



**Minutes
Special Meeting
June 04, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT:

Mayor	Jack Bowers	CAO	Kimberly Ballance
Councillors	Wendy Michell-Larocque	Mgr of Rec	Morgan Manuel
	Michelle Vainio	Executive Assistant/	Trudy Amos
	Neil Yee	Finance Assistant	

Presenter: Jean Langois, Senior Negotiator, First Nations Relations and Treaty Implementation

Public Present: 2

Public on Zoom: 0

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bowers called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Council Meeting Agenda

Resolution No 26-225

Michell-Larocque, Yee

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the June 04, 2026, Special Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

Resolution No 26-226

Vainio, Michell-Larocque

RESOLVED THAT Council move into Committee of the Whole for a presentation.

Carried

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Presentation from MOU Steering Committee re: Update on the Feasibility Assessment for a potential protected area in the Tū Łıdlini (Ross River) area

Mr. Langois provided an update on the process for the Feasibility Assessment, following Premier Currie Dixon's letter which was sent to Council recently. He provided a review of:

- The history of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Parks Canada, the Government of Yukon, and the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC).
- Non-treaty Indigenous Rights as they relate to the RRDC and Kaska Dena Nation
- The intention of the feasibility assessment is to gather information and eventually present recommendations to the three parties of the MOU on:
 - Whether it is feasible, practical and desirable to create one or more protected areas within the study area, and if so, under what conditions.
- The study area boundary; Mr. Langois noted that the study area was negotiated by the parties to the MOU based on a 2012 court decision identifying the RRDC's traditional area and excludes Mining Areas that are in Advanced Exploration.
- Work completed to date:
 - Establishment of the Steering Committee
 - Establishment of a Working Group
 - Initial outreach in December 2024 to stakeholders
 - Initial information gathering on the study area is in process
 - Development and agreement on the Process Steps going forward. The process steps were provided to Council as an attachment to Premier Currie Dixon's letter.
- The Process will include Stakeholder Engagement, Public Engagement, Report Development, Report Presentation, Review of the Steering Committee's Recommendations by Parks Canada, the Government of Yukon, and the Ross River Dena Council.

Council requested clarification on the different types of Protected Areas including National Park, Territorial Park, Conservation Area and Habitat Protection Area.

Council discussed the Federal Government's commitment to increase protected areas nationwide to 30% by 2030 with the Yukon currently at about ~20%

Clarification was requested on the differences between the Steering Committee and the Working Group. The Working Group is appointed by the Steering Committee, to advance the Feasibility Study. There is currently only one working group and they have representatives from Parks Canada, the Government of Yukon, and the Ross River Dena Council. Additional members can be pulled into the working group as needed.

Concerns about reduced use of the outdoor area in and around Faro was discussed with concerns about improper application of environmental targets. Council noted that uncertainty about the project and its progress, particularly about how it will impact local quality of life and connection to the land, is heightening fear locally.

Council requested clarification on the moratorium on prospecting and staking claims within the study area.

Some support for a protected area was noted because the area has a lot of great environmental assets to protect. There are people who want to come to an area because of these kinds of environmental protections.

Council requested clarification on the potential expropriation of private property, and Mr. Langois confirmed that this process would not result in the removal of private property rights.

Mr. Langois advised that he would plan to return to a future meeting in the Fall of 2026 to provide an update to Council.

Resolution No 26-227

Vainio, Yee

RESOLVED THAT Council revert into the Special Meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Carried

4. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No 26-228

Yee, Michell-Larocque

RESOLVED THAT the June 04, 2026, Special Meeting be adjourned 2:50 p.m.

Carried

Approved at the Regular Meeting
Council held on June 16, 2026, by
Resolution # 26-____



Jack Bowers, Mayor


Kimberly Ballance, CAO



