

**Village of Haines Junction
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2025**

Present:

Mayor Strand

Councillor Busche

Councillor Mackinnon

Councillor McPhie

Councillor Sundbo (via Zoom)

Absent:

CAO Fairbank, 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

#146-25 It was moved and seconded

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

- Added under old business - reconsideration of motion

Motion #146-25 was **CARRIED**.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings

Council Meeting Minutes March 26, 2025

Discussion:

- A request was made for the minutes to be proofread more closely to correct errors (made by AI?) to save time in Council meetings.

#147-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 26, 2025 be adopted with minor editorial changes.

Motion #147-25 was **CARRIED**.

Council Meeting Minutes April 9, 2025

#148-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of April 9, 2025 be adopted with minor editorial changes.

Motion #148-25 was **CARRIED**.

Proclamations

Delegations

Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions

Old Business

RTC Pedal Junction – Bike Skills Park In-Kind Contribution

CAO Presentation:

- 20% of total project costs need to be sourced through fundraising or in-kind contributions. A \$5,000 contribution is needed from the Village for this target to be reached.
- Staff propose providing in-kind support to the project in the form of park benches and garbage cans. These assets would remain the property of the Village of Haines Junction.

Discussion:

- Staff to check whether surplus items are available at the Public Works shop.

#149-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council approves the installation of benches and garbage cans at the Pedal Junction Bike Skills Park as the Village's in-kind contribution to the project, with a total estimated cost of \$5,000, and acknowledges there will be ongoing operations and maintenance costs associated with garbage collection from the site.

Motion #149-25 was **CARRIED**.

Land Development Branch – Country Residential Land Development Presentation

Presentation from Hannah McDonald and Ben Campbell, Yukon government Land Development Branch

(via Zoom)

- Yukon government (YG) is the primary land developer in the Yukon, unlike most other jurisdictions where this is done by the private sector.
- YG works in partnership with municipal and First Nation governments to develop land.
- Municipalities have important roles to play to support land development within their communities. This includes identifying need, demand and type of development required for

- the community, leading the development of Official Community Plans (OCPs) and Zoning Bylaws, leading community engagement, and approving master plans and providing support for detailed design and construction planning.
- YG aims to recover the costs of lots through the sale of lots.
- Challenges to land development in Yukon include escalating development costs, the small and localized developer market, lengthening timelines, and public perceptions.
- Project charters can be developed that outline roles and responsibilities of the YG and the Village.
- Update on projects underway in Haines Junction:
 - Two projects originated from the OCP – serviced residential infill (Area 1, now called Dhäl Ghäy), and the extension of the Willow Acres country residential subdivision (Area 3)
 - The development of phase 1 of Area 1 (Dhäl Ghäy) is nearing completion, and lots will be on the market soon. There were some challenges with this development, and opportunities to approach things in a different way in planning Phase 2.
 - Concepts for Area 3 were presented to previous Council who identified a preferred option with 39 ~1ha lots. This development has been on hold pending a reset on relationships and approaches to planning within the community.
 - Recent population projections show Haines Junction will grow by 578 people by 2045. With an average household size of 2.3 people, 251 new homes will be needed in the next 20 years.

Discussion:

- Would like to see improved collaboration between the Village and the Land Development Branch during the planning phases, given recent experiences.
- Trust in the land development process, and relationships with the Land Development Branch, need to be rebuilt with this community.
- If the Village is taking on the public engagement role, and YG doesn't respect the results of these engagements, the Village winds up assuming responsibility for YG's decision-making within the community.
- Photos in presentation are misleading in that they show a lot of trees. If the developments are clearcuts, this is what the community needs to be shown.
- Would be good to see what the uptake will be on Dhäl Ghäy before jumping into further planning.
- Council would like to move forward slowly.
- Suggest regular meetings over the next year or two. With residential growth there will be new demand for commercial and industrial lots.
- Will be useful to identify areas that we would like to retain as green spaces within the community, and integration of fuels management work that is planned or underway within the community so these activities can be coordinated with subdivision development.
- Council needs to assess how this work fits into Council's strategic priorities and what capacity the Village will have to engage in the coming years.
- In person meetings would be helpful to build relationships, suggest staff come out in a few months and bring maps.

Reconsideration of Motion #140-25

Presentation:

- A request was made to reconsider Motion #140-25, made on April 9, 2025:
 - THAT Public Works provide monthly reports on what is going on workwise.
- An objection to the motion was raised by one Councillor – the details of which were not discussed with the rest of Council.
- Council would like the opportunity to understand the objection and reconsider their position on the motion accordingly.

