



**Town of Faro
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 07, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT:

Mayor	Jack Bowers	CAO	Kimberly Ballance
Councillors	Wendy Michell-Larocque	Ops Manager	Mark Vainio
	Gary Jones	Executive Assistant/	Trudy Amos
	Michelle Vainio	Financial Assistant	
	Neil Yee		

Delegation: Robert Pollhammer, Yukon Arctic Ultra
Inspector Graham Gurski, M Division Yukon RCMP, and Sgt Cedric
Prioulx, Ross River/Faro Detachment Commander

Public Present: 21 Public on Zoom: 2

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 25-336

Vainio, Michell-Larocque

THAT the agenda for the October 07, 2025, Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

3. DELEGATIONS

The Mayor introduced Lael Lund, Yukon Liberal Party, and Patti McLeod, Yukon Party as candidates in the upcoming Territorial Election, and advised that the Public would be permitted to ask questions to them during Item 13, the Public Question period.

Resolution 25-337

Jones, Yee

THAT Council do now move into Committee of the Whole for the Delegations.

Carried

3.1 Robert Pollhammer, Yukon Arctic Ultra

- Request to waive fees for use of the Recreation Centre foyer, kitchen, and youth lounge during the 2026 Event.

Attended Faro for the first time in 2024 and had a great event. The Yukon Race and the Arctic Ultra both changed their route and came through Faro. Great exposure for the community and Dena Cho trail. The athletes did some good

promotion through their social media channels. Noted he wasn't sure what the Yukon Quest has planned for their event at this point.

Thanked Council for the opportunity to hold this event in the community and requested that Council will consider his request to waive fees at the Recreation Centre for this event.

3.2 Inspector Graham Gurski, M Division Yukon RCMP, and Sgt Cedric Prioulx, Ross River/Faro Detachment Commander

- Introduction of New Ross River/Faro Detachment Commander

Sgt Prioulx introduced himself and provided an overview of his employment history throughout several northern communities, and is excited to be here to help this region and have an impact on the communities.

Inspector Gurski introduced himself and his responsibilities associated with supporting front line policing.

Sgt Cedric Prioulx provided an update on staff scheduling to provide staff coverage in both communities while they work to fill the vacancies in the district. He provided review of the Monthly Policing report.

Council requested clarification on some of the statistics presented. Council thanked the members for attending and emphasized the importance of community involvement, community policing, and maintaining staffing levels in the community.

Resolution 25-338

Vainio, Michell-Larocque

THAT Council do now revert into Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATION

Resolution 25-339

Michell-Larocque, Vainio

THAT Council approves that fees be waived for the 2026 Yukon Arctic Ultra's use of the Recreation Centre's foyer, kitchen, and youth lounge for the duration of the event.

Carried

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the September 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council

Resolution 25-340

Jones, Yee

THAT the minutes of the September 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as presented with the amendment of a change of date.

5.2 Minutes of the September 24, 2025, Special Meeting of Council

Carried

Resolution 25-341

Michell-Larocque, Jones

THAT the minutes of the September 24, 2025, Special Meeting of Council be adopted as presented with the amendment of the signing name from Mayor, Jack Bowers, to Deputy Mayor, Michelle Vainio.

Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

7. FINANCIAL

7.1 Finance Report

Resolution 25-342

Jones, Vainio

THAT Council receive for information the Finance Officer's report, including the Payment Register Summary, and acknowledge the Cheque Register for the period September 11 to October 01, 2025.

Administration will advertise there is still funding available within the 2025 Community Lottery Program.

Carried

8. REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Bowers gave a verbal report.

Had a good meeting on Saturday with the Premier and Lael Lund, Liberal candidate for the riding. Discussed the fragility of the Yukon's electrical system and concerns associated with capacity and distribution. Recommended the importance for the community and local residents to be prepared for potential extended power outages. Discussed Grum mine and potential operational capacity and economic interest, including the Ross River Dene Council's interest in the project.

