



# **MINUTES**

## **CITY OF MERRITT**

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
5:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
2185 Voght Street  
Merritt, B.C

**PRESENT:**

- Mayor L. Brown**
- Councillor M. Bhangu**
- Councillor K. Christopherson**
- Councillor A. Etchart**
- Councillor T. Fehr**
- Councillor T. Luck**
- Councillor M. White**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr. S. Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer**
- Mr. S. Smith, Director of Corporate Services**
- Mr. W. George, Tourism & Economic Development Manager**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

##### **1.1 Call to Order**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 5:04pm

#### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

##### **2.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - November 5, 2019**

*THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on November 5, 2019 be adopted.*

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

### **3. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions**

#### **3.1 BC PNP Program - Heather Michaud**

Outreach Officer – BC & Yukon

Dedicated Service Channel | Domestic Network

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) | Government of Canada

Heather Michaud introduced the work that the IRCC does, noting that the BC PNP program is part of a much larger scheme to support and attract skilled foreign workers.

Heather discussed the 4 pillars of the Global Skills Strategy, work permit programs, and the international mobility program. She emphasized that Canada's strategy and initiatives have been centered around making the foreign worker hiring process as simple as possible for Canadian businesses.

The Provincial BC PNP representative was introduced, and discussed how the Province interacts with the Federal Government regarding immigration, in an effort to provide a niche service that Federal programs do not cover.

The presenters responded to questions from Council regarding the reasons for the gap in workers that currently exists, what can be done where foreign workers find themselves in exploitative situations, and what is being done to support certification for health care workers.

#### **3.2 Merritt Airport Development Plan Review - Andrew Templeman**

Civil Engineer, Urban Systems

Mayor Brown called a recess to the meeting at 6:03pm

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:09pm

Andrew Templeman presented to Council regarding the Merritt Airport Development Plan Review. Andrew's presentation covered the following:

- Background of the Merritt Airport
- The reviews considered were from 1987, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2018
- Likely classification of the Merritt Airport is AGN2
- Obstacle Limitation Surface - Hazards and risks

- Recommendations

Public Comments:

- Jeff Schultenz - Recommended sealing the runway, installing hazard and other lights, consider threshold offsets, set up an Airport Advisory Committee, and consider development .

- Brad Fandrich of Merritt Valley Helicopters shared his experience with the development and building permit process, noting that all of the additional costs associated has put his planned development on hold until he is able to find some relief.

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Merritt Airport 100 Year Anniversary Event**

***THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that Council direct staff to budget for an annual Merritt Airport Celebration event;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

***THAT the Committee recommend that staff explore grant funding possibilities for hiring an event coordinator.***

Against (2): Tony Luck, and Melvina White

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

6. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 7:52pm

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Corporate Officer

Sean Smith

Certified correct in accordance with Section 124(2) (c) of the Community Charter

Confirmed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

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Mayor  
Linda Brown