Discussion:

- The objection related to the following concerns:
 - This motion would lead to micro-managing staff, which is not Council's role.
 - Council trusts staff to bring issues forward that require Council's attention.
 - Council doesn't need to be involved in operational issues and details.
 - Council need to know what staff are doing every day.
 - Council can't oversee the day-to-day work of staff, this is the role of the CAO.
- A desire was expressed to know what is going on across the organization so Council can work together with staff on what needs to be achieved.
- There hasn't been concerns that staff are keeping anything from Council.
- Council requested a report with options on how staff updates can be provided; will seek advice from Christina Benty on what might be an appropriate way forward.
 - One option is for staff to provide a short verbal report at every Council agenda on how things are going; this doesn't need to be long or onerous.

#150-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the decision on the motion to reconsider Motion #140-25, made on April 9, 2025, be deferred pending a report from staff

Motion #150-25 was **CARRIED**.

New Business

Accounts Payable to April 23, 2025

Discussion:

- A desire was expressed to ensure the public has access to information on how tax funds are being spent.
- A preference was also expressed to ensure Council reserves the right to ask questions about the accounts payable.
- A request was made to add a short descriptive sentence to the accounts payable to explain what each expense pertains to.

#151-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Municipal Accounts Payable to April 23, 2025 be approved as presented.

Motion #151-25 was **CARRIED**.

RTC - Accounts Payable Agenda Options

CAO Presentation:

- During Council's strategic planning session with Christina Benty, it was recommended that Accounts Payable be dropped from the agenda completely, as very few municipalities share this information publicly.
- There is a long history of sharing accounts payable information within the Village of Haines Junction's agenda package.
- Staff recommend that Council review the accounts payable and to direct any questions to the CAO in advance of the meeting. This approach would maintain the transparency that the community expects, as well as being efficient with time within Council meetings.

Discussion:

- Support was expressed by Council for staff's recommended approach.
- Concerned that there is personal information, names, within the accounts payable. Not sure that how much money someone is making should be included.
 - It was noted that payroll information is not included within the accounts payable.
- Request made to add a descriptive line item added to the accounts payable.
 - Concerned that adding a description would be burdensome on staff.
 - It was noted that a description is already included within the accounts.
 - Agreement was reached to expand on description only where it may not be clear.

#152-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff continue to include Accounts Payable on the Council agenda and that Council members review AP in advance, and when possible, direct any questions to the CAO prior to meetings.

Motion #152-25 was **CARRIED**.

Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption

Correspondence

Council Reports and Notice of Motions

Councillor McPhie

- Fielded a lot of complaints about the roads. Referred residents to watch the Mayor's Facebook video which explains why the roads are in the state they are in. The videos have had considerable views.
- Working with Derek Wolfe to organize a FireSmart education evening with a barbeque.
- Met with Ryan Leef and Brendan Hanley and wished them both luck with the upcoming election.
- Extended congratulations to Mayor Strand for receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Councillor Busche

- Attended meeting with St. Elias Seniors Society, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the National Institute on Aging earlier this week. The agencies are travelling across the country to seek input on how to support aging in place.
- Patty Moore, Coordinator of the St. Elias Seniors Society, would like to discuss seniors' issues within the community with Council.
- Also attended Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group meeting.

Councillor Mackinnon

- Also extended congratulations to Mayor Strand for the medal she received.
- Notice of Motion to schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss a policy to define how Council supports arts, culture and recreation community groups.

Councillor Sundbo

- Also congratulated Mayor Strand on the medal she received.
- In Agassiz British Columbia today, joining by Zoom.
- Discussed waste diversion and composting with Jonathan Osborne, who is planning to attend AYC – encourage Council to take opportunity to meet Mr. Osborne as he has a lot of good ideas.

Mayor Strand

- Invited to sit on plebiscite panel for outreach and education on electoral reform. Elected officials -- except for Mayors and Councillors -- are not allowed to sit on this panel per the panel's terms of reference.
- Have not yet been able to join a Border Mayor's meeting – scheduling constraints and issues with MS Teams. Councillor McPhie offered to sit in on these meetings when the Mayor is not available.
- Minister Mostyn would like to visit in the spring.

Questions from the Public

Motion to Close Meeting to the Public

#153-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public at 8:34pm.

Motion #153-25 was **CARRIED**.

Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public

#154-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be reopened to the public at 8:55 pm

Motion #154-25 was **CARRIED**

Adjournment

#155-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:56 pm

Motion #155-25 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.



Mayor Diane Strand



CAO David Fairbank

