# MINUTES

# CITY OF MERRITT

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, November 5, 2019
6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
2185 Voght Street
Merritt, B.C

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| **PRESENT:** | **Mayor L. Brown**<br>**Councillor M. Bhangu**<br>**Councillor K. Christopherson**<br>**Councillor A. Etchart**<br>**Councillor T. Fehr**<br>**Councillor T. Luck**<br>**Councillor M. White** |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | **Mr. S. Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer**<br>**Mr. S. Smith, Director of Corporate Services**<br>**Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT**<br>**Mr. W. George, Tourism & Economic Development Manager** |
| **MEDIA & PUBLIC:** | **9 Members of the Public**<br>**Q101 Radio**<br>**Merritt Herald** |

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 1.1 Call to Order

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

## 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - October 29, 2019

*THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on October 29, 2019 be adopted.*

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

### 2.2 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - October 30, 2019

*THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on October 30, 2019 be adopted.*

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

## 3. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

### 3.1 Tourism Merritt and Merritt & Nicola Valley Destination Marketing Society - Joint Presentation

Will George, representing Tourism Merritt and Amber Papou, representing the Merritt and Nicola Valley Destination Marketing Society (MNVDMS) jointly presented on options for potentially setting up a Municipal and Regional District Tax in the City of Merritt.

Will and Amber provided an overview of the state of tourism in Merritt, including the contributions of Tourism Merritt and MNVDMS, acknowledging successes and challenges facing the sector. They also discussed the difference between a voluntary tourism levy and the Municipal and Regional District Tax.

Lastly, Amber presented a recommendation that MNVDMS be recognized as a DMO and be designated as the eligible entity for the purposes of collecting the MRDT tax, subject to a number of conditions.

## 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Tourism in Merritt and the Nicola Valley

Will George presented the history of the MRDT in Merritt, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, good communication, and mutual respect moving forward. He discussed potential models that were considered for structuring the MRDT program.

***THAT the Committee recommend to Council that staff work with Merritt & Nicola Valley Destination Marketing Society (MNVDMS) towards re-establishing the MRDT in the City of Merritt;***

***AND THAT the Committee recommend to Council that MNVDMS be designated as the 'eligible entity' to receive program funds under the terms of the Provincial Sales Tax Act (i.e. as per the program terms of the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) program).***

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***Recommendation:***

**Amendment**:

***THAT the words "Council direct staff to explore the option of MNVDMS being designated..." be inserted in the place of "that MNVDMS be designated".***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

***Recommendation:***

**Motion as Amended**:

***THAT Council pass the main motion as amended.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

## 6. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 7:36pm

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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