Council Reports

Councillor Yee summarized a verbal report.

Many people have complained to YESAB regarding the noise of the diesel generators running. Advised of the potential noise barrier that was identified in the YESAB application, and is interested to see if this barrier will materialize.

Advised of the community events that he had attended in Faro over the past few weeks. Identified that the statement made by the Mayor to the Yukon News, stating that Council respects the decision of the Minister to not order an inquiry in response to the petition, is not accurate. Yee noted that Council does not have an official position on the matter.

Noted that the Mayor made a statement to CBC about lobbying efforts on a nursing matter, but this was not an official position of Council. While everyone wants qualified nurses in Faro, Item 7.3 of the Code of Conduct indicates that the Mayor is supposed to speak to the official position of Council, and there isn't an official position on this matter

He advised that if Council is going to lobby for nursing coverage that all members of Council should be involved.

Advised that he had a good discussion with Patty McLeod, Yukon Party candidate, about employment, tourism and the natural environment's importance to the community, while considering the positive and negative aspects of the community's growth.

Councillor Michell-Larocque gave a verbal report.

Michell-Larocque attended the meeting with the Premier and heard about energy capacity concerns and an increased interest in building a lot more housing. Questioned whether energy production will be able to keep up with all the new builds.

Reminder that flu and vaccine season are here. The Health Centre will be providing vaccines starting next week.

Councillor Vainio gave a verbal report.

Councillor Vainio summarized the RPAY gathering. Gave a special thank you to Anne Morgan, who is long Executive Director of RPAY and Rebecca Koser, the organizer, and Town of Faro's Recreation Staff.

She summarized her attendance at the Arctic Winter Games presentation.

Reminded everyone that the Strategic Planning open house is on the 15th at the Recreation Centre.

Thank you to McMillan Outfitters, who were at the big red truck giving away 25 lb bags of packaged, frozen meat to the residents of Faro.

Councillor Jones gave a verbal report and summarized written report from the AYC conference in Carmacks.

Councillor Jones supports the communications with Health and Social Services. All of the mayor's communication was sent to the council members. A big thank you to Mayor Bowers.

Administration's Reports

Chief Administrative Officer

CAO Kimberly Ballance summarized her written report and noted that the Zoning Bylaw is not yet posted as we are awaiting receipt of updated maps. She responded to questions by Council.

Operations Manager

Acting Manager Vainio summarized his written Report and responded to questions by Council.

9. BYLAWS

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 Draft Procedural Bylaw

Council discussed the draft including the proposed removal of the public question period, along with inclusion of S. 7.5 which would allow the Chair to authorize a

member of the public to speak to a given issue at any point during the meeting. Council discussed modifying the language for the end time for Special Meetings as being 3 hours from its start time. The scope of the reports from Mayor and Council was discussion, but perhaps this will be a procedure for Council rather than in the Procedural Bylaw. Council requested information on the process for adding agenda items of an urgent nature, the agenda creation process, and S. 6.1.1.n as potentially being the role of the CAO rather than the Chair.

Administration recommended that Council add a mock-Council meeting walkthrough to their upcoming Strategic Planning Workshop Special Meeting so they could familiarize themselves with the Consent Agenda Process. Following this, Council would be in a better position to provide the required notice to the public of its intention to consider the bylaw for first and second reading.

10.2 Recreation Centre Renovation Project

Council discussed the information presented and requested that Administration bring forward a report on the background of the school's involvement and interest in the Kitchen portion of the project.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Municipal Office Closure for Christmas Holidays

Resolution: 25-343

Jones, Michell-Larocque

THAT Council maintain the annual tradition of providing Town Staff with a paid half-day off on Christmas Eve (December 24th) and on New Year's Eve (December 31st); and,

FURTHER THAT Council approves that the Town Office be closed to the public between December 24, 2025, and January 2, 2026, and will re-open on January 5, 2026.

