



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

Council Agenda

Monday, July 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to the

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council Chamber, City Hall

4807 - 52nd Street

Yellowknife

All presentations pertaining to items on the Agenda for the meeting shall be heard under the “Delegations Pertaining to Items on the Agenda,” portion of the Order of Business. All presentations pertaining to items not on the Agenda shall be heard under the “Delegations Pertaining to Items Not on the Agenda” portion of the Order of Business.

The following procedures apply to all delegations before Council:

- a. all delegations shall address their remarks directly to the Presiding Officer and shall not pose questions to individual Members or Administration;
- b. each presenter shall be afforded five minutes to make their presentation;
- c. the time allowed to each presenter may be extended beyond five minutes by a resolution of Council;
- d. after a person has spoken, any Member may, through the Presiding Officer, ask that person or the City Administrator relevant questions; and
- e. no debate shall be permitted on any delegation to Council either between Members or with an individual making a presentation.

Please refer to By-law No. 4975, the Council Procedures By-law, for the rules respecting the procedures of Council.

COUNCIL:

Mayor Rebecca Alty

Councillor S. Arden-Smith
Councillor Garrett Cochrane
Councillor Ryan Fequet
Councillor Ben Hendriksen

Councillor Cat McGurk
Councillor Tom McLennan
Councillor Steve Payne
Councillor Rob Warburton

All annexes to this agenda may be viewed on the City’s website www.yellowknife.ca
or by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at 920-5602.



Item No.

Description

OPENING STATEMENT

1. Councillor Arden-Smith will read the Opening Statement.

The City of Yellowknife acknowledges that we are located in Chief Drygeese territory. From time immemorial, it has been the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of all other Indigenous Peoples including the North Slave Métis, and all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

AWARDS, CEREMONIES AND PRESENTATIONS

2. There were no awards, ceremonies or presentations for the agenda.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Previously
Distributed

3. Minutes of Council for the regular meeting of Monday, June 24, 2024 are presented for adoption.

4. Councillor Arden-Smith moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

That Minutes of Council for the regular meeting of Monday, June 24, 2024 be presented for adoption.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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Previously
Distributed

5. Minutes of Council for the special meeting of Monday, July 8, 2024 are presented for adoption.

6. Councillor Arden-Smith moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

That Minutes of Council for the regular meeting of Monday, July 8, 2024 be presented for adoption.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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Item No.

Description

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

7. Does any Member have a conflict of interest in any matter before Council today?

CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS

8. There was no correspondence nor were there any petitions for the agenda.

STATUTORY PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. There were no Statutory Public Hearings for the agenda.

DELEGATIONS PERTAINING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

10. There were no delegations pertaining to items on the agenda.

MEMBER STATEMENTS

11. There were no statements for the agenda.

12. Are there any Member statements from the floor?

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Arden-Smith will introduce the following reports:

13. Governance and Priorities Committee Report for June 24, 2024.

14. Councillor Arden-Smith moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

That Council adopt for information the Reaching Home Canada's Community Plan (2024 – 2028) as recommended by the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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Item No.

Description

15.

Councillor Arden-Smith moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

That Council appoint Dane Cruickshank, a Professional Engineer, pursuant to Audit Committee By-law No. 4127, to serve on the City of Yellowknife (City) Audit Committee for a three-year term commencing July 23, 2024 and ending July 22, 2027.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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16.

Governance and Priorities Committee Report for July 8, 2024.

17.

Councillor Arden-Smith moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

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.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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18.

Councillor Arden-Smith moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

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.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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NEW BUSINESS

19.

There was no new business for the agenda.

20.

Is there any new business from the floor?

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS

21.

There was no By-laws for the agenda.



Item No.

Description

DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS

22. There was no deferred business and there were no tabled items for the agenda.
23. Is there any deferred business or are there any tabled items from the floor?

