



MINUTES
CITY OF MERRITT
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
2185 Voght Street
Merritt, B.C

PRESENT: Mayor M. Goetz
Councillor W. Charney
Councillor D. Egan
Councillor A. Etchart
Councillor M. Olguin
Councillor P. Petroczi

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. C. White, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. L. Brick, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. K. Natkinniemi, Director of Finance
Mr. S. Strang, Director of Recovery and Flood Mitigation
Mr. D. Tomkinson, Fire Chief
Ms. K. Mullin, Communications and Engagement Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goetz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging that we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx people.

2. LATE ITEMS

Staff advised that one late item has been received.

THAT Council add "Request for extension of waiving of fees at 1201 McMillan" as Information Item 13.6

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Nil

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - December 12, 2023

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 12, 2023 be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. **GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions**

Nil

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nil

7. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RESOLUTIONS**

7.1 Committee of the Whole Report

The following resolutions were considered on December 13, 2023 by Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

THAT Council approve the strategy for longer term risk management and the need to build reserves for water and sewer infrastructure using the general parcel tax including:

1. Setting a policy that general parcel tax revenues need to be placed in non-statutory reserves as they are collected.

2. Staff should update the parcel tax bylaw with a schedule of the following rates:

	2024	2025	2026
Water	5%	5%	5%
Sewer	5%	5%	5%

Against (1): Wendy Charney

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

THAT Council approve the recommended changes to the organizational chart and the wages as presented.

Against (4): Mike Goetz, Wendy Charney, Adam Etchart, and Manuel Olguin

DEFEATED

Amendment:

THAT the resolution be tabled to the January 23, 2024 Regular Council meeting, Closed session.

Against (3): Mike Goetz, Adam Etchart, and Manuel Olguin

DEFEATED

THAT the item be deferred to a Closed Session at the end of the January 9, 2024 meeting.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

THAT all properties currently receiving property tax exemptions as per the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw be required to pay the parcel tax, from 2024 onward.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

THAT the budget for financial support for community organizations and events be a total of \$25,000, combining the Grant in Aid program and the Council contingency budgets, and that administration and the Policy Review Committee review the criteria for receiving financial assistance from Council and bring forward a new policy for consideration.

Against (2): Adam Etchart, and Manuel Olguin

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8. BYLAWS

8.1 City of Merritt Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2357, 2023

THAT "City of Merritt Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2357, 2023" be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Middlesboro Bridge Freeboard Elevation

Ms. Katy Curtis, Recovery and Flood Mitigation, will present on this item.

Katy Curtis, Hydrotechnical Engineer Consultant, spoke regarding the proposed changes to the height of the bridge highlighting the benefits and reasoning for the reduction in height.

THAT Council approve the reduction in the Middlesboro Bridge freeboard design guideline from 1.5m as used by MOTI to the lowest point of the bridge down to 0.8m as recommended by the Engineer of Record.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program – 2024 Grant Funding

THAT Council instructs staff to submit the attached grant application for the UBCM: Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program, 2024 FireSmart Community Funding and Supports.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

THAT Council commits to providing the overall grant management.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.3 SILGA Resolutions

THAT Council receive the December 20, 2023 report of the Director of Corporate Services for information.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Etchart reported on his attendance at the upcoming Meet the Mayor event. Encouraged residents to assist their neighbours with snow clearing needs.

Councillor Egan reported on the Chamber of Commerce gala event and upcoming Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Mayor Goetz reported on the passing of former Councillor Bonnie Cowan and the Saturday, February 3 fundraiser at the Grand Pub and Grill for Kayla Dunlop.

12. CAO VERBAL UPDATE

CAO reported that:

- staff are monitoring the cold weather conditions and the opening of the warning shelter;
- Communications Officer will submit a year end report at the next meeting;
- staff are continuing policy and bylaw reviews;
- asset management implementation is in progress;

- Fire Chief is filling work experience program firefighters and recertification of career firefighters is ongoing.

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

13.1 SILGA Call for Nominations

THAT Councillor Etchart is put forward to sit on the 2024 SILGA Board.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

13.2 Letter from MP Todd Doherty re: Suicide Prevention Hotline

Council directed staff to post the awareness poster in Civic facilities.

13.3 BC Air Access Program (BCAAP) Application

Council requested a grant application report out for all grants in process.

THAT Council direct staff to apply to the BC Air Access Program for funding to support a Merritt Airport Runway Rehabilitation & Overlay and Taxiway Paving project, with costs totaling \$2,355,000 (excluding GST), comprised of a minimum BCAAP funding amount of \$2,000,000 and a maximum municipally funded amount of \$355,000.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

AND THAT any project cost overages be paid by the City.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

13.4 Remediation Options for Fire Damaged Homes

13.5 Council Resolutions as at December 31, 2023

Council requested status of resolutions and projects be posted in an easily accessible location.

13.6 Request for extension of waiving of fees at 1201 McMillan Road

THAT Council extend the expiry date for the waiving of permit application fees as outlined in the January 18, 2023 report entitled "Revisions to Flood Inundation Zone Building Measures Adopted December 7, 2021" of the Director of Planning and Development Services" for the flood affected homes/property owners at 1201 McMillan Road until December 31, 2024.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

14. **Community Charter Section 90 (1)(c)**

THAT Council waive notice of the Closed Session.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

***THAT this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c),
labour relations or other employee relations, of the Community Charter.***

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

The meeting moved to a closed session at 7:17 pm.

15. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting returned to open session at 8:00 pm.

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 8:00 pm.

Corporate Officer

Linda Brick

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

Confirmed on the ____ day of _____, 20____

Mayor

Michael Goetz