Community Government of Whati

Regular Meeting of Council - March 22, 2021 12:00pm - Whati Council Chambers **Minutes**

Attending:

Chief Alfonz Nitsiza

Councillor George Nitsiza Councillor Leo Nitsiza

Councillor Edzo Nitsiza

Councillor Mike Nitsiza

Councillor Michel Moosenose Councillor Rasinda Beaverho

Councillor Alex Nitsiza

Councillor Joseph Moosenose

Staff:

SAO, Lisa Nitsiza

Finance Manager, Pushp Seth

On Friday June 12, 2020: New Orders by NWT Chief Public Health Officer New public health orders:

- Emerging Wisely continued Public Health Response to COVID-19 in the NWT
- Relaxing Phase 2: Indoor gatherings, maximum of 25 with strict physical distancing
- Outdoor gatherings, maximum of 50 with strict physical distancing

Chief Alfonz Nitsiza called the meeting to order at 12:27pm, lunch provided at noon.

01 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chief Alfonz Nitsiza called for additions/deletions to the Agenda.

MOTION #: 2021-020

Moved by Councillor Michel Moosenose, Seconded by Councillor Alex Nitsiza, that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

02 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

03 **DELEGATIONS & REPORTS:**

<u>a.</u>	RCMP Report	(Cpl. Marc Jones)
	No written report received for this meeting.	

(Dolphus Nitsiza) Public Works Superintendent Report No written report received for this meeting.

(Doreen Nitsiza) Recreation Coordinator Report No written report received for this meeting.

(John Steinwand) Fire Chief Monthly Report No written report received for this meeting.

(Pushp Seth) **Finance Manager Report** No written report received for this meeting.

f. SAO Report

No written report received for information.

04 PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. March 8, 2021 Minutes – Regular Meeting of Council

MOTION #: 2021-021

Moved by Councillor Mike Nitsiza, Seconded by Councillor Alex Nitsiza, that Council approve the March 8, 2021 minutes of the Regular Council Meeting as presented.

CARRIED

(Lisa Nitsiza)

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

06 NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion Required - Provisional CPI Budget 2021-2022

The Community Government of Whati is required by legislation to have a budget in place before each new fiscal year. To meet this objective, Administration has prepared a budget for Council's consideration. The total CPI funding from GNWT MACA for 2021-22 is expected to be \$790,000. Administration prepared the following budget for Chief and Council's review:

	Particulars	Budget
	Estimated Opening Balance/Deferred Portion of CPI as on April 1, 2021	567,000
	Funding for 2021-22	790,000
	Available to spend in 2021-22	1,357,000
	Projects	
1	BMO Loan and Interest Repayment	234,000
2	Road and Street Upgrades	100,000
3	Youth Centre Upgrades - equipment and facility	25,000
4	Upgrade Cold Storage Building (3 years project)	75,000
5	Power Genset for Admin building and Fire hall	225,000
6	Furniture, Fittings and Technology equipments	10,000
7	Lots/Subdivision Development	250,000
8	Alarm Systems for CG of Whati facilities and buildings	115,000
9	Community Visitor Information Centre (2 years project)	250,000
10	WTP Genset and washroom (2 years project) Own sources rest SCF	25,000
	Total CPI Expense Budget for 2021-22	1,309,000
	to carried forward to 2022-23	48,000

MOTION #: 2021-022

Moved by Councillor Mike Nitsiza, Seconded by Councillor Joseph Moosenose, that Council approve the **2021-2022 PROVISIONAL CPI Expense Budget** as presented at the Monday March 22, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

b. Motion Required - Provisional Gas Tax Budget 2021-2022

The Community Government of Whati is required by legislation to have a budget in place before each new fiscal year. To meet this objective, Administration has prepared a budget for Council's consideration. The total Gas Tax funding from GNWT MACA for 2021-22 is expected to be \$266,000. Administration prepared the following budget for Chief and Council's review:

	Particulars	Budget
	Estimated Opening Balance/Deferred Portion of Gas Tax as on April 1, 2021	
	Funding for 2021-22	266,000
	Available to spend in 2021-22	1,141,000
	Projects	
1	Pellet System for Cultural Centre	250,000
2	Cultural Camp (2 years project)	175,000
3	Arena Heating system upgrades	65,000
	Budgeted Expense for 2021-22	490,000
	to carried forward to 2022-23	651,000

MOTION #: 2021-023

Moved by Councillor Alex Nitsiza, Seconded by Councillor Michel Moosenose, that Council approve the **2021-22 PROVISIONAL Gas Tax Expense Budget** presented at the March 22, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

