



**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE
VILLAGE OF CARMACKS ON March 17th, 2026, IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor: J. Lachance

Councillors: D. Mitchell, T. Wheeler (Zoom), D. Hansen, H. Belanger
Staff: CAO B. Rogers, P. Singh, A. Wylimczyk
Delegation: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor J. Lachance called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **AGENDA:** Council reviewed the agenda.
Mayor Lachance added an item under section 8 Finished and unfinished business as 8.8 and In Camera under section 10.

26-06-01 M/S Councillors H. Belanger / D. Hansen motioned that the agenda be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES:

3.1 From the regular council meeting on March 3rd, 2026

26-06-02 M/S Councillors H. Belanger / D. Hansen motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATION

None.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Reports

6.1 Council Activity Reports

Councillor D. Hansen reported that she attended meeting with Minister Bellmore and Kent and the Joint Council Meeting.



Councillor H. Belanger reported that she attended meeting with Minister Bellmore and Kent and the Joint Council Meeting.

Councillor D. Mitchell reported that he attended meeting with Minister Bellmore and Kent and the Joint Council Meeting.

Councillor T. Wheeler reported that she attended meeting with Minister Bellmore and Kent and the Joint Council Meeting.

6.2 Mayor's Report

Mayor Lachance reported that the follow-up meetings with Ministers Kent and Bellmore were very informative and provided a good opportunity for face-to-face discussion. He also noted that the Joint Council Meeting with LSCFN was productive and thanked Council for the topics and issues brought forward.

Mayor Lachance advised that he was unable to attend Winterlude or the AYC meeting as he was out of town. He did, however, meet with Upper Canada College Students during their third visit to Carmacks. He thanked Mr. Tricker for attending and sharing trapping supplies, fur, and stories about life in Carmacks with the group, which was well received. Mayor Lachance also noted general conversations with members of the public and thanked the CAO for including flood risk assessment information in his report.

6.3 CAO Report

CAO Blake Rogers reported that much of the past two weeks had been focused on preparation for the March 11 meeting with Ministers Bellmore and Kent and the March 12 Joint Council Meeting with LSCFN.

The CAO advised that orientation to the role continues, including ongoing review of major project files, systems, and resident correspondence. He noted conversations with residents regarding business opportunities and discussions with staff, including Bill, regarding the history of the lagoon and water treatment plant.

The CAO also reported:

- a regular management meeting was held on March 4, 2026.
- an in-person meeting was held with Community Services staff, including Arbor Webster and Micheal from Community Affairs and Infrastructure Development.
- discussions were held with Kelly in preparation for the Joint Council Meeting.
- a debrief was held with Community Affairs on March 13; and
- He attended the AYC Administrative Forum on March 6, which included presentations, AYC updates, and discussion regarding extension of the AYC resolutions deadline to the end of March.

The CAO further advised that Administration is considering a formal review of the traffic bylaw, but that this recommendation has been postponed until April to



allow priority focus on time-sensitive bylaws and the budget process. Once initiated, the review will require community engagement.

6.4 Recreation Report

The Recreation Report for February 2026 was presented.

The Recreation Department reported that February was a busy month at the arena, with several successful events and continued facility maintenance work. It was noted that:

- repairs were completed to the shower in change room four, including replacement with a lever-style control.
- The bench in one of the change rooms was reinforced and stabilized; and
- A carbon monoxide alarm was triggered one evening, but staff could not locate any source, and it was believed to be a sensor malfunction.

The report also noted:

- The hockey tournament was successful, with five teams participating and strong attendance.
- The curling bonspiel was successful and well attended.
- the Far Far Away Club fundraiser sold out during the hockey tournament; and
- Winterlude was moved ahead one week due to weather, which proved to be a good decision.

Planning for March Break Camp took place throughout February, and the Upper Canada College visit from March 8 to 14 was also noted. The Recreation Department further reported that it received **\$21,000** in funding through the New Horizons for Seniors Program to support seniors' trips to Whitehorse and promote elder participation in the community.

Council thanked Recreation staff for the report and ongoing work.

6.5 Carmacks Volunteer Department Report

The Carmacks Volunteer Fire Department report was presented.

The report summarized operations from September 2025 to February 2026, noting a total of **24 responses**, including:

- 5 motor vehicle incidents,
- 7 fire callouts,
- 9 fire/carbon monoxide alarm activations, and
- 3 other emergency assistance calls.