OLD BUSINESS

24. There was no old business for the agenda.
25. Is there any old business from the floor?

NOTICES OF MOTION

26. There were no notices of motion for the agenda.
27. Are there any notices of motion from the floor?

DELEGATIONS PERTAINING TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

28. There were no delegations pertaining to items not on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE ENQUIRIES

29. There were no administrative enquiries for the agenda.
30. Are there any administrative enquiries from the floor?

ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, June 24, 2024 at 12:05 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, June 24, 2024 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith, (12:11 p.m.)
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor C. McGurk, (via teleconference)
Councillor T. McLennan,
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
P. MacKenzie,
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.	Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to adopt for information the Reaching Home Canada's Community Plan (2024 – 2028) as recommended by the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.



Committee noted that in March 2019, the City of Yellowknife became the Community Entity for the Reaching Home Initiative for the community of Yellowknife. The Reaching Home Canada Community Plan is a strategic document required by Reaching Home, the Government of Canada's homelessness strategy, aimed at addressing and preventing homelessness across the country.

In Yellowknife, the Reaching Home Canada Community Plan for 2024-2028 outlines a comprehensive approach to tackle homelessness by coordinating efforts across various sectors, enhancing service delivery, and ensuring that resources are effectively allocated to meet the needs of the homeless population. The plan emphasizes collaboration among local agencies, stakeholders, and community members to create a system that effectively supports individuals experiencing homelessness. To ensure the plan is reflective of the community's needs and priorities, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) was consulted on March 7, 2024. During this consultation, CAB members provided insights and feedback, contributing to the development of a plan that is both responsive and attuned to the specific challenges and opportunities within Yellowknife.

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

Strategic Direction #1:

People First

Focus Area 1.2

Housing for All

Doing our part to create the context for diverse housing and accommodation options.

Key Initiative 1.2.1

Setting the context and foundation for a fulsome continuum of housing options, from social to market to workforce accommodation.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:
10 Year Plan to End Homelessness (2017).

Legislative

Compliance with Federal Requirements:

Ensure the plan meets the guidelines and requirements set forth by the Reaching Home initiative to secure ongoing funding and support from the federal government.

Public Consultation

Reflective of Community Needs:

Confirm that the plan accurately reflects the current needs and priorities of the homeless population in Yellowknife as identified through community consultations and data analysis.

Committee noted that based on the Reaching Home Directives, not proceeding would breach the current terms set out in the Contribution Agreement for Reaching Home. The CAB is comprised of a wide cross section of the community and those working to address



homelessness in Yellowknife. The CAB has worked diligently to ensure that the four-year plan addresses all facets of the community to address homelessness in Yellowknife.

Committee recommends that Council adopt for information the Reaching Home Canada’s Community Plan (2024 – 2028) as recommended by the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

MOVE APPROVAL

(For Information Only)

4. Committee read a memorandum regarding summation of Public Hearing on By-law 5078, a by-law to repeal and replace Land Administration By-law No. 4596, as amended.

Committee noted on June 10, 2024, a Statutory Public Hearing was held for By-law No. 5078, a by-law to repeal and replace the current Land Administration By-law No. 4596, as amended. During the hearing, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce made one written submission and one oral presentation in opposition to section 3 (5) and (13) of the proposed By-law. Council directed Administration to prepare a summary of the point raised during the hearing.

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

Strategic Direction #1:

People First

Focus Area 1.1

Housing For All

Doing our part to create the context for diverse housing and accommodation options

Key Initiative 1.2.1

Setting the context and foundation for a fulsome continuum of housing options, from social to market to workforce accommodation

Key Initiative 1.2.2

Supporting design standards that are multi-modal, including recognizing Yellowknife’s advantages as a winter city

Strategic Direction #3:

Sustainable Future

Focus Area 3.2

Growth Readiness

Ensuring land development supports economic readiness and community priorities.

Key Initiative 3.2.1

Advocating for the transfer of vacant commissioner’s land for growth.



Key Initiative 3.2.2	Completing land development tools and strategies that support growth readiness.
Council Motion #0140-21	That Council directs Administration to proceed with the bulk land transfer acquisition of all available Commissioner's Lands within the municipal boundary.
Council Motion #0013-23	That Council directs Administration to initiate planning applications as required for Community Plan Amendments, Area Development Plans, Zoning By-law Amendments and Subdivision of lands in support of infill and densification development.

