



MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF CARMACKS ON April 15th, 2025, IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Mayor: J. Lachance

Councillors: C. Bellmore , D. Hansen, D. Mitchell, T. Wheeler (Zoom)

Staff: CAO C. Pelletier, P. Singh, L. Ferraz

Delegation: Corporal David MacNeil, Constable Gregory Beauchamp, Arbor Webster

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor J. Lachance called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Moment of Silence – In Memory of Elder Agnes Charlie

“Before we proceed, Council would like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent passing of Elder Agnes Charlie, a cherished member of our community. Her wisdom, kindness, and contributions to the Carmacks community will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude. At this time, we invite everyone to join us in a moment of silence in her honor.”

— [Pause for moment of silence]

“Thank you.”

2. **AGENDA:** Council reviewed the agenda.

25-08-01 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / D. Hansen motioned that the agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3. **MINUTES:**

3.1 From the regular council meeting on April 1st, 2025

25-08-02 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / D. Hansen motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3.2 From the Special council meeting on April 8th, 2025

25-08-03 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / D. Hansen motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented.

CARRIED



4. DELEGATION

4.1 – RCMP Monthly Report

Presented by Corporal David MacNeil

Corporal MacNeil provided the monthly policing update, noting:

- Animal Incident: No criminal charges laid; referred to YG Animal Health for further investigation.
- Paragliding Report: Late-night paragliding near Twin Lakes investigated; individual was safe. Conservation notified due to hunting zone concerns.
- Staffing: Relief members filled in during vacation leave. Const. Greg remains active in school and community events.
- Speed Enforcement: Increased radar use around Braeburn and Robert Campbell Highway. Most citations issued only for excessive speeds.
- ATVs & Helmets: Focus on educating and warning unregistered ATV drivers; enforcement to increase over the summer.
- Licensing Issues: Tickets issued for unlicensed, uninsured drivers. Impaired driving calls investigated, no charges in two recent cases.
- Community Presence: Regular bar checks and collaboration with SCAN continue.

Ticket statistics will be provided at the next meeting.

4.2 Oath of Appointment Bylaw Enforcement

Liam Ferraz officially took the Oath of Appointment as a Bylaw Enforcement Constable and Community Peace Officer for the Village of Carmacks. The oath was administered by RCMP Constable Gregory Beauchamp. Mr. Ferraz affirmed his commitment to uphold the law, maintain peace, and fulfill his responsibilities with integrity and diligence.

Council congratulated and welcomed Mr. Ferraz to his new role.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Letter from AYC President Hanchar

5.2 Joint LSCFN/VOC letter to Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister of Community Services

25-08-04 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / T. Wheeler motioned to file correspondence with no action.

CARRIED



6. REPORTS

6.1 Councillor Activity Reports

Councillor D. Hansen reported attending a special meeting on April 8th and raised concerns about speeding on River Drive. She recounted a personal experience where she was driving within the speed limit (approximately 30–35 km/h) and was overtaken at high speed by another vehicle. The incident prompted her to research the impact of vehicle speed on pedestrian safety.

She referenced a study indicating that:

- At 40 km/h, serious pedestrian injuries become significantly more likely.
- At 50 km/h, the fatality risk is over five times greater than at 30–35 km/h.

Councillor Hansen also addressed frustration with dismissive social media comments, noting one individual who passed her dangerously later criticized road safety concerns online. She found this deeply disappointing and emphasized the need to shift community attitudes toward greater respect and safety on the roads.

Councillor Mitchell expressed full support for Councillor Hansen's concerns regarding speeding on River Drive and emphasized the increased danger for pedestrians, particularly seniors and children. As a longtime resident of over 35 years, he noted that driver behavior has changed significantly, with more disrespectful and reckless driving now occurring in the community.

He shared a personal observation that particularly troubled him: witnessing young parents, including mothers, speeding with children in their vehicles. He clarified that his comments were not meant to single out any group, but to highlight a broader lack of awareness among drivers—many of whom seem to forget that they too could be pedestrians at risk. He urged the community to rethink their habits and recognize the shared responsibility of ensuring road safety for everyone.

Additionally, Councillor Mitchell noted that he attended the Casino Mining information session, which he found interesting.

