



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, June 9, 2025 at 12:05 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. The following Committee members were in attendance:

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

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Van Dine,
R. Andrews,
C. Caljouw,
D. Gillard,
C. Greencorn,
K. Pandoo,
C. Saunders,
K. Thistle,
C. White, and
S. Jovic.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Councilor Warburton read the Opening Statement at the Special Council Meeting.
2.	(For Information Only) There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.



3. Committee heard a presentation from Caroline Wawzonek, Minister of Infrastructure; Andrew Steward, Director, Strategic Energy Initiatives; and Seth Bohnet, Director, Strategic Infrastructure, regarding Strategic Energy and Infrastructure Public Updates. The presentation provided an overview of the Taltson Expansion Project, Arctic Security Corridor – NWT project and the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project. Together the projects will unlock regional connectivity; enable sustainable development; catalyze economic growth and strengthen sovereignty and resilience.

(For Information Only)

4. Committee discussed a resolution regarding Encampments.

(For Information Only)

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

(For Information Only)

6. Committee continued its discussion regarding a resolution respecting Encampments.

Committee recommended that the following resolution be presented for adoption:

RESOLUTION RESPECTING ENCAMPMENTS

WHEREAS all residents of Yellowknife deserve to feel safe in their community; and

WHEREAS encampments with makeshift structures have been established in Yellowknife; and

WHEREAS encampments have been established elsewhere within the community; and

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) holds the authority and financial responsibility with respect to housing, social services, and community justice; and

WHEREAS there may be public use of alcohol and drugs, drug dealing and vandalism taking place; and

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife provides support and funding for the Line Drive Outreach Program through financial resources made available from the Government of Canada; and

WHEREAS Yellowknife City Council wants to collaborate with compassion with underhoused and unhoused peoples, and support the GNWT to support both public safety and public health for all Yellowknifers;



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Yellowknife City Council:

1. Direct Administration to bring forward recommendations regarding any existing bylaws that need amendment or new by-laws that need consideration, so that a temporary encampment can be identified, to address unacceptable behaviour;
2. Recommends that the GNWT as the level of government responsible for housing, community justice, and social services, provides oversight of the temporary encampment, including but not limited to ensuring occupant safety, access to basic needs such as potable water, waste removal, porta potties, and other necessities;
3. Recommends that the RCMP increase their foot and bike presence downtown, specifically from 52nd Avenue to Franklin/50th Avenue and from 47th Street to 52nd Street, in recognition of the visible presence of vandalism, public alcohol use, and potential public drug dealing and use;
4. Commits that the City of Yellowknife will support public health and safety of encampment residents at the request of and cost paid for by the GNWT by providing solid waste and sewage collection, as well as enforcing by-laws that reinforce public safety at an encampment between the Legislative Assembly and 48th Street, near the day shelter, as a place that is acceptable for a temporary encampment;
5. Commits that the City of Yellowknife Municipal Enforcement Division will prioritize engagement and visibility in the community, particularly in the downtown core focusing on litter, unsightly lands, and ensuring a safe environment for all.

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

7. Committee discussed an Arctic Security Corridor Resolution.

Committee recommended that the following resolution be presented for adoption:

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
ARCTIC SECURITY CORRIDOR

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is working closely with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to identify and catalyze projects of national significance; and

WHEREAS First Ministers have stated it is important to invest in dual-use infrastructure in Northern and Arctic communities that will address Canada's Arctic sovereignty and



security goals, meet local community needs, advance national energy independence, and unlock the North's economic potential; and

WHEREAS First Ministers, including the Premiers of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon as well as all western provinces are advocating that the Government of Canada support the Arctic Security Corridor as a National Building project and demonstrate Arctic sovereignty and to open another route to move Canadian natural resources and commodities such as critical minerals to domestic and international markets; and

WHEREAS Premiers acknowledged the federal commitment to move quickly to improve Canada's defence capabilities and meet international spending targets; and

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife serves as a gateway to resource development to the Northwest Territories as a whole, and both the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions of Nunavut through highway, airport and access to barge infrastructure; and

WHEREAS Indigenous equity and participation will be pivotal to the success of these projects; and