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

1. *Cities, Towns and Villages Act, S.N.W.T., 2003, c.22. as amended;*
2. *Northwest Territories Lands Act, S.N.W.T., 2014, c.13. as amended;* and
3. City of Yellowknife Community Plan By-law No. 5007.

Cities, Towns and Villages Act

The *Cities, Towns and Villages Act, S.N.W.T., 2003, c.22, sections 53 to 55*, provides municipalities with the authority to adopt a Land Administration By-law. The by-law provides procedures, terms, and conditions for making acquisitions, dispositions, or other activities related to real property owned by the municipal corporation.

Procedural Considerations

Before giving Third Reading to a land administration by-law, Council shall (a) give at least two weeks public notice of the proposed land administration by-law; and (b) hear any person claiming to be affected by the by-law who wishes to be heard.

The Draft Land Administration By-law

The By-law provides a clear and consistent framework for City Administration and clients. The draft By-law uses plain language with updated definitions to improve interpretation and implementation. These changes will provide clarity for clients and accelerate the development, growth, and readiness process.

Engagement

On January 29, 2024, a copy of the draft was provided to the Department of Environment and Climate Change, legal firms, appraisers, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, and media outlets, and it was posted on the City's website for public consultation. Administration actively sought feedback through follow-up inquiries, demonstrating our commitment to inclusivity and ensuring all voices were heard in the process.



Committee noted land development and disposal is a process inclusive of multiple approvals and opportunities for public consultation. The majority of whole lots developed for disposal begin with at least two of the four processes: Community Plan Amendment, Area Development Plan, Zoning By-law amendment, and/or a plan of subdivision, which are all public processes. Administration is seeking ways to expedite land disposal. It is recommended that the process eliminate the final redundant step that is available to Council and not required by legislation. The proposed change would save a minimum of two months and a maximum of six months overall in the land development process.

Committee recommended that Council proceed with Second and Third Reading, with no amendment, of By-law No. 5078, a by-law to repeal and replace Land Administration By-law No. 4596, as amended.

Committee noted that this matter will be discussed under New Business at that evening's Council meeting.

(For Information Only)

5. Councillor Cochrane moved,
Councillor Arden-Smith seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 12:13 p.m. to discuss a memorandum regarding whether to appoint someone to fill a vacant position on the Audit Committee and a matter still under negotiation.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(For Information Only)

6. Committee discussed a memorandum regarding whether to appoint someone to fill a vacant position on the Audit Committee

(For Information Only)

7. Committee discussed a matter still under negotiation.

(For Information Only)

8. Councillor Arden-Smith left the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

(For Information Only)

9. Committee continued its discussion regarding a matter still under consideration.

(For Information Only)

10. Councillor Cochrane moved,
Councillor McLennan seconded,



That Committee return to an open meeting at 1: 10 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(For Information Only)

11. Business arising from the in camera session.
12. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to appoint someone to fill a vacant position on the Audit Committee.**

Committee noted that there is a vacancy on the Audit Committee.

It is the practice of the City to advertise all committee vacancies. The City advertised the vacancy, specifying that it be filled by an engineer in the City's newsletter, the City's website and social media sites.

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

Council Goal #1 People First.

- Motion #0459-96:
- "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.



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

1. *Cities, Towns & Villages Act*; and
2. Audit Committee By-law No. 4217, as amended.

Consistency

The Audit Committee has recommended staggered terms for Committee members.

Legislation

Audit Committee By-law No. 4127 requires outside members to reside in Yellowknife and be independent from City Council, management, auditors, legal counsel and major contractors. Section 4.a.ii(3) states that the currently vacant position must be filled by a Professional Engineer.

Procedural Considerations

The Audit Committee helps to enhance the auditor's real and perceived independence by providing an intermediary link between the auditor and Council. The Audit Committee limits the reliance Council must place on the technical expertise of the independent auditor.