He concluded his report by sharing that he recently had the honor of serving as a pallbearer for a respected elder, Agnes Charlie. He described the experience as humbling and expressed his appreciation for being entrusted with such a role.

Councillor Tara Wheeler shared her concerns regarding speeding on River Drive, noting that this has been an ongoing issue for many years. She responded to recent public comments on social media about speed limit changes, agreeing that community consultation was lacking when the bylaw was passed several months ago. She



emphasized the importance of clear communication from Council about what changes are being made and why.

She supported efforts to improve traffic safety but expressed concern about bylaw officers taking on traffic enforcement, cautioning that doing so may inadvertently reduce the role of the RCMP. She stressed the importance of maintaining a strong RCMP presence in the community and avoiding overburdening municipal staff with responsibilities better suited to police officers.

Councillor Wheeler also attended the Casino Mining information session, describing it as overly technical and not aligned with community interests or expectations. She noted that she did not find the session particularly engaging or informative.

Councillor C. Bellmore reported briefly attending the Casino Mining information session held at the recreation center. Due to a scheduling conflict with a hockey game, she was only able to stay for a short time. She expressed disappointment with the presentation, noting that it was highly technical and lacked information specific to Carmacks, particularly regarding traffic volume, haul routes, and energy logistics. She highlighted concerns about:

- The lack of updated information on how energy will be sourced, and ore will be transported.
- Previous plans mentioned a high volume of truckloads, potentially a truck leaving every 15 minutes, 24/7—but no detailed explanation was provided during this session.
- The impact on local infrastructure, particularly the Klondike Highway, and the absence of discussion on traffic safety, road upgrades, and housing needs for workers.

Councillor Bellmore also emphasized the need for enhanced traffic enforcement and improved pedestrian safety, especially downtown and on River Drive. She supported the idea of installing additional crosswalks to better connect walking routes.

In closing, she shared that she had recently attended her first live NHL hockey game between Edmonton and San Jose, which she greatly enjoyed.

6.2 Mayor J. Lachance reported attending the Special Council Meeting.

He also highlighted the conclusion of the minor hockey season, marking the end of a successful year for local youth athletes.

Mayor Lachance shared that he had accepted an RSVP on behalf of Council for the 2025 Tantalus School Graduation Ceremony, confirming that all Council members are invited to attend the event.

In discussing community traffic concerns, Mayor Lachance emphasized that the best way to address ongoing issues is to channel concerns through the Bylaw Enforcement Office, allowing for proper tracking and informed responses. He encouraged a proactive approach to ensure that everyone remains aware of what's happening in the community.



He noted the seasonal shift into spring, observing that people are eager to be outdoors. With increased foot traffic, including children playing, walkers, and a new school running club, he stressed the need for heightened awareness and respectful driving. Mayor Lachance concluded by underscoring the importance of fostering community-wide respect for road safety, particularly during the transition from winter to spring when outdoor activity increases.

6.3 CAO Report

CAO Chantal Pelletier provided the following updates:

Council Meeting Reminder: The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2025.

Premier's Office: Weekly follow-ups continue regarding a pending matter; no response has been received yet.

Landfill Update:

- ESS has submitted final recommendations; the project has been approved with conditions.
- A Heritage Resource Impact Assessment is required due to a potential heritage rock located near the top of the landfill access trail. Heritage staff will investigate.

Recreation Staffing:

- A review of recreation staff hours revealed standard shift overlaps to ensure at least two staff are always on site.
- After-school staff are departing, and student job postings have been released to fill the gap.

Facility Maintenance:

- Budget Plumbing is repairing a seized boiler fan, currently at Jacobs in Whitehorse.
- The ice plant shutdown was completed successfully.
- Minor issues with the swimming pool liner and filter housing are being addressed; parts have been ordered. Renovations remain on schedule.

Bypass Signage: Public Works is reviewing the Carmacks Bypass signage, aiming to discourage tourists from using the route. Alternative naming is being considered.



Energy Rebate: The Village does not qualify for the new carbon energy rebate for the roof project, as the required 20% carbon reduction target cannot be met with the current shingle replacement plan.

Flood Risk Update:

- YG has issued a low-risk spring freshet forecast for the Central Yukon, including Carmacks.
- Above-average flood potential exists only in the Porcupine River region.

