



MINUTES

CITY OF MERRITT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, October 30, 2019
6:00 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**
- Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT**
- Mr. W. George, Tourism & Economic Development Manager**
- Mr. W. Anderson, Financial Services Manager**

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 September 2019 Budget Position Report

Sheila presented the Budget Position report, discussing that the City is on track with expectations for both revenue and expenditure projections. However, Sheila noted that there was an adjustment made to our RCMP account, noting that the adjustment would result in a surplus in 2019.

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive this report for information.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 2020 Financial Plan Information

Sheila presented some opening remarks for the budget process, noting that this will ultimately be Council's budget, and that discussion does not constitute approval of a project, rather a project is not approved until it is entrenched in an adopted Financial Plan Bylaw.

Sheila provided an overview of taxation, noting that the City of Merritt is ranked in the top third of communities for lowest average household taxes among British Columbia municipalities. She also provided an overview of reserves and surpluses, discussing options for the creation of a reserve and surplus policy as well as a borrowing policy.

Sheila also discussed the path moving forward, including a review of service levels, presentation of a draft Reserve and Surplus Policy, and public consultation.

Council discussed whether budget meetings should occur over two full days, or multiple shorter meetings. Day and evening options were discussed.

Ginny Prowal, of 2070 Aspen Street, thanked staff and Council for introducing a credit card payment option for utilities. Ms. Prowal also noted that growth and increased demand on public works indicates that more staff may be needed for public works.

7. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 7:24pm

Corporate Officer

Sean Smith

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

Confirmed on the ____ day of _____, 20____

Mayor

Linda Brown