



**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, February 20, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT**

MAYOR	Dewin Kotchea
COUNCILORS	Kristian Powder
	Gregory Wilson
	Shayla McLeod
	Mike Gonet

**ABSENT**

DEPUTY MAYOR	Hillary Deneron	[with notice]
COUNCILORS	Michelle Browning	[with notice]

STAFF - Senior Administrative Officer                      John W. McKee

The Chairperson (Mayor) took the chair and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Council approved the meeting agenda without changes.

**MOTION 2025- 01**

The agenda for the February 20, 2025, meeting is approved as presented.

Moved:            Mike Gonet

Seconded:        Greg Wilson

Carried.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Mike Gonet declared an interest in a Timber Cutting Permit for Level Up Contracting as he is the owner.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, and no changes were made.

**MOTION 2025- 02**

The minutes for the November 14, 2024 meeting are approved as presented.

Moved: Mike Gonet  
Seconded: Shalya McLoed  
Carried.

**BUSINESS ARISING FOR THE MINUTES**

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Hillary Deneron had been selected as Deputy Mayor, subject to approval from the Government of the Northwest Territories. She has received approval, and council confirmed the appointment.

**MOTION 2025- 03**

That Hillary Deneron be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Fort Liard Hamlet Council effective this date.

Moved: Greg Wilson  
Seconded: Shayla McLeod  
Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**TIMBER CUTTING PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Mitchel Berreault—Council reviewed the application for a Commercial Timber Cutting Permit. Concerns were raised about highway safety due to the proposed location. Traffic safety must be considered when cutting timber from a busy highway.

Councillor Mike Gonet left the council chambers.

Level Up Contracting – The Council reviewed the Commercial Timber Cutting Permit application. No concerns were raised.

Councillor Mike Gonet returned to the meeting.

**FINANCIAL**

**2025/2026 OPERATIONAL BUDGET**

The proposed 2025/2026 Operational Budget was presented to council for review. The Senior Administrative Officer, the following for council members –

- Legislative requirements for a budget
- Why an operational budget is required and why it is important
- Financial reports and the budget
- Expenditures compared to the plan
- Budget prepared on a cash basis with an explanation of cash vs accrual accounting
- Challenges that council has in the funding of operation, maintenance and programs
- The Emergency Fund and the Maintenance Fund
- Changes in Staffing: A financial position needs to be upgraded, and an Emergency Response Coordinator position needs to be established.
- Actual budget by revenue and expenditures and department/program
- The Economic Rate for Municipal Services will remain unchanged.
- Municipal Services subsidies will remain unchanged.
- SAO answered questions

Council approved the 2025/2026 Operational Budget as presented.

**MOTION 2025- 04**

That the Operational Budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year is approved as presented.

Moved: Shayla McLeod

Seconded: Mike Gonet

Carried.

**BYLAWS**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE RATE AMENDMENT**

Bylaw 244 is a bylaw establishing a rate for Solid Waste Services provided to multi-unit residential buildings. The Bylaw was given a second reading.

**MOTION 2025- 05**

That Bylaw 244 Municipal Service Rate Amendment is given a second reading.

Moved: Mike Gonet

Seconded: Greg Wilson

Carried.

Bylaw 244 Municipal Service Rate amendment was given a third and final reading.

**MOTION 2025- 06**

That Bylaw 244 *Municipal Service Rate Amendment* is given a third and final reading.

Moved: Mike Gonet  
Seconded: Shayla McLeod  
Carried.

**COUNCIL PROCEDURES**

Bylaw 245 is a bylaw that makes rules respecting its proceedings, meeting attendance, members' conduct, voting procedures, general business transactions, and adoption of a corporate seal. The Senior Administrative Officer reviewed this bylaw for council members. Council gave the bylaw first reading.

**MOTION 2025- 07**

That Bylaw 245 *Council Procedures* is given first reading.

Moved: Mike Gonet  
Seconded: Greg Wilson  
Carried.

Bylaw 245 Council Procedures was given a second reading.

**MOTION 2025- 08**

That Bylaw 245 *Council Procedures* is given second reading.

Moved: Mike Gonet  
Seconded: Greg Wilson  
Carried.

**REPORTS**

Fire Chief – January 2025  
RCMP - January 2025  
MACA Update 2024  
GNWT – Adam Yeadon Memorial Reward  
Paramount Resources Ltd. – Engagement Plan Revision 2  
Canada Post Under Review

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Revised and noted.

Arctic Energy – Introduction to Arctic Energy Alliance

MACA – Emergency Preparedness – noted that MCA will require the Hamlet  
Emergency Response Plan to be rewritten  
in the new format.

GNWT Infrastructure - Access Road Rehabilitation

MACA – Fiscal Restraint

GNWT ITI – Tourism 2030 Strategy

→ MACA requires a letter to Municipal and Community Affairs stating that Fort Liard is not interested in incorporating as a Charter Community. Council directed the administration to draft a letter for the Mayor's signature.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular council meeting - March 20, 2025

Meeting to review S.A.O. applications 5 pm February 26, 2025

Meeting with MLA Week of March 17, 2025

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **MOTION 2025- 09**

That the meeting of February 20, 2025, be adjourned.

Moved: Shayla McLeod

Seconded: Mike Gonet

Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.



Derwin Kotchea  
Mayor



John W. McKee  
Senior Administrative Officer