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12:58pm Chief Alfonz Nitsiza calls for a short recess.
1:09pm Chief Alfonz Nitsiza called the meeting to order

c. <u>Motion Required – Amend Finance Policy (Northern Living Allowance)</u>
Currently, in addition to regular pay, the Community Government of Whati pays three allowances to its permanent employees as follows:

1. Isolation Allowance - \$9,500.00 per annum (paid biweekly)

2. Housing Allowance - \$5,400.00 per annum (paid biweekly)

3. Vacation Travel Assistance- \$1,750.00 per annum (paid once a year on the request of employee)

The total amount of abovementioned allowances per year is \$16,650. Employees pay CPP, EI, and Income taxes on abovementioned amounts, but there are no tax benefits of above-mentioned allowances. Currently, the

employees can only claim \$1,750 towards Northern travel. Paragraph 110.7(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act allows the employees, who live in Whati or within a prescribed zone, to claim a travel deduction as part of the northern resident's deduction claim.

The tax will be deducted on the source from the pay cheque of the employees as usual, but they will have an opportunity to save taxes at the time of filing of the income tax return. With the new TASR opening in November 2021, the staff will travel more to southern destinations and administration feels that the staff should get tax benefits for every dollar spent on travel. The Canada Revenue Agency stated an employer may 'provide an employee with travel assistance in a prescribed zone, the travel assistance could be for such things as vacation, bereavement, medical or compassionate reasons. Administration already consulted a renowned tax consultant specializing in northern tax matters.

MOTION #: 2021-024

Moved by Councillor Joseph Moosenose, Seconded by Councillor Mike Nitsiza, to remain competitive, attract, and retain staff that Council approve the amendment to finance policy by introducing maximum Northern allowance @ \$16,650 per annum, to be paid biweekly for the permanent employees with effect from March 22, 2021 by merging and discontinuing Isolation allowance (\$9,500), Housing Allowance (\$5,400), and VTA (\$1,750) presented at the Monday March 22, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

d. Motion Required - Land Lease Lot 240, Plan 4096

As Council is aware, the *Tlicho Community Government Act* requires that the Whati Council must provide a formal Motion of Council to approve the lease of land within the Community Government of Whati. Administration presents the name of Reginald (Reggie) Nitsiza and Jenny Erasmus who wishes to lease the land designated as Lot 240, Plan 4094. If Council supports this land lease application, Administration can draft the land lease and complete this application.

MOTION #: 2021-025

Moved by Councillor Edzo Nitsiza, Seconded by Councillor Leo Nitsiza, that Council approve the Land Application by Reginald (Reggie) Nitsiza and Jenny Erasmus for Lot 240, Plan 4094 and that Administration for the Community Government of Whati be authorized to draft and execute a land lease for the noted presented to Council on Monday March 22, 2021.

CARRIED

- e. <u>Strategic Plan Update Review</u> Information given to council.
- 07 INFORMATION/REQUESTS TO COUNCIL
- 08 COUNCIL CONCERNS
- 09 IN CAMERA SESSION
- 10 NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting of Council - April 12, 2021

11 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #: 2021-026

2:03pm Moved by Councillor George Nitsiza, Seconded by Councillor Michel

Moosenose, that Council adjourns.

CARRIED

Minutes were approved this 19th day of 19th, 2021.

Chief Alfonz Nitsiza

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Note: Effective May 2, 2011, Council requested that a copy of the original agenda be attached to the minutes to ensure that all topics were covered or addressed.

Community Government of Whati Regular Meeting of Council

Monday, March 22, 2021 (12:00pm - Whatì Council Chamber) AGENDA

- 01 ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- 02 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
- 03 DELEGATIONS & REPORTS:

a.	RCMP Report	(Cpl Marc Jones)
b.	Public Works Superintendent Report	(Dolphus Nitsiza)
C.	Recreation Coordinator's Report	(Doreen Nitsiza)
d.	Fire Chief's Monthly Report	(John Steinwand)
e.	Finance Manager's Report	(Pushp Seth)
f.	SAO's Report	(Lisa Nitsiza)

- 04 PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - a. March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council
- 05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a.

- 06 NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Motion Required Provisional CPI Budget 2021-2022
 - b. Motion Required Provisional Gas Tax Budget 2021-2022
 - c. Motion Required Amend Finance Policy (Northern Living Allowance)
 - d. Motion Required Land Lease Lot 240, Plan 4094
 - e. Strategic Plan Update Review
- 07 INFORMATION/REQUESTS TO COUNCIL

a.

08 COUNCIL CONCERNS

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- 09 IN CAMERA SESSION
 - a. Land, Legal and/or Personnel Matters
- **10 NEXT MEETING** April 12, 2021
- 11 ADJOURNMENT