

**CITY OF IQALUIT  
EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING #20  
AUGUST 12, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PRESENT FROM COUNCIL**

Mayor Kenny Bell  
Deputy Mayor Solomon Awa  
Councillor Simon Nattaq  
Councillor Paul Quassa  
Councillor Kyle Sheppard  
Councillor Kimberly Smith

**ABSENT**

Councillor Ookalik Curley  
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson

**PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION**

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer  
Tammy Ernst-Doiron, City Clerk  
Jeanie Eeseemailee, Senior Interpreter/Translator  
Katrina Sarmiento, Executive Assistant  
Aleksy Cameron, Communications and Customer Service Manager  
Sumon Ghosh, Director of Engineering and Capital Planning

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Bell opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. with a moment of silence.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion #22-281**

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard  
Seconded by: Councillor Smith

Adoption of agenda as presented.

**Unanimously Carried**

**1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Water Shortage Emergency**

### **i. Declaration of Local State of Emergency**

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer/Emergency Management Coordinator, introduced Erica Bonhomme, Matt Follett and Dave Luzzi, consultants from Nunami Stantec, who were present via teleconference and available to answer questions.

Ms. Elgersma explained that there is a water shortage in the city. A slide presentation was provided to Council, along with Ms. Elgersma's comments as follows:

- Iqaluit has experienced a lack of precipitation this summer
- Flow in Apex River, which is the City's second water supply source, is at a 40-year historical low
  - Pumping from the Apex River has been ongoing since the spring freshet on June 10
- Under these conditions, the City's reservoir may not have enough water by freeze-up to sustain the community over winter.
- Pending Council's approval, the City will move forward with the necessary steps to obtain approval:
  - To pump additional volumes of water from the Apex River beyond the current license amount
  - Pump from Unnamed Lake as an additional water source, which is not currently included in the water license
- Unnamed Lake was used as an additional water source in 2019
- If approval is received, the amendment will allow the City to address the water shortage emergency by pumping from Unnamed Lake to Lake Geraldine via the Apex River.
- This morning, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans granted an emergency exemption to pump beyond the set flow rates in the Apex River.
  - This permits the City to pump beyond the ten percent draw limit
  - Staff and consultants are currently evaluating the associated impacts of pumping beyond the ten percent draw limit
- At this time in previous years, Lake Geraldine would be almost full, with supplementary pumping.
- To date, over 200,000 cubic metres has been pumped from the Apex River to Lake Geraldine.
- Currently, it will take in excess of 413,000 cubic metres to fill Lake Geraldine.
- Under current conditions, the Apex River alone will not be able to fill Lake Geraldine.
- If significant rainfall occurs to a 25 percentile, pumping from the Apex River alone may fill Lake Geraldine without using Unnamed Lake.

Ms. Elgersma advised that staff feel a Local State of Emergency should be declared and then the necessary steps can be taken to fill Lake Geraldine prior to winter.

Ms. Elgersma explained that a pumping station would be located in Unnamed Lake and water would be pumped down into a section of the Apex River, which would run down the river naturally to the pump site, where it would be pumped into Lake Geraldine.

Councillor Sheppard asked how much additional infrastructure would be needed to carry out the additional pumping.

Ms. Elgersma explained that the same pump set up will achieve the infrastructure requirements needed to fill Lake Geraldine. She advised that a minimum of two pumps would be required to be flown in, and a back-up pump, hoses, connections, HDPE pipe and generator are already in the city.

Ms. Elgersma explained that the consultants have calculated that based on the current conditions, 40 days at the preferred pumping rate would be needed to fill Lake Geraldine. She noted that if there is significant rainfall, the number of pumping days would be reduced.

Councillor Nattaq felt there would not be a significant change in the weather at this time of year. Councillor Nattaq was in favour of additional pumping to fill Lake Geraldine.

Councillor Quassa asked about money to pay for the additional pumping.

Ms. Elgersma advised that the City has a Reserve Fund that has funds that can be used for the emergency, as well as excess funds in the General Fund. She explained that a financial report will be presented to Council once everything is completed.

Councillor Quassa asked about the additional pumps that are needed.

Ms. Elgersma explained that a similar water pumping project was carried out in 2019 and pumps are being sourced. She noted that the contractor would be responsible to have the pumps shipped from the south.

Deputy Mayor Awa advised that Unnamed Lake is called Qikiqtalik Lake.

Ms. Elgersma explained that two pumps would be used in Unnamed Lake and there would be a standby pump if there is a problem. Ms. Elgersma explained the process of pumping water from Unnamed Lake.

Ms. Elgersma noted that in 2019, a road was built to Unnamed Lake, which was been maintained, and equipment can be easily transported to the site.

Ms. Elgersma noted that staff have already requested to borrow hoses again from the Government of Nunavut. Staff have also contacted the regulatory authorities, who are on standby regarding the water license amendment.

Deputy Mayor Awa asked if additional water sources would have to be considered, such as Crazy Lake, Long Lake, or another lake by the Sylvia Grinnell River.

Ms. Elgersma indicated that this was the first time she had heard that Unnamed Lake is Qikiqtaalik Lake. She explained that the volume in the lake is sufficient to fill Lake Geraldine. Ms. Elgersma pointed out that Qikiqtaalik Lake has been evaluated to be used as a permanent, long-term water source.

Councillor Smith inquired about the timeline as to when pumping would commence from Qikiqtaalik Lake. Ms. Elgersma advised that September 1<sup>st</sup> would be the latest that pumping would start.

Councillor Sheppard hoped that data would be collected from Qikiqtaalik Lake during pumping that would assist with the long-term water strategy.

Councillor Sheppard felt that residents have become familiar with the Water Wise campaign and results are no longer being achieved. He suggested that new messaging should be developed, stressing the importance of water conservation.

Mayor Bell pointed out that approximately four months ago, the federal government announced \$214 million to assist with the water crisis that has been ongoing for the past six years. He noted that a lot of work is being done and it will take approximately four years to complete the project.

**Motion #22-282**

Moved by: Councillor Smith

Seconded by: Councillor Sheppard

That Iqaluit City Council declares a Local State of Emergency due to the water shortage in Lake Geraldine Reservoir.

**Unanimously Carried**

**3. IN CAMERA SESSION**

( ) as per Section 22 (2) (a) CTV Act and By-law 526 Section 67

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion #22-283**

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard

Seconded by: Councillor Smith

Council adjourns at 12:31 p.m.

**Unanimously Carried**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Kenny Bell", written above a horizontal line.

Kenny Bell  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Tammy Ernst-Douglas", written above a horizontal line. The signature is circled in blue.

Tammy Ernst-Douglas  
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2022.

