funds. He asked about the limit that City Council has to approve before a request to local people is needed.

Ms. Elgersma indicated that the City does not have to go to the local people for borrowing. She stated that the funds can be made available to make the payment. She noted that there may be some other projects that would have to be sacrificed.

Mayor Bell moved to delay the project, however, there was no seconder for the motion.

Councillor Stevenson noted that he was frustrated by the cost of the project, however, he did not feel that it was primarily the City's problem. He inquired as to how widespread the request was advertised in order to get the widest range of possible bidders. He stated that he is not in favour of trying to lengthen the life of the current landfill as it is well past its capacity. He asked for clarification on what other alternatives had been looked at once it was realized that the project was over budget.

Mr. Ghosh indicated that the Waste Transfer Station is supposed to compliment the landfill site. He noted that if the project does not go ahead, the current landfill cell number 1 would have to be used in the same way West 40 is used. He stated that he does not feel this would be an efficient way of doing things.

Mr. Ghosh pointed out that cash flow would not be a problem for 2022 and 2023, however, there would need to be some preparation ahead of time in 2024 and 2025 to mobilize additional funds.

Ms. Elgersma explained the tendering process for the project and how the tender was advertised. She noted that the City's tenders were getting out widespread across the country.

Mayor Bell reiterated again that he felt that the City should wait for a few weeks in order to speak with the Government of Nunavut to see where they were in their plan, as their plan was for the entire territory.

Councillor Stevenson spoke about the funding that was approved in 2018. He inquired as to whether there was any engagement with the federal government regarding project costs and if there had been any discussion of relief, as projects are more expensive now than they were in 2018.

Ms. Elgersma indicated that this had been brought up during the COVID-19 pandemic with the oversight committee. She noted that they were told that additional funding would be easily available for certain projects with certain types of funding. She stated that for this project, additional funding is not easily accessed and that is why they were going ahead with an amendment to the business case to push harder for funding.

Councillor Stevenson inquired as to whether they could instruct staff to engage with the bidder to see if there was any way to find a reduction in the cost and for any findings to be presented back to Council as one of the possible options.

Mr. Ghosh explained that what is in the package is the bare minimum that is required to compliment the landfill operations. He stated that he did not expect to see any results in speaking with the bidder to reduce costs as that has already been done.

Mayor Bell noted that he agreed that staff need to go back to the bidder to see what could be changed, as well as talking to the GN to see what their plan is and where the City sits in that plan.

Councillor Stevenson and Mayor Bell discussed the wording of the motion.

Councillor Nattaq stated that he would support staff making another attempt to talk to the bidder.

Motion #22-315

Moved by: Mayor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

Council directs staff to engage with the bidder and to look for other options to reduce costs on the Solid Waste Facility Upgrades – Waste Transfer Station project as presented and bring those back to Council.

Unanimously Carried

c) Request for Decision – Procurement of Bowhead Whale Skull

Stephanie Clark, Director of Recreation, presented a Request for Decision to procure the bowhead whale skull from the 2022 Bowhead Whale Hunt. She noted that the City has reached out to QIA, QC and NTI about partnering on the project. She stated that they anticipated allocating approximately $40,000 to the project, some of which the Recreation Department received from CanNor Trailhead Improvement Outdoor Infrastructure funding stream.

Ms. Clark stated that she felt this was a unique opportunity to create a focal point for residents and visitors to engage with something momentous. She noted that they would like to reach out to the hunters for consultation for the most appropriate and culturally respectful way to display the whale skull.

Councillor Nattaq inquired as to the location for the placement of the bowhead whale skull.

Ms. Clark indicated that three maps with potential locations were included in the package. She noted that they would welcome other suggestions from Council as well.

Councillor Nattaq felt that the maps were not clear.

Councillor Stevenson stated that he was excited about the project. He noted that he would like to see this become part of the planned improvements at the waterfront. He indicated that QIA is cleaning up the Inuit Owned Lands at the waterfront and he hopes that at some point, it will be a place that people can use on a regular basis. He mentioned that it would be nice if this installation could be somewhere on the beach, perhaps being the trailhead at some point, or the midpoint where the trail is combined with Inuit Owned Land and the City owned land.

Councillor Nattaq indicated that the area may already be identified for something on Inuit Owned Lands.

Ms. Clark indicated four potential placements that were spoken about internally and noted that they were not the only placement suggestions.

Councillor Nattaq indicated that he now understood the locations. He noted that he preferred placement on the beach as everyone could view it there at any time.

Deputy Mayor Awa clarified that the motion was to approve the amount requested for the placement of the bowhead whale skull, but the location would be decided by the groups.