It was noted that responses occurred throughout the region, including Pelly Crossing, Braeburn, and Little Buffalo Lake Road. The report also highlighted smoke and CO alarm responses at the Carmacks Health Centre, Carmacks Hotel and Bar, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation buildings, the wastewater treatment facility, and private residences.



The report advised that:

- Trent Blackjack stepped down from the Deputy Chief position in December 2025 due to relocation but remains an active member in the community.
- Kyle LeBlanc also moved away in late fall 2025 and was thanked for his service.
- Liam Feraz joined as a new volunteer firefighter; and
- Due to current membership levels, the department adopted a revised leadership structure consisting of one Fire Chief and two Captains.

The current leadership structure is:

- Fire Chief: Blake Vandecamp
- Captain Operations: Dennis Mitchell
- Captain Training and Prevention: Hunter Blackjack

The report noted that the department currently has 8 active members and plans to continue recruitment and pursue additional specialty training opportunities. Councillor Wheeler commented that while she supported the changes, Council should be informed in advance of major operational changes affecting the fire department, as Council remains ultimately responsible for the service.

6.6. Association of Yukon Communities Report

Councillor Wheeler mentioned that any nominations for upcoming AYC awards should be submitted promptly.

7. Bylaws

7.1 Bylaw 324-26 Property Tax Bylaw 2026

The CAO provided background on historical property tax rate trends from 2011 to 2025 and explained that rates had increased only modestly over time. He advised that the bylaw was being brought forward to ensure taxation remains aligned with municipal service and financial requirements.

26-06-03 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / H. Belanger motioned to give Bylaw 324-26 Property Tax Bylaw 2026 first Reading.

CARRIED

Council discussed section 4.5 of the bylaw in detail, particularly the minimum tax amounts for residential, commercial, and speculative/vacant properties. Discussion focused on the distinction between developed and undeveloped properties, the number of vacant lots in the community.

Council discussed possible revisions to section 4.5, including:

- \$400 minimum for taxable residential properties.



- \$700 minimum for commercial/government/industrial properties; and
- \$1,000 minimum for speculative, vacant, and unimproved properties.

26-06-04 M/S Councillors H. Belanger / D. Hansen motioned to give Bylaw 324-26 Property Tax Bylaw 2026 Second Reading.

CARRIED

7.2 Bylaw 325-26 VOC Annual Operating Budget 2026

26-06-05 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / D. Mitchell motioned to give Bylaw 325-26 VOC Annual Operating Budget 2026 first Reading.

CARRIED

Council reviewed the updated 2026 Annual Operating Budget. Discussion included:

- increased costs under the Administration Building budget line due to boiler repairs.
- increased fire department expenditures related to training, gear, and supplies; and
- clarification regarding environmental health and maintenance allocations.

26-06-06 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / H. Belanger motioned to give Bylaw 325-26 VOC Annual Operating Budget 2026 Second Reading.

CARRIED

7.3 Bylaw 326-26 VOC Capital Budget 2026

26-06-07 M/S Councillors H. Belanger / D. Hansen motioned to give Bylaw 326-26 VOC Capital Budget 2026 first Reading.

CARRIED

Council noted that no funding had been allocated for fleet vehicle replacement in the 2026 capital budget and discussed whether truck replacement should be deferred to the 2027 capital planning process.

Council also considered the potential to pursue grant funding for the recreation facility PA system and additional recreation equipment.

26-06-08 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / D. Mitchell motioned to give Bylaw 326-26 VOC Capital Budget 2026 Second Reading.



CARRIED

8. New and Unfinished Business

8.1 Follow-up on Meeting with Minister Bellmore and Minister Kent

CAO advised that the March 11 meeting with Ministers Bellmore and Kent was positive and informative. Topics discussed included DMAF, lagoon and infrastructure issues, housing, and education. The CAO noted that Minister Kent appeared open to discussing community-based training opportunities and other non-traditional ideas.

Council expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet directly with the Ministers and noted that a future in-person meeting with Minister Bellmore is anticipated after the legislative sitting. Council also reiterated interest in a future meeting with Minister Laking.

8.2 Follow-up on Joint Council Meeting

CAO reported that the March 12 Joint Council Meeting with LSCFN was productive and identified several issues, particularly around DMAF, where further clarification and communication are needed.