6.4 AYC report Councillor D. Hansen

Councillor Hansen provided a brief update on preparations for the upcoming Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) Annual General Meeting. She noted that work has been ongoing on resolutions and related materials and expressed enthusiasm about seeing fellow Council members at the event.

She concluded by saying she is looking forward to the AGM and the opportunity to engage with other communities.

7. BYLAWS

None.

8. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 2024 Audit Plan Matrix Group

Council reviewed the 2024 Audit Plan as presented by Matrix Group. It was confirmed that the audit will be conducted entirely remotely, as has become the standard practice for the auditing firm.

8.2 – Discussion: Radar for Speed Enforcement

A discussion was held regarding the use of radar devices for traffic speed enforcement within the community.

Opening Remarks:

An overview was provided of the two radar devices under consideration. One is a handheld model currently available and used informally for monitoring, but it lacks precision and can become uncalibrated due to heat or impact. It includes tuning forks but is not suitable for official enforcement purposes. The second radar device, while more costly, is more reliable and legally admissible in court. It was noted that Bylaw Officer



Liam Ferraz is trained and certified in the use of the second radar model from his time in Nunavut.

Purpose and Consideration:

The primary intention is to determine whether radar devices should be used as an educational tool by the Bylaw Officer or if the Village is considering issuing citations. The matter hinges on whether Council wishes to authorize the enforcement of speed limits or limit use of the radar to issuing warnings.

Councillor Discussion Points:

- **Councillor Mitchell** expressed concern about pedestrian safety, particularly for families and children walking near the Fire Hall and cabins. He emphasized that while warnings may be helpful initially, repeat offenders should face enforcement through fines. He advocated for investing in a more accurate radar device if the Village is committed to addressing traffic safety seriously.
- **Councillor Wheeler** cautioned against assuming responsibilities traditionally handled by the RCMP. She noted that increasing expectations on municipal bylaw enforcement could become unsustainable, especially if experienced staff such as the current bylaw officer leave. Training new staff in advanced enforcement techniques may be difficult in a small community.
- **Councillor Bellmore** supported continuing collaboration with the RCMP to target high-speed areas and issue fines when necessary. She suggested that installing radar speed signs—which display a driver's speed in real-time—may be an effective deterrent before pursuing full enforcement. She also highlighted that the current traffic bylaw lacks specific provisions regarding speed enforcement and penalties.
- The Council acknowledged the importance of community presence and visibility from the Bylaw Officer to deter speeding. Several Councillors noted that increased patrols, educational approaches, and signage could help moderate behavior without overstepping into RCMP responsibilities.
- The use of the Traffic Safety Committee was emphasized. It was clarified that this committee is the proper channel to evaluate radar implementation, assess safety concerns, and bring well-informed recommendations to Council. The committee should include representatives from Public Works, the RCMP, and community members where applicable.

Conclusion:

There was consensus that more work is needed before implementing any radar enforcement program. Council agreed to refer the matter to the Traffic Safety Committee for further evaluation, including public input and consultation with enforcement professionals. Consideration will also be given to the practical and legal framework required to support speed enforcement locally.



The conversation will be continued in a future Council meeting, pending the Committee's review and recommendations.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

No Question.

10. IN-CAMERA

Motion to move into Closed Meeting in accordance with the Yukon Municipal Act, Section 213 (3) (a) if in the case of a council, the council decides during the meeting to meet as a council committee to discuss a matter.

25-08-05 M/S Councillor D. Hansen / C. Bellmore motioned to go in-camera at 7:52PM.

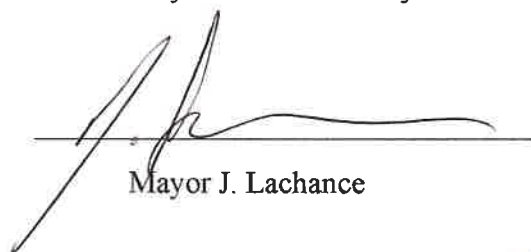
An in-camera discussion by Council regarding a labour matter.

25-08-06 M/S Councillor D. Hansen / C. Bellmore motioned to go out of in-camera at 8:06 PM.


11. ADJOURNMENT

25-08-07 M/S Councillor D. Mitchell / D. Hansen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07PM.

Mayor J. Lachance adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM.



Mayor J. Lachance



CAO Chantal Pelletier

