



Minutes
Town of Faro Regular Council Meeting
February 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Mayor	Jack Bowers	CAO	Kimberly Ballance
Councillors	Gary Jones		
	Michelle Vainio		
	Neil Yee (virtually)		

Public Present: 11

Public on Zoom: 5

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Council Meeting Agenda

Resolution 26-45

Jones, Vainio

RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for the February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

Resolution 26-46

Vainio, Jones

RESOLVED THAT Council do now move into Committee of the Whole to hear from the delegations.

Carried

3. DELEGATIONS & HEARINGS

3.1 Sgt Cedric Proulx, RCMP Ross River/Faro Detachment Commander

An overview of the January Report was presented, including updates on temporary staffing relief and potential permanent staffing set for mid-year.

Community priorities were discussed for the upcoming fiscal year, including organized crime with a focus on the victims of drug trafficking and substance abuse, and higher emphasis on public education and relations, youth engagement, and traffic enforcement.

Lockdown procedures in the school were discussed following a drill that was completed at the Del Van Gorder School in January. Sgt Proulx noted that the school children and teachers did an excellent job following the proper procedures for these circumstances. Improvements to the entrance access and security will be addressed with the school directly.

3.2 Catherine Peeling, Community Lottery Program Application - Seniors Carpet Bowling

Ms. Peeling advised that she has applied for Community Lotteries Program Funding for the Seniors Carpet Bowling facility rentals for January to March and October to December for 2026. Carpet Bowling has also been included in the funding application through the New Horizons for Seniors Funding for Carpet Bowling Tournaments. The Club will also be volunteering during the Ice Worm Squirm and the Crane and Sheep festival.

Council will review this application again once a new round of Lotteries Yukon funding is available and will provide feedback once funding is made available.

3.3 Leithe Minder, Special Permit Application, Animal Control Bylaw

Ms. Minder requested clarification on the Town's news release, dated December 5, 2025, which included this statement which she read aloud:

"The Town also received numerous calls and emails from residents who had signed the Property Owner's petition, to advise that they had signed under duress, because they felt intimidated, or were presented with information from the Property Owner that they later determined was false."

Council advised that several people had contacted the Town Office and individual Members of Council to advise that the information that was presented during Ms. Minder's gathering of signatures for her 12-dog Special Permit Application had inaccurately represented information in the Town's bylaw.

Ms. Minder expressed concerns about how hard it was to visit people's houses to speak with people about this issue, and noted people who signed the petition, in favour or against the application, were polite.

Council advised that they will review this matter in their In-Camera Meeting and will respond directly to Ms. Minder once a decision is made.

3.4 Taylor Fetterly, Request for Amendment to Livestock Special Permit Condition, Animal Control Bylaw

Ms. Fetterly requested the removal of the condition on the Special Permit which would require her goat to be neutered so that she could breed with other goats in the Yukon. She has received requests for this purpose. Her understanding when she got Bert was that goats were more aggressive if they remained unneutered and that has not proven to be true to date.

Administration noted that the current permit had been issued for 3 years, that the removal of the condition was not a concern and could be revisited upon permit renewal. It was also noted that a site visit had been conducted which demonstrated acceptable, and sanitary site and living conditions for Bert.

Resolution 26-47

Vainio, Jones

RESOLVED THAT Council do now revert into Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS & HEARINGS

4.1 Amendment to Livestock Special Permit Condition

Resolution 26-48

Vainio, Jones

RESOLVED THAT Council hereby amends the Livestock Special Permit conditions set out in Resolution 25-271, dated August 17, 2025, and removes the following condition:

- *Proof shall be provided by the applicant that the goat has been neutered by no later than November 15, 2025.*

Carried

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the February 3, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council

Resolution 26-49

Jones, Vainio

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the February 3, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

5.2 Minutes of the February 10, 2026, Special Meeting of Council

Resolution 26-50

Vainio, Jones

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the February 10, 2026, Special Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

7. FINANCIAL

7.1 Finance Report

Resolution 26-51

Jones, Vainio

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information the Finance Manager's report, including the Payment Register Summary and acknowledge the Cheque Register for the period January 29, 2026 – February 18, 2026; and

FURTHER THAT Council receive for information the Draft Budget Analysis report for the 2025 Fiscal Year.

Carried

Council discussed the significant costs for electricity and heating, Association of Yukon Communities membership fees, and the overall 2025 Budget Analysis.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Mayor's Report

- Thanked the CAO and new management staff for their efforts to lead Faro into the future.
- Provided an overview of outgoing management staff, their accomplishments and commitment to the Town of Faro, including:
 - the provision of quality recreation services by Tina Freake, previous Manager of Recreation and Culture,
 - the long-standing service and standards of the previous Manager of Finance Lenka Kazda, and,
 - the return by Mark Vainio to provide interim support as the Manager of Operations.
- Identified some concerns recently about attracting nurses to the community, namely the lack of internet access in the nurses' housing units, and lack of gym access. These will be addressed moving forward in coordination with the Department of Health and Social Services.

8.2 Council Reports

Councillor Neil Yee

- Adult hockey in Carmacks went very well.

Councillor Gary Jones

- The school hosted a Valentine's Dinner which raised about \$1,200 for High School Graduation.

