MINUTES

CITY OF MERRITT

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 22, 2019
7:00 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 7:00pm

2. LATE ITEMS

Recommendation:

THAT Council add the Rockin' River Music Festival request for a letter of support to the agenda as item 2.1

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

2.1 Letter of Support Request - Rockin' River Tourism Events Program Grant

Kenny Hess has reached out to the City of Merritt, requesting that the City provide a letter of support in favour of the Rockin' River Music Festival grant application. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2019. As this is the last available Council meeting before the deadline, this item is being proposed as a late addition to the meeting.

Recommendation:

THAT the City of Merritt provide a letter in support of the Rockin' River Music Festival's Tourism Events Program grant application, through Destination BC.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - October 8, 2019

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 8, 2019 be adopted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. PUBLIC HEARING

6. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

6.1 Craig Gray - Voght Street and Water concerns

Mr. Gray would like to address Council regarding the option of making Voght a one-way street, as well as discuss the possibility of creating a Citizens Water Committee.

Craig Gray, of 1951 Merritt Ave, presented to Council regarding potential alterations that could be made to Voght Street, particularly making Voght a one way street from Voght to Quilchena. He suggested that the current regime was unsuitable and unsafe for pedestrians.

Mr. Gray also requested that Council create a citizens' water committee, to assist Council in gathering and assessing information about water.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. BYLAWS

8.1 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2275, 2019 - 1330 Pine Street Rezoning

THAT Council read Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2275, 2019 a first time;

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

THAT Council read Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2275, 2019 a second time;

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

AND THAT Council direct staff to schedule a public hearing for Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2275, 2019.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Memorandum of Understanding

Sean Smith presented to Council on how this project has advanced to this point and the purpose of the MOU, to establish a framework that encourages mutual discussion and respect and creativity between First Nation and Local governments in the Nicola Valley, to work through shared concerns and opportunities.

THAT Council endorse the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Upper Nicola Band of the Okanagan (Syilx) Nation, the Lower Nicola, Coldwater, Nooaitch, and Shackan Bands of the Nlaka'pamux Nation, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, and the City of Merritt;

AND THAT the Mayor be authorized to sign the MOU on behalf of the City of Merritt

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 Grant in Aid Policy Revisions

Sheila presented the Grant in Aid Policy amendments that Council requested from the Committee of the whole meeting that took place on October 16, 2019.

THAT Council approve Policy 4-01 Community Grant in Aid, as amended.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.3 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Grant Application

Council discussed the significant costs associated with this project, but Sheila Thiessen noted that this estimate is on the high side and that the City is exploring options to reduce the overall cost of this work.

Council collectively expressed the importance of this project.

THAT Council support of the City of Merritt's application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Structural Flood Mitigation Grant intake, to complete the Voght Street flood mitigation project;

AND THAT Council indicate willingness to provide overall grant management for this project.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.4 City Centre Improvement Plan Update

THAT Council direct staff to complete the top 3 prioritized projects in the attached "City Centre Project Updates" document, under the categories of "Marketing and Communications Plan", "Place and Space" and "Coordinate with Local Partners", using the $100,000 allocated for downtown revitalization in this year's budget;

AND THAT Council direct staff to budget for the recommended "Now" projects in the 2020-2024 Financial Plan.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.5 CAO Update

Scott presented to Council regarding items from Economic Development, Public Works, Finance and Human Resources

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor White made the following notice of motion:

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report regarding options for bringing back a recycling depot in the City of Merritt.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 Strategic Planning Priorities

13. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 8:16pm

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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

Linda Brown