Committee noted that the Audit Committee is intended to function with a full complement of six members. Having the term of a new member expire in three years will conform to the staggered term recommendation.

Committee recommends that Council appoint Dane Cruickshank, a Professional Engineer, pursuant to Audit Committee By-law No. 4127, to serve on the City of Yellowknife (City) Audit Committee for a three-year term commencing July 23, 2024 and ending July 22, 2027.

MOVE APPROVAL

13. The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Reaching Home:

Yellowknife Homelessness Plan

2024 – 2028

Note:

In addition to the core requirements provided in this template, communities may also wish to include other components that provide insight into the community's housing and homelessness context or contribute to community-level homelessness challenges, such as a map of the community's current homelessness services and/or gaps in homelessness services or infrastructure (e.g. housing stock). Communities have full flexibility in drafting these sections.

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1. Community Engagement

Please identify the steps taken to engage your community stakeholders in developing this plan.¹

In February 2024, Community Advisory Board (CAB) members were notified about the revision of the Community Plan. Engaging with CAB members will include connecting with Indigenous Organizations, Youth and Youth serving organizations, organizations serving seniors, health organizations and other departments in the Territorial Government as well as organizations serving individuals experiencing homelessness, organizations serving person with disabilities and the private sector. Some of the organizations that we have engaged to further develop the Community Plan include: Home Base, Salvation Army, YWCA, Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation...

As a result, CAB will meet during a Community Roundtable to discuss the feedback from each sector and the needs for Yellowknife homelessness. During this discussion, there will be conversations centering the vision for ending homelessness in Yellowknife, the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, and Reaching Home Directives.

While meeting early in the new year, CAB agreed on recommending 57% of the funding be dedicated to housing services, which involves housing first initiatives. 15% to the funding to support Prevention and Shelter Diversion, 4% of the funding to continue Indigenous Case Management under support services and 18% towards Capital Investments and 7% towards Administration. Through multiyear contracts, we are able to dedicate more focus towards long term planning and action.

2. Investment Plan

In the table below, please outline your planned allocation of Reaching Home funding (including funding from the Territorial Homelessness stream and Community Capacity and Innovation stream) from 2024-28 by investment area. Please note that it is acceptable that your community's funding priorities change over time. This investment plan is to demonstrate that your community has a vision moving forward for the allocation of Reaching Home funding.

	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	2027 - 2028
Housing Services	\$1,558,632 57%	\$1,558,632 57%	\$685,294 57%	\$685,294 57%
Prevention and Shelter Diversion	\$400,000 15%	\$400,000 15%	\$180,341 15%	\$180,341 15%
Support Services	\$105,930 4%	\$105,930 4%	\$48,091 4%	\$48,091 4%
Capital Investments	\$377,775 14%	\$260,780 10%	\$51,524 4%	\$51,524 4%
Coordination of Resources and Data Collection	\$113,360 4%	\$113,360 5%	\$56,680 5%	\$56,680 5%
Administration	\$180,000 7%	\$296,994.55 10%	\$180,341 15%	\$180,341 15%
Annual Funding	\$2,735,697	\$2,735,697	\$1,202,270	\$1,202,270

3. Community Contributions

In the table below, please outline all funding for homelessness initiatives your community plans to receive from external partners from 2024 to 2028. This includes both financial and in-kind contributions.

Projected Funding towards Homelessness Initiatives				
Funder	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	2027 - 2028
Government of Northwest Territories	\$9,500,000	\$9,500,000	\$9,500,000	\$9,500,000
City of Yellowknife	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$260,000
Reaching Home Funding	\$2,735,697	\$2,735,697	\$1,202,270	\$1,202,270

Please note that the funding from the City of Yellowknife in 2024 is confirmed. Due to the expenses from the past wildfire season in 2023, along with the priorities established by a newly elected Legislative Assembly for the Government of the Northwest Territories, there may be some adjustments to the GNWT's contributions. All funding beyond 2024 is projected, pending budget considerations and approval by the respective governments.

