



MINUTES

CITY OF MERRITT

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 17, 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

Mr. S. Smith, Director of Corporate Services
Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT
Mr. D. McArthur, Planning Services Manager

MEDIA & PUBLIC:

- Q101**
- Merritt Herald**

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2. LATE ITEMS

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Craig Gray spoke to item 7.1, expressing his concern regarding safety and criminal activity in the City of Merritt, noting the high incident rate of property

crime on his street. He further expressed concern regarding the effectiveness of the RCMP and felt that a municipal police force could be more responsive. Suggestion that the City of Merritt consider a municipal police force.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - November 26, 2019

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 26, 2019 be adopted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. PUBLIC HEARING

6. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

6.1 Work BC - Thriving Communities Labour Market Study

Presentation by Julie Bayman, Program Manager/Business Coach for Work BC

Julie Bayman presented to Council regarding the role of WorkBC to ensure worker supports following the shift reduction at Aspen Planers. Julie discussed the extensive career fair that was held at NVIT on November 15th, 2019, as well as the Thriving Community survey that was to be used to gather data regarding the labour market in and around the City of Merritt. The survey has received over 260 responses so far.

Julie discussed how the data would be used to support initiatives in the area moving forward. Julie requested that the use of the Civic Centre be gifted for the presentation of findings on February 27, 2019.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Notice of Motion

Councillor Fehr made the following notice of motion at the November 26, 2019 Meeting:

Councillor Fehr introduced his notice of motion, emphasizing the increase in property crime across Canada, and the factors that contribute to crime, particularly in BC.

He noted potential solutions around increasing social supports, and increased community involvement, including a call for vigilant reporting.

Recommendation:

That Council elevate a long term crime reduction strategy as a top priority in Council's strategic plan.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8. BYLAWS

8.1 Zoning Amendment Bylaw – Health and Fitness Facilities

Recommendation:

THAT Council give first reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2278, 2019;

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT Council give second reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2278, 2019;

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8.2 2019-2023 Financial Plan Amendment

Recommendation:

THAT City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2279, 2019 be read a first time.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2279, 2019 be read a second time.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2279, 2019 be read a third time.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Youth Advisory Committee Appointments

The City of Merritt put out a request for applicants for the Youth Advisory Committee and received five applications, one from an NVIT student, one MSS graduate, one SCIDES Graduate, and two current MSS students. All applications have been reviewed by both staff and the Mayor, and each applicant has been contacted to confirm their interest in being appointed.

Recommendation:

THAT Council appoint Darian Krajci, Susanna Scholtens, Nkikaxni (Honey) Grismer, Beckett Finch, and Marius Auer to the Youth Advisory Committee in a voting capacity, and Adam Etchart in a non-voting capacity;

AND THAT Council authorize Mayor Brown to make further appointments to this Committee, up to the limit prescribed in the Terms of Reference for this Committee.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 Airport Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference Adoption

On December 2, 2019, the Airport Select Committee met to establish terms of reference for the Airport Advisory Committee. Staff made three amendments to the proposal. First, as this is a standing Committee, the Community Charter requires that at least half of the committee must be made of of Council members. As such, staff amended the proposed composition to meet this requirement.

Second, a minor change was made to one of the Committee Duties, to ensure that the Committee only works through Council (as opposed to the CAO). This is a minor change, but it is important to acknowledge that any Committee cannot direct staff, as that is exclusively the role of Council.

Third, a number of administrative provisions were omitted, as the Council Committee Policy, which applies to all City Committees addresses these items.

THAT Council amend the Terms of Reference to make the Airport Advisory Committee a Select Committee, with 5-7 members and a single member of Council

Absent (1): Melvina White

Recommendation:

THAT Council establish the Airport Advisory Committee with the attached Terms of Reference;

AND THAT Council direct staff to advertise to the public for appointments to this Committee.

9.3 North Bench Lands – Crown Land Tenure Application

Recommendation:

THAT Council direct staff to consult with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, as well as First Nations, regarding potential Crown Land Tenure applications for the Crown lands north of Mountain Drive in the Bench area (the “North Bench Lands”).

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT Council direct staff to prepare budgetary information regarding the creation of a North Bench Lands Neighbourhood Development Plan, as indicated in the Official Community Plan.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.4 MFA Equipment Financing for Loader Purchase

Recommendation:

THAT Council of the City of Merritt authorize \$205,665 to be borrowed, under section 175 of the Community Charter, from the Municipal Finance Authority, for the purpose of purchasing a 2019

*Hyundai HL940 Wheel Loader, with attached 3.0 cubic yard bucket;
and*

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

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.5 Fire Protection Agreement Renewal

Recommendation:

THAT Council authorize staff to renew the Fire Protection Agreement between the City of Merritt and the Thompson Nicola Regional District, resulting in a 5 year total payment to the City of \$397,000.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.6 Town Hall Meeting

Recommendation:

THAT Council direct staff to schedule an open invitation Town Hall meeting in January 2020, to communicate the 2019 year in review, current City initiatives, and hear from the public about their issues and concerns.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.7 CAO Update

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Council wished the public and staff a Merry Christmas.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 B.C. PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Pilot Committee - Quarterly Report

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

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

12.2 Strategic Planning Priorities

13. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 8:40pm

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