Carried

11.2 Input on 2026 Fees – Fees and Charges Bylaw

Council reviewed and discussed the RV Park fees, as well as other areas of the bylaw that required updating. Administration will bring forward proposed changes for the Fees and Charges Bylaw to the October 21, 2025 Regular Council meeting.

11.3 Proposed Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) Application – Automated Well Head Bleeder Proposal.

Resolution 25-344

Jones, Michell-Larocque

THAT Council approves the submission of an application to the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) for an Automated Well Head Bleeder Project; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorizes Administration to proceed with the project prior to funding approval. Carried

11.4 Special Meeting with Dr. Brendan Hanley, MP, and Stacey Hassard, MLA Pelly-Nisutlin, re: Faro Mine Remediation Project's Tse Zul Camp Potable Water and Septic Project.

Resolution 25-345

Jones, Vainio

THAT a Special Meeting of Council be held with Dr. Brendan Hanley, MP, and Stacey Hassard, MLA Pelly-Nisutlin, re: Faro Mine Remediation Project's Tse Zul Camp Potable Water and Septic Project at a time to be determined by Administration; and,

FURTHER THAT notice be provided in accordance with the Procedural Bylaw.

Carried

11.5 Yukon Election – Potential All-Candidates Event for Faro
Administration will attempt to work with Watson Lake on a shared, virtual event on October 22, and will follow up with Council on the Town hosting an in-person event if this is not viable.

12. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION (OUT & IN)

12.1 Letter from Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development, dated September 16, 2025, re: Stakeholder Engagement on Removing Barriers to Internal Trade: Party-Specific Exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement

12.2 Email from Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) dated September 16, 2025, re: Response about Faro Mine Remediation Project's Tse Zul Camp Potable Water and Septic Project

12.3 Letter from Director, Faro Mine Project, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) dated September 22, 2025, re: Response about Faro Mine Remediation Project's Tse Zul Camp Potable Water and Septic Project

Council requested clarification on the number of Faro residents who work for the mine, as well as the number of local contractors/subcontractors completing work for the mine.

12.4 Email from Canadian Union of Postal Workers, dated September 24, 2025, re: Canada Post Mandate Review

Council discussed sending a letter to the Minister emphasizing that Canada Post is an essential service in the community. Administration will draft and return the proposed letter to Council for approval.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Resolution 25-346

Jones, Yee

THAT Council do now move into Committee of the Whole for public questions.

Carried

Council responded to questions from the gallery.

Resolution 25-347

Vainio, Yee

THAT Council do now revert into Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried

Resolution 25-348

Time: 9:25 p.m.

Jones, Michell-Larocque

THAT Council do now recess for five minutes and reconvene *in-camera*.

Carried

14. IN CAMERA

- 14.1 Property Matter – in accordance with Municipal Act Section 213 (3)(b) Re: 20 Lapie Crescent
- 14.2 Property Matter – in accordance with Municipal Act Section 213 (3)(b) Re: Lot 206 / 559 Ladue Crescent
- 14.3 Employment Matter – in accordance with Municipal Act Section 213 (3)(c & d) Re: Manager of Operations

In camera discussion

Resolution 25-349

Michell-Larocque, Jones

THAT Council do now revert into Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

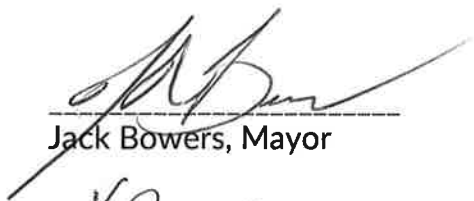
Resolution 25-350

Vainio, Jones

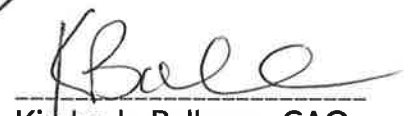
THAT the 7th day of October 2025, Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Carried

Approved at the Regular Meeting of
Council held on October 21, 2025, by
Resolution # 25-____



Jack Bowers, Mayor



Kimberly Ballance, CAO