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife, together with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Tłıchǫ Government, and the North Slave Métis Alliance, has worked within the framework of truth and reconciliation to form foundational partnerships grounded in mutual respect and joint decision-making, collaborating on infrastructure and economic development initiatives that enhance the well-being of all members, citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife is the largest population, and is the services and logistics centre in the Northwest Territories, offering an established industrial supply chain, skilled workforce, and training institutions capable of supporting every phase of the Arctic Security Corridor, from construction through long-term operations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Yellowknife supports Canada's selection of the Arctic Security Corridor as a project of National significance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Yellowknife ask other governments such as the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Tłıchǫ Governments, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the North Slave Metis Alliance to work with the City to ensure that the Arctic Security Corridor project is realized and maximum benefits accrue to the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Yellowknife is ready to work collaboratively with all other governments to maximize benefits for all peoples of the Northwest Territories specifically and Canada broadly and make joint investments that ensure Canadian Arctic sovereignty and prosperity.



Committee noted this matter would be discussed under new business at this evening's Council meeting.

(For Information Only)

8. Committee accepted for information a memorandum regarding a report regarding Mayor Hendriksen and Councillor Cochrane's travel to Ottawa, ON to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference, May 28 – June 1, 2025.

(For Information Only)

9. Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to proceed with surface patching treatment of Franklin Avenue (41 Street to 43 Street).

Committee noted that Administration is currently in the detailed design phase for major reconstruction efforts of Franklin Avenue from 41 Street to 43 Street, commonly known as Franklin Hill. Last reconstructed in 2004, this section of roadway has undergone significant differential settlement on the north side. Major reconstruction was scheduled for 2026 in the City's capital planning process.

Concurrently, there is also the significant capital replacement of Lift Station #1 on the corner of School Draw and Franklin Avenue. This project also requires some work to be completed on Franklin Avenue due to the sewage forcemain location and connection.

Contractors bidding the major lift station work have requested a 12-month extension to the completion date of the project citing schedule complications associated with our short construction season and the underground nature of the work near Great Slave Lake and expected water table issues.

Council Strategic Direction/Resolution/Policy 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.

Strategic Direction #2: Service Excellence

Focus Area 2.1 Asset Management

Planning, implementing and maintaining assets to reliably, safely and cost effectively deliver services for current and future community needs.

Applicable legislation, by-laws, studies and plan include Budget 2025.

Lift Station #1 Project Schedule

There are significant underground works required to construct the new lift station. The prequalified contractors bidding on the work have suggested that the City's project



schedule is problematic due to the timing of the tender period as well as the shortened construction season. It is not favorable to begin major excavations with cold weather approaching.

Public Works & Engineering agreed with the assessment of contractors, and a 12-month extension was granted from July 2027 to July 2028. The extension reduces project risk and provides contractors with an extended period in which to plan work in a more effective manner, and potentially lowering project costs due to reduced risk.

Franklin Avenue Reconstruction

This section of roadway is currently in the detailed design and estimating phase of the project. Major capital work was scheduled for the 2026 construction season. Due to the extension of the lift station and forcemain work, Administration is rescheduling the major capital works for 2028 or 2029. This will provide some relief for residents impacted by construction in the vicinity as 49A Avenue that underwent water and sewer replacement as well as paving in 2024 and 2025.

The intent of this project is to remove the areas of settlement and heaving and create a smoother road surface in this specific area as a temporary repair until a larger capital project described above can be completed.

Road Safety

Delaying the major capital reconstruction project to 2028 or 2029 is problematic for existing road conditions and safety. The road has undergone significant differential settlement over the years. Administration is recommending surface treatment (patching) to address this and create a safer and more comfortable road section in the interim.

Financial Considerations

The estimates received from the City's engineering consultant in collaboration with the contractor are approximately \$625,000.00. Administration is recommending these costs be covered by paving carryover amounts of \$1,989,122.00. There will also be lower capital expenditures than planned due to the extension of the lift station project schedule.

With the request of a schedule extension granted for the lift station project, Administration determined that this would impact the future scheduling of major capital works planned for Franklin Avenue (Hill). Administration also recognizes that this section of road cannot endure another 3-4 years of current state. An investment in surface treatment (patching) this season will extend this roadway for the expected time and will provide relief in project coordination and for residents of the area.

Consideration of all the enclosed information results in this deviation from the 2025 capital budget and is the recommendation of Administration.

That Council authorize Administration to redirect capital carry over funding to make improvements to Franklin Avenue from 41 Street to 43 Street.



Committee noted this matter would be discussed under new business at this evening's Council meeting.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.