



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, July 8, 2024 at 12:05 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor C. McGurk,
Councillor T. McLennan,
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
C. Caljouw,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
K. Pandoo,
K. Thistle,
C. White,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Mayor Alty read the Opening Statement.
2.	(For Information Only) There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.
3.	(For Information Only) Committee heard a presentation from Leon Gaber, David Hewson and Tabitha Black-Lock, representatives of KPMG, regarding the final 2023 North Slave Complex Wildfires After Action Assessment Report.



They noted that in the summer of 2023, the city of Yellowknife experienced a severe wildfire season that led to the unprecedented mass evacuation of around 19,000 residents. They further noted that the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife (the City) played an important role in managing the wildfire response and evacuation process. They stated that to improve preparedness for future incidents, the City commissioned an independent After-Action Assessment (AAA) to evaluate the City's emergency response to the 2023 North Slave Complex Wildfires. They further stated that this AAA provides a qualitative, evidence-based review of the City's actions during the 2023 wildfire season. They noted that 2023 North Slave Complex Wildfires After Action Assessment Report summarizes the chronology of events leading up to, during, and after the evacuation of the city of Yellowknife, which correspond with the following three phases of this emergency event:

1. Mitigation & Preparedness: the events and actions leading up to the evacuation;
2. Response: the events and actions during the evacuation; and
3. Recovery: the events and actions after the evacuation (e.g., re-entry).

Key findings for each of the three phases of this emergency event were derived from the analysis of internal City documents, publicly available information, virtual and in-person public engagement, and targeted stakeholder interviews. The key findings are organized across the following five themes and include 19 key strengths and successes in managing the wildfires, as well as 35 areas identified for future improvement:

1. Cross-Agency Coordination;
2. Public Communications;
3. Considerations for Vulnerable Populations;
4. Emergency Operations Centre and Continuity Management; and
5. Evacuation Planning, Response, and Recovery.

They noted that by comparing these findings with emergency management and disaster risk reduction standards and leading practices, 26 recommendations are identified to address the 35 areas identified for future improvement. They further noted that to support the prioritization of these recommendations for implementation, they have been assessed and ranked based on the time and effort required for implementation, as well as their relative impact on disaster risk reduction, the capability of the City across the four phases of emergency management and maintaining life safety.

Administration undertook to conduct an assessment of observations and findings, make decisions regarding any implementation of recommendations, and consideration for any impacts that may result from the implementation of recommendations from 2023 North Slave Complex Wildfires After Action Assessment Report and provide Council with a status update in the fall.

4. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to enter into an Agreement with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities to receive the City's allocation of federal DMAF funding for NWT communities for wildland fire protection.**



Committee noted that in 2022, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) applied to the Government of Canada's Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Fund (DMAF) on behalf of all the 29 Northwest Territories (NWT) communities within the treeline which are facing wildfire risk to complete their firebreaks over a period of eight years.

Funding of \$20 Million was approved in late 2022, with NWTAC working extensively to negotiate the terms of the contribution agreement that it would enter into with Canada; Canada is funding 100% of the work given the Indigenous communities served and the term extends over 7 years from 2022.

Subsequently, the NWTAC is entering into agreements with all eligible NWT community governments for each community's respective allocation; the City's allocation is \$2.354 Million over the life of this project. The respective funding allocations are based on the most recent Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), developed in partnership with the GNWT Department of Environment and Climate Change's (ECC) Forestry Division. The City's last CWPP, which our funding allocation is based upon, was prepared in 2019; work is currently underway to update the City's CWPP to reflect significant work accomplished under duress in 2023 and because this should be updated every 5 years. NWTAC and the ECC are partnering to take as much of the burden off communities as possible, including the provision of communal resources to do planning, communication, tendering templates, reporting to funders, and other supports from experts like Forestry Management.

Community governments will manage how this project is implemented on the ground, including local planning and engagement and hiring local contractors/workforce required. Funding in year 1 is being used by the NWTAC to get organized, prioritize communities and enter into agreements with each of the 29 community governments. A Motion of Council is required for the Funding Agreement to be accepted by the NWTAC.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:
Council Goal #3 Sustainable Future.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:
Cities, Towns and Villages Act.

Financial

Council approval to enter into this contract is required.