Motion #22-316

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Council approves $40,000 to build a permanent installation of the bowhead whale skull to commemorate the recent hunt and hunters. **Unanimously Carried**

d) Lawyers Contract – Verbal

Mayor Bell indicated that during his time on Council, he has not seen a lawyers contract. He noted that he understood that they were on an as and when contract, but he did not know what that was. He stated that he is looking for Council's support to put out a contract for legal services that has to be bid on every three or five years. He noted that he felt that people should be bidding on contracts on a regular basis, instead of just getting the contract and being the only provider.

Motion #22-317

Moved by: Mayor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

Council directs staff to put out a Request for Proposal for Legal Services for the City of Iqaluit.

Unanimously Carried

e) Debt Collections – Verbal

Mayor Bell indicated that he was recently notified that the City was owed almost 2.4 million dollars in water collections. He stated that he felt staff should be directed to have an aggressive debt collection process and move to disconnect water services for those who do not pay. He noted that people should be given a month to enter into a payment plan and if a customer chooses not to enter into a payment plan, water services should be immediately cut off.

Mayor Bell stated that he was proud of the work being done to collect back taxes, but he felt that a more aggressive approach was needed. He noted that the City needs this money to function and to maintain infrastructure. He indicated that some people will be upset, however, he felt that staff need to stand together and show the citizens that they need to pay their bills to the City.

Councillor Stevenson indicated that he would support a motion to direct staff to bring a debt collection plan to the Finance Committee of the Whole for discussion.

Mayor Bell agreed, however, he noted that it needed to happen at the next Finance Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councillor Nattaq felt that consideration has to be taken for how much people can pay each year in a payment plan.

Councillor Stevenson stated that it is never cut and dry when looking at the list of people who owe arrears, however, he noted that the City can't have leniency when there are so many debts on the books. He indicated that cleaning the slate will enable the City to be judicious and fair in how people are treated. He noted that the City must find ways to understand and clear up all of the misunderstandings surrounding debt owed to the City.

Councillor Stevenson noted that Mayor Bell has been talking about this for many years, both during his time as Mayor and as a councillor.

Motion #22-318

Moved by: Mayor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

Council directs staff to bring a debt collection plan to the next Finance Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.

Unanimously Carried

f) Climate Change and City Projects - Verbal

Mayor Bell indicated that he wished to speak about Environment and City Projects. He noted that over his time as Mayor, he has watched the projects that are making the City a better place to live, however, he is aware that in the process of doing certain projects, tundra has been removed and will not grow back for a long time.

Mayor Bell stated that it has to be made clear that Council directs staff, and directs all of the City's contractors, that when they are doing work in the city, they need to be mindful of the environment and take special care for the tundra, which is going to be needed in the face of climate change.

Mayor Bell noted that as a Council, they have to direct to take care of the land as much as is possible.

Councillor Nattaq indicated that he has noticed that a lot of land has been destroyed. He noted that for any land that is not being used anymore, plants will grow and it will eventually go back to nature. He suggested transplanting natural plants on land that has been destroyed.

Motion #22-319

Moved by: Mayor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Council directs staff to put the environment and climate change at the front of all of the City of Iqaluit's projects.

Unanimously Carried

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Engineering and Public Works Committee of the Whole #02 Report

Motion #22-320

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Council awards the contract for the supply and delivery of granular material to 5550 Nunavut Ltd. (BBS) in the amount of $478,992 plus GST in 2022 and $493,600 plus GST in 2023, pending 2023 budget approval.

Unanimously Carried

Motion #22-321

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Council pursues Option 1 as identified, as the preferred long-term water source, which includes developing Unnamed Lake as summer only supplementation design.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Nattaq indicated that it looks like there will be enough water as it seems to be pretty full right now.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Nunavut Research Institute – Application "Theater and Performing Arts in Nunavut", Clara Margaret Wilch from Theater and Performance Studies Department, University of California, Los Angeles**

Councillor Stevenson indicated that the agenda states NTI and not NRI. He noted that he felt the research for the project seemed to be very hands-off. He stated that it seemed beyond the scope of NRI, however, it appeared to be considered as research.

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, confirmed that it is research as it is with the University of California, Los Angeles. She noted that another way to share the information is through the podcast.

Motion #22-322

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Nunavut Research Institute – Application: "Theater and Performing Arts in Nunavut", Clara Margaret Wilch from Theater and Performance Studies Department, University of California, Los Angeles.

Unanimously Carried

12. IN CAMERA SESSION

( ) as per Section 22 (2) (a) CTV Act and By-law 526 Section 67

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #22-323

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

Council adjourns at 7:23 p.m. **Unanimously Carried**

Kenny Bell
Mayor

Tammy Ernst-Doiron
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on the 27th day of September, 2022.