Council discussed the need for better community communication regarding the DMAF project, noting that many residents do not understand what the project is or how it may affect them. Council emphasized that joint council discussion does not amount to full public engagement and that broader communication with the community is still needed.

Council also raised concerns about the scale of the project and the need for a more complete Yukon Government project team to be present in future discussions.

8.3 Flood Risk Assessment Update

CAO provided an update received from Emergency Measures Organization. EMO advised that flood season briefings are currently being scheduled and that a leadership briefing for all Yukon leadership is expected shortly. EMO also noted that two new emergency planners have recently joined the department.

The CAO reported that, based on discussions with staff and available data:

- the current snowpack is approximately 114% of normal, compared with 200% in the 2021–2022 flood years.
- moisture content in the snow is reported to be approximately 47% higher than normal; and
- A colder spring may support a slower thaw, though conditions remain uncertain.



Council requested that this information be shared publicly and suggested including reminders about emergency preparedness, including reviewing 72-hour kits and flood response supplies.

8.4 Snow Removal Update

CAO reported that discussions have continued regarding possible snow dumping locations. It was noted that because the season is already well advanced, one temporary option may be to use an area at the landfill this year for municipal snow removal while continuing to explore a longer-term alternative for next year. Council discussed:

- whether residents and contractors would also be permitted to use any designated dumping site.
- liability and insurance requirements.
- the need to clarify property boundaries around the landfill area; and
- the possibility of including local contractors as part of public communications and preparedness information.

Council requested ongoing follow-up and public notification once more information is available.

8.5 Animal Welfare Recommendation

CAO provided an update on discussions regarding animal welfare, noting strong concerns raised by the Humane Society, LSCFN, and the Bylaw Officer regarding animal overpopulation, surrenders, and pressure on available services.

Discussion focused on the importance of spay and neuter services and the possibility of pursuing:

- mobile veterinary clinics,
- AYC resolutions related to regional spay/neuter support,
- follow-up with organizations in Pelly Crossing, and
- workshops or education opportunities in partnership with the Humane Society.

Council shared past experiences with similar programs in Carmacks and stressed the need for ongoing and accessible services.

8.6 Garbage Pick-up Program Update / Discussion

CAO advised that Administration is following up on possible funding through the CCBF program to support a garbage pick-up program. It was noted that this would be separate from general community clean-up programming and would focus specifically on garbage collection.

Council requested that Administration continue exploring options and bring back further information.



8.7 Village Communication with the Community

CAO advised that Administration is reviewing better ways to communicate with the community, including both regular updates and notice mechanisms. Council discussed past communication tools such as local newsletters and emphasized the need for stronger and more consistent outreach.

Ideas discussed included:

- a regular administration newsletter,
- a quarterly or monthly community update,
- printed notices in common public locations,
- project updates, and
- a possible future community showcase/open house to highlight ongoing Village and partner projects.

Council supported continued work on improved communication.

8.8 CBC Yukon Visit

CAO advised that CBC Yukon will be visiting Carmacks and Pelly Crossing the following week and plans to stay in Carmacks for several days. CBC is interested in broadcasting from locations within the community and speaking with local residents about community initiatives, projects, and stories.

Council discussed potential groups and individuals to highlight, including:

- local recreation and youth programs,
- the Far Far Away Club,
- the food bank,
- the archery club,
- Junior Rangers, and
- other active community organizations.

Council emphasized the importance of promoting community members and local initiatives rather than focusing solely on infrastructure projects. Administration will follow up with potential contacts and provide suggestions to CBC.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

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.



26-06-09 M/S Councillors D. Hansen motioned to go into In-Camera at 8:57 PM.

26-06-10 M/S Councillor D. Hansen motioned to go out of In-Camera at 9:30PM.

Council extended the in-camera session for 15 minutes.

26-06-11 M/S Councillors D. Hansen motioned to go into In-Camera at 9:30PM.

26-06-12 M/S Councillor D. Hansen motioned to go out of In-Camera at 9:43PM.

11. ADJOURNMENT

26-06-13 M/S Councillor H. Belanger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 PM.

Mayor J. Lachance adjourned the meeting at 9:43 PM.

Mayor J. Lachance

Municipal Clerk Parminder Singh





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