MINUTES

CITY OF MERRITT

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 16, 2020
7:00 P.M.
Held online due to social distancing requirements
Public access link published on City website
& social media accounts

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
Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT
Mr G. Lowis, Deputy Corporate Officer
Mr. W. George, Tourism & Economic Development Manager
Mr. W. Anderson, Financial Services Manager
Mr. D. McArthur, Planning & Development Services Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

2. LATE ITEMS

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Nil

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Special Council Meeting Minutes - May 26th, 2020

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-01

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on May 26th, 2020 be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

4.2 Regular Council Meeting Minutes- May 26th, 2020

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-02

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 26th, 2020 be adopted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Nil

6. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

6.1 Merritt Mountain Biking Association

Jordan Pinto to present

Mr Pinto spoke to the briefing document he had provided to council, and answered questions on how the trail would operate, and interact with existing trail resources and future development plans.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Fraser Basin Water Council

Council to consider the delegation from Fraser Basin water council on May 26th, 2020

Councillors discussed the request, including which parties would be involved, and the relevance of Merritt providing funding for the study.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-03

THAT Council awards the Fraser Basin Water Council $25,000 from Gas Tax reserves to perform the groundwater study proposed on May 26th, 2020.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.2 Active Transportation Plan Update

To be introduced by Mr McArthur

Mr McArthur provided information about the active transportation (human-powered transport) plan, and the ways the public could become engaged. He informed Council that he anticipated the final plan coming to the late November, or December council meeting.

Council discussed the plan, including how well the entire city is integrated.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-04

THAT Council receive this report as information.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.3 North Bench Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

To be introduced by Mr McArthur

Mr McArthur explained the North Bench Neighbourhood Development Plan is underway with Urban Systems, and noted the ways public to get involved.

Cllrs discussed possibility/need for a new school, and remarked on the planning this area was receiving.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-05

THAT Council receive this report as information.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.4 Official Community Plan Update

To be introduced by Mr McArthur

Mr McArthur explained this is a 20 year vision on how Merritt should look, and that staff hope to bring the plan to Council around mid 2021, with the public having many opportunities to provide input in the interim. Staff and members expressed excitement for what the future will bring.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-06

THAT Council receive this report as information.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8. BYLAWS

8.1 Second Avenue Removal of Dedication Bylaw

Mr Lowis introduced the report, and explained how the removal of the Second Avenue dedication fit into the Voght Street Corner project.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-07

THAT Council give First Reading to Second Avenue Removal of Dedication Bylaw No. 2283, 2020

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-08

THAT Council give Second Reading to Second Avenue Removal of Dedication Bylaw No. 2283, 2020

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-09

THAT Council give Third Reading to Second Avenue Removal of Dedication Bylaw No. 2283, 2020

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Cllr Christopherson Motion

Council discussed the traffic monitoring that already exists on Reid Avenue, and the additional traffic displaced to the Bench by the Voght St project. There were questions about whether the existing traffic monitor could be repurposed, and staff confirmed it could.

Following extensive discussion about speeds throughout Merritt, Council concluded a desire to temporarily reduce speeds in the Bench area during

the Voght St project, and would anticipate a report to Council in the future about road traffic speed in Merritt generally.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-10

THAT Council direct staff to reduce speeds in the bench area for the duration of the Voght St project.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 Statement of Financial Information

Ms Thiessen introduced the report

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-11

THAT Council approves the City of Merritt Statement of Financial Information for the year ended December 31, 2019 as presented and authorizes the Mayor and the Director of Finance & IT to sign the statement on behalf of the City

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.3 MFA Financing – 2020 International 1-Ton Truck

Mr Anderson introduced the report, and explained the options available.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-12

THAT Council of the City of Merritt authorize $67,500 to be borrowed, under section 175 of the Community Charter, from the Municipal Finance Authority, for the purpose of purchasing a 2020 International 1-Ton Truck; and

THAT the loan be repaid within 5 years, with no rights of renewal

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.4 DCFC Handover

Mr Lowis introduced the report and spoke as to the limited potential impacts of the proposal from BC Hydro.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-13

THAT Council agrees to enter a ten year licence of occupation with BC Hydro;

AND THAT the Mayor and the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized the sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.5 2020 First Quarter Report for the Merritt Visitors Centre at the Baillie House

Mr George introduced the report.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-14

THAT Council accept for information the 2020 First Quarter Report for the Merritt Visitors Centre at the Baillie House.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.6 City of Merritt BC PNP Committee 2020 First Quarterly Report

Mr George introduced the report.

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-15

THAT Council accept for information the B.C. PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Pilot 2020 First Quarterly Report.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.7 CAO Update

Mr Hildebrand began by wishing Sheila Thiessen the best in her upcoming retirement, and thanking her for the work and leadership she has provided Merritt. He also congratulated Wayne Anderson on being appointed to replace her, and welcomed to the City new firefighter Huw Grundy.

He spoke to projects currently underway, including airport crack sealing, alley grading, hydrant maintenance the Voght St project, and KVR bridge by public works, Aquatic centre maintenance, the City's new website to be unveiled at the end of June, and the resumption of the Economic Development Committee.

City Hall is now open for payments on the first floor, or by appointment to meet staff.

Development Services have begun issuing patio permits, and begun work on the Official Community Plan and Active Transportation projects.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Cllr Fehr

Councillor Fehr gave a notion of a motion to direct staff to investigate adoption of a visual symbol of diversity and inclusion for the City of Merritt

10.2 Cllr Etchart

Councillor Etchart gave notice of a motion to direct staff to prepare a survey to circulate to city staff, anonymously measuring staff engagement and satisfaction of the City as a workplace.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Cllr Bhangu wanted to recognize Darius Sam for raising over $70k for the Nicola Valley food bank, and Cllr Fehr thanked him for bringing this up. Mr Hildebrand said Council would love to have Mr Sam come to a Council meeting to share his story, and staff would reach out to him to arrange that.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 Akasa Yoga

Council discussed concerns about the broader issue of the City running businesses in competition with the private sector. Mr Smith said staff would prepare a report, and bring it to a future meeting of Council for a policy decision.

12.2 Community Futures Nicola Valley

Cllr Luck declared a Conflict and left the meeting at 9.03pm

Staff explained the working of the BC PNP committee including how applications are reviewed, why the three sectors were chosen in Merritt and the potential for a review of the program at a Provincial level.

Council discussed the appropriateness of concept plans vs full business plans, and the correct level of government to provide review, as well as the issues involved in new businesses competing in Merritt.

Council expressed a desire for staff to bring an item on the status of the PNP committee on a future agenda for a discussion including CFNV, where Council would give direction by resolution.

Cllr Luck returned to the meeting at 9.30pm

12.3 Nicola Valley Rodeo Association

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

13.1 Vote to close

Resolution No: 2020RC-11-16

THAT this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(e) of the Community Charter

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

14. CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No:

14.1 Special Closed Council Meeting Minutes - May 26th, 2020

14.2 Potential land acquisition

14.3 Vote to return to open session

15. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 10:02pm

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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____

_____

Mayor