Operational

Implementing the recommended actions of the City's CWPP requires resources and utilizing DMAF funds through a planned multi-year process allows for the orderly prioritized implementation, especially with an updated CWPP anticipated by the end of 2024.

Committee noted that completing work on the natural assets that protect Yellowknife in the event of a wildfire continues to be a top priority for the City. Being part of an overall project



that is coordinated through the NWTAC, with technical and administrative support coming from both ECC and the NWTAC enables the City to focus on allocating efforts and resources fully towards the creation of these protective assets.

Committee recommended that Council direct the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities to receive the City's allocation of federal DMAF funding for NWT communities for wildland fire breaks/fire protection.

MOVE APPROVAL

(For Information Only)

5. Councillor Payne left the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

(For Information Only)

6. Committee recessed at 1:25 p.m. and reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

(For Information Only)

7. Committee heard a presentation regarding budget 2025. Administration noted the following proposed changes to the Budgeting Process:

1. A budget form will be made available year round on City's website for budget proposals from stakeholders. This new form will allow residents to submit a complete project proposal with a cost estimate, giving consideration to Council's Strategic Directions and to tax and service implications. The information collected will allow Councillors to more easily assess the feasibility of the projects proposed and their alignment with Council's objectives.
2. Request Council direction on tax increase mandate.
3. Rename Audit Committee, that oversee the financial reporting process on behalf of City Council and the public, to Finance Committee; increase membership and frequency of meeting; and expand scope to include Budget, Tax and Financial reporting.

(For Information Only)

8. Councillor McGurk moved,
Councillor Warburton seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 2:46 p.m. to discuss a memorandum regarding whether to appoint a member to serve on the City of Yellowknife Development Appeal Board.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(For Information Only)

9. Committee discussed a memorandum regarding whether to appoint a member to serve on the City of Yellowknife Development Appeal Board.



- (For Information Only)
10. Councillor Warburton moved,
Councillor Fequet seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 2:47 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to appoint a member to serve on the City of Yellowknife Development Appeal Board.**

Committee noted that there is a vacancy on the Development Appeal Board.

It is the practice of the City of Yellowknife to advertise all vacancies for boards and committees. The City has advertised the vacancy on the Development Appeal Board in the Capital Update and the City's website.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

Strategic Direction #1: People First

Motion #0459-96, as amended by #0460-96, #0462-96 and #0273-09:

"The following policy be adopted with respect to appointments to municipal boards and committees:

- i) The maximum consecutive years that an individual may serve on any one board or committee is six.
- ii) Individuals who have served the maximum six-year period on one municipal board or committee shall be eligible to be appointed to another board or committee.
- iii) No individual shall be precluded from serving concurrent terms on more than one municipal board or committee.
- iv) Notwithstanding that an individual appointee has served less than six years on a particular board or committee, Council may, after the expiration of the first or subsequent terms of that appointee, advertise for applicants to fill a vacancy on that board or committee.
- v) Notwithstanding clause (i.) of this policy, should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, the six year maximum limitation may, at the discretion of City Council, be waived.
- vi) Should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, City Council may appoint a member of the public at their discretion.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:

1. *Community Planning and Development Act*; and
2. Zoning By-law No. 5045.



Legislative

In accordance with the *Community Planning and Development Act*, Zoning By-law No. 5045 establishes the City of Yellowknife Development Appeal Board.

Pursuant to Section 30(1) of the *Community Planning and Development Act*, the minimum number of members that Council may appoint to the Development Appeal Board is three. Section 30(1) also states that members hold office for three year terms. Appointments must be made by resolution of Council.

Consistency

Historically, Council has appointed one member of Council and six members of the public to the Development Appeal Board.

When assigning Council Member portfolios, Councillor Rob Warburton (Alternate Steve Payne) was named as the City's representative on the Development Appeal Board.

Committee noted that the appointment of members will ensure that the Development Appeal Board has a full complement of members. A full complement of Board Members will ensure that hearings can be held in a timely manner.

Committee recommended that Council appoint Joseph LaBine to serve, for a three (3) year term effective July 23, 2024 until July 22, 2027, on the City of Yellowknife Development Appeal Board.

MOVE APPROVAL

12. The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.