The estimate for GNWT funding is based on the current GNWT Homelessness Strategy (https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/sites/eia/files/a_way_home_-_gnwt_draft_homelessness_strategy.pdf)

Please also note that the investments in Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Shelters and Housing First is coming through different departments for Yellowknife specific projects.

4. Coordinated Access

Please discuss the steps you will take to implement a coordinated access system in your community. If your community has a coordinated access system in place, please describe how it presently functions.

Along with the efforts of the Community Advisory Board (CAB), another aspect of Reaching Home has been implementing a Coordinated Access System in Yellowknife. In 2018, recommendations were provided on establishing Coordinated Access along with a requirement to establish Coordinated Access by March 31st, 2021. There was an emphasis on the necessity for streamlined service coordination, particularly due to the underutilization of certain services.

One key element has been the re-establishment of the Coordinated Access Working Group. This multi-stakeholder group has been actively meeting since January 2024 with the goal of implementing coordinated access in Yellowknife. This group is guided by the recommendations from the CAB commissioned report "Building a Coordinated Access Model," along with the minimum requirements outlined by Infrastructure Canada.

Our next steps are meeting regularly with Infrastructure Canada to review meeting the minimum requirements for Coordinated Access, hosting the Coordinated Access Working Group, managing the upcoming Pit Count in fall 2024, and continuing to onboard service providers on HIFIS. We will continue to work with the CAEH and ensure that we are including as many Indigenous organizations as possible in the decision making process.

5. Community-Wide Outcomes

If you would like your community to measure progress on additional outcomes beyond the federally mandated outcomes, please identify those outcomes.

Please provide your proposed indicators, targets, and methodology for each of the additional identified outcomes.

Reduce overall chronic homelessness in the community

o Will be measured during the National PiT Count (October - November 2024)

Reduce overall Indigenous Homelessness in Yellowknife

o Will be measured during the National PiT Count (October - November 2024)

Reduce new inflows into homelessness

o Work with partners and NGOs on prevention options for shelter diversion. Provide support for youth and coordinate with territorial government to share data on migration to and from Yellowknife

o Will be measured during the National PiT Count (October - November 2024)

Identify data sharing barriers and advance their resolution with partners

o This is also a step in the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. We have made some progress with the training for HIFIS 4.0.

o System efficiency for those experiencing homelessness – ensure that people are entered into the system correctly.

o Assist with administrative burden – being able to pull reports directly from HIFIS

Develop a common set of non-profit reports through an integrated information system to reduce administrative burden on agencies

o Coordination with territorial government will be required to find a common reporting system
All NGOs are currently live on HIFIS, which has the capacity to generate up to date reports required for both Reaching Home and other funders that may require similar information.

6. Official Language Minority Communities

*The Government of Canada has a responsibility under the Official Languages Act to ensure that programs and services meet the needs of [Official Language Minority Communities \(OLMCs\)](#). Please describe the steps that you will take to ensure that the services funded under the Reaching Home take the needs of the [OLMCs](#) into consideration where applicable. **Note:** Please use this section discuss French and/or English speaking minority communities. To highlight the actions taken to address other language needs present in your community; we encourage you to include an additional section or annex.*

The Community Entity recognizes its responsibility to make:

1. Project-related documentation and announcements available (for the public and prospective Project participants, if any) in both official languages;
2. actively offer Project-related services in both official languages;
3. encourage members of both official language communities to participate in the Project; and
4. provide its services, where appropriate, in such a manner as to address the needs of both official language communities

The Community Entity is committed to ensuring that we address the needs of those experiencing homelessness in both official languages. To this end, we have included a clause in all of the sub agreements that project-related documentation can be received in both official languages; to actively offer project-related services in both official languages; to encourage members of both official language communities to participate in the project; and to provide its services, where appropriate, in such a manner as to address the needs of both official language communities.

The Community Entity will support the provision of programs/services in French if and when the need becomes apparent by accessing translation services through La Federation Franco-Tenoise. The Community Entity will continue to monitor the demand for service in the official minority language on an on-going basis to ensure members of the OLMC are not denied service.



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.