Councillor Michelle Vainio

- The Yukon Arctic Ultra occurred in Faro earlier this month and there was a small meet and greet held at the Recreation Centre. Organizers of the event will be meeting with the organizers of the Yukon Quest to discuss coordination for 2027.
- Attended the Special Meeting with Parsons for a presentation on their tendering processes for contractors.
- Yukon University hosted a community project last week, and an art mural was created as part of this process. Dennis Shorty and Jennifer Frohling led this project.
- The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday February 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm to discuss the Town's Zoning Bylaw
- Ice Worm Squirm is planned for the weekend and there are a lot of indoor and outdoor events planned.

8.3 Administration's Reports

8.3.1. Chief Administrative Officer

The CAO presented a verbal report and identified that some future meeting dates will be circulated to Council to schedule some upcoming Budget Meetings, a Zoning Special Meeting and a Council Open House.

There was a short discussion on road naming requirements for two roads which may have been previously determined but have not been approved by bylaw: the Road to the Water Treatment Plant from Mitchell Road and the Road to Johnson Lake. Council discussed these as possibly McCracken Road and Johnson Lake Road, respectively.

8.3.2. Manager of Operations

Council reviewed the report as presented.

8.3.3. Manager of Recreation and Culture

The CAO responded to questions from Council.

8.4 Committee Meeting Minutes and Reports

8.4.1. Joint Health and Safety Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026

Resolution 26-52

Vainio, Jones

RESOLVED THAT Council receives and files the Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2026.

Carried

9. BYLAWS

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

- 11.1 Draft Letter to Mayor and Council of Tumber Ridge
Resolution 26-53 Jones, Vainio
RESOLVED THAT Council approves that the letter be sent to the Council of
Tumber Ridge as presented.
Carried
Councillor Yee Opposed

- 11.2 Flag Policy
Resolution 26-54 Vainio, Jones
RESOLVED THAT Council adopts the Flag Policy (2026-04-P) as amended.
Carried

- 11.3 Request to waive fees for Income Tax Clinic from Kitty Sperling, Canadian
Volunteer Income Tax Program
Resolution 26-55 Vainio, Jones
RESOLVED THAT Council waives the fees for the Canadian Volunteer Income
Tax Program to use a municipal facility, during regular operating hours, for the
provision of free Income Tax Clinics for seniors and individuals requiring
assistance with the completion of Income Tax returns; and

FURTHER THAT this fee waiver will apply for the term of Council, subject to
adherence to the Town of Faro's standard facility booking processes.

Carried

- 11.4 AYC Awards & AYC Conference Prize Donation
- Hanseatic Award
 - Linda Rapp Award
 - Yukon Sustainable Community Award

Council discussed options and will forward any suggestions to Administration
prior to the next Council meeting.

- 11.5 Special Meeting – March 2, 2026 with Minister Cory Bellmore – Suggested
Topics

Council discussed the inclusion of the following topics:

- Comprehensive Municipal Grant
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Project - Water, Sewer and Road
Upgrades – Phase 3A
- Incomplete Phase 2 BST Work and no plan for BST work planned for
2026
- Faro Mine Rehabilitation's impact on local employment / impacts on
the community

- Municipal Act review/redraft:
 - Mandatory Codes of Conduct and oversight mechanisms
 - In-Camera Meetings with Ministers

12. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION (OUT & IN)

12.1 Email from Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, to MLA Patti McLeod re: Local Economic Benefit from the Faro Mine Remediation Project

Council will bring a letter back for review at the next meeting.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Resolution 26-56 Vainio, Jones
 RESOLVED THAT Council do now move into Committee of the Whole for public question period.

Carried

Public Questions

Resolution 26-57 Jones, Vainio
 RESOLVED THAT Council do now revert into Regular Meeting of Council at 8:44 pm.

Carried

Resolution 26-58 Vainio, Jones
 RESOLVED THAT Council recess at 8:45 p.m. for five minutes and reconvene in-camera.

Carried

14. IN-CAMERA

- 14.1 Employment Matter - in accordance with Municipal Act Section 213 (3)(c & d)
re: Employment Matter
- 14.2 Conduct of Investigation - in accordance with Municipal Act Section 213 (3)(f)
re: Legal Matter
- 14.3 Conduct of Investigation - in accordance with Municipal Act Section 213 (3)(g)
re: Code of Conduct Sanctions
- 14.4 Conduct of Investigation - in accordance with Municipal Act Section 213 (3)(f)
re: Legal Matter

Resolution 26-59 Jones, Vainio
 RESOLVED THAT Council revert into the Regular Meeting of Council at 9:25 p.m.

Carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 26-60

Vainio, Jones

WHEREAS Leithe Minder applied for a Special Permit for five (5) dogs at 513 Douglass Drive, on January 14, 2026, and the Town of Faro circulated notice to property owners within 150 m of the subject property to request written consent; and,

WHEREAS the submissions received from property owners do not meet the requirement in Section 6.3.1 of Animal Control Bylaw No. 2016-05 (i.e. consent by 2/3 of property owners);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the Special Permit Application submitted by Leithe Minder for 5 dogs at 513 Douglass Drive, on January 14, 2026.

Defeated

Resolution 26-61

Jones, Vainio

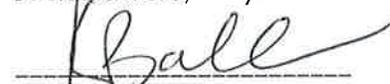
RESOLVED THAT the February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Carried

Approved at the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 3, 2026, by Resolution # 26-~~68~~



Jack Bowers, Mayor



Kimberly Ballance, CAO