



MINUTES
CITY OF MERRITT
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
2185 Voght Street
Merritt, B.C

PRESENT: Mayor M. Goetz
Councillor Y. Baxter
Councillor W. Charney
Councillor A. Etchart
Councillor P. Petroczi

REGRETS: Councillor D. Egan
Councillor M. Olguin

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. C. White, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. L. Brick, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. R. Green, Director of Public Works and Engineering Services
Mr. K. Natkinniemi, Director of Finance and Human Resources & CFO
Mr. D. Zakall, Director of Community Services
Ms. H. Ferris, Housing Director
Mr. S. Huang, Planner
Ms. K. Shah, Planner

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

THAT item 6.2 be removed from the agenda.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Nil

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2025

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 14, 2025 be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing regarding *Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2383, 2024, and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2384, 2024* (1101 Midday Valley Road).

Mayor Goetz recessed to the public hearing at 6:02 pm

5.1 Opening by the Mayor

Mayor Goetz reviewed the procedures for the Public Hearing.

5.2 Introduction of Bylaws by Clerk

Ms. Brick, Director of Corporate Services, introduced the Bylaws and confirmed statutory notice requirements have been met for the Public Hearing.

5.3 Presentation by Staff

Presentation: Mr. Shiming Huang, Planner

Mr. Huang, Planner, provided Council with an overview of the proposed amendments to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw.

5.4 Representations from the Public

Nil

5.5 Questions from Council

Nil

5.6 Council Resolution

THAT Council receives this report as information.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5.7 Closing

THAT the January 28, 2025 Public Hearing regarding Bylaws 2383 and 2384 is closed;

AND THAT "Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2383, 2024" and "Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2384, 2024" are returned to Council for further consideration.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Mayor Goetz reconvened the regular meeting at 6:07 pm.

6. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

6.1 Walk of Stars Society

Ms. Melvina White spoke in support of the Walk of Stars request to place two signs on public land at Exit 290.

6.2 Merritt & Nicola Valley Destination Marketing Society

Item withdrawn from agenda.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nil

8. BYLAWS

8.1 Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2383, 2024 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2384, 2024

THAT Council read "Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2383, 2024" a Third Time;

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

THAT Council read "Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2384, 2024" a Third Time.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8.2 Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw No. 2381, 2024

THAT Council gives First Reading to "City of Merritt Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw No. 2381, 2024";

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

THAT Council gives Second Reading to "City of Merritt Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw No. 2381, 2024";

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

THAT Council gives Third Reading to “City of Merritt Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw No. 2381, 2024”.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Remedial Action Requirement - Unsightly Property at 1990 Houston Street

Mr. Clive Hack, property owner, spoke to Council advising that he has recently purchased the property and is in the process of cleaning it up. He noted that he intends to install screening on the fencing.

The meeting recessed at 6:36 pm and resumed at 6:38 pm.

WHEREAS section 74 of the Community Charter, SBC 2003, c. 26 (the “Community Charter”) authorizes Council for the City of Merritt (the “City”) to impose a remedial action requirement on the owner or occupier of land in relation to a declared nuisance;

AND WHEREAS Clive Boris Hack (the “Owner”) is the registered owner of the following property:

1990 Houston Street

PID: 004-980-948

LOT A, BLOCK 144, PLAN KAP717, DISTRICT LOT 123, KAMLOOPS DIV OF YALE LAND DISTRICT, OF LOT 1

AND WHEREAS Council for the City of Merritt have received and reviewed the staff report dated December 20, 2024 in relation to the Property (the “Report”);

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Merritt resolves as follows:

- 1. THAT based on the information contained in the Report, and pursuant to section 74 of the *Community Charter*, the following items and/or materials which are kept outside on the Property, including in any area which is under a roof but is in part open to the outside, are hereby declared to be a nuisance:**

- Trailers**
- Campers;**
- Boats;**
- Tires;**
- Ladders, chairs, tarps, and tents;**
- Piles of wood, and lumber;**

- Assorted tools and machinery;
- Rubbish (including, but not limited to buckets, containers, plastic materials, wood pallets, cardboard, garbage bags)
- Shelves;
- Gym equipment;
- Metals (including but not limited to bike parts, fire pits, and propane tanks, and scrap metal); and,
- Other Discarded Materials.

(the “Nuisance Materials”)

2. THAT pursuant to section 72 of the *Community Charter*, the Owner is hereby required to remove the Nuisance Materials from the Property (the “Remedial Action Requirement”);
3. THAT the Owner must complete the Remedial Action Requirement within 60 days after notice of this Resolution is given to the Owners;
4. THAT if the Remedial Action Requirement is not completed within the deadline set out in paragraph 3 of this Resolution, the City and its agents, contractors or employees may pursuant to section 17 of the *Community Charter* undertake any or all of the actions necessary to fulfill the Remedial Action Requirement at the expense of the Owner, and such actions may include disposing of the Nuisance Materials in a landfill; and,
5. THAT the City may recover from the Owner all of the City’s costs the City of Merritt incurred by fulfilling the Remedial Action Requirement as a debt or as property taxes on the Properties pursuant to sections 258 and 259 of the *Community Charter*.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 Development Variance Permit - 1840 Nicola Avenue

Council discussed fence heights of comparable properties.

THAT Council grants Development Variance Permit 2024-006, to vary Section 4.14.4.a of the Zoning Bylaw 2284, 2020, to allow for increased fence of 1.83m height between Front Parcel Line and Front Building Line instead of the permitted 1.25m (maximum), at 1840 Nicola Avenue.

Against (1): Wendy Charney

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.3 Transit Routes and Rates

THAT Council approve an increase in transit fares as per Option 3 presented by BC Transit, as of April 1, 2025;

AND THAT Council approves the reinstatement of Routes 2 and 3 as per operations pre-November 2021.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.4 Food Bank Development

Staff advised they will be arranging a site visit for Council to a similar project in Squamish.

THAT Council approve City Staff formalizing a working partnership with the Nicola Valley Foodbank to assist with their build located at 1898 Blair Street and 2352 Quilchena Avenue;

AND THAT Council direct staff to move forward with securing contractors for a space use analysis and conceptual design and class C budget and consultants for the Foodbank & Housing Build with a budget of up to \$100,000.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.5 Economic Development Report

THAT Council receive the January 24, 2025 report of the Chief Administrative Officer entitled "Economic Development" for information;

AND THAT Council direct staff to schedule a Committee of the Whole to support discussions for prioritization of items within the 2022-2031 Economic Development Strategy.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.6 2025 BC Hydro Community ReGreening Program

THAT the January 21, 2025 report of the Grant Coordinator entitled "2025 BC Hydro Community ReGreening Program" be received for information.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.7 SILGA Resolutions

To bring forward and discuss any proposed resolutions to be submitted to SILGA/UBCM.

Council advised they will submit topics for consideration via email.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Etchart proposed the following Notices of Motion:

- 1) THAT Council select the Nicola Valley Bread Basket as the charity of choice for the 2025 SILGA Convention.
- 2) THAT Councillor Etchart be put forward as the City of Merritt representative on the SILGA Board.

11. CAO UPDATE

CAO White provided an update on activities of staff noting that staff will be reviewing the Recreation Master Plan. CAO White noted that the new electric vehicles have been delivered and provided updates on upcoming meetings and the budget open house.

11.1 Fire Department Statistics

11.2 Council Resolutions

11.3 December 2024 CPO Report

12. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Etchart reported on his attendance at City meetings and the SILGA convention planning meeting.

Councillor Charney reported on her participation in creating a City of Merritt recycling video, attendance at the ESS meeting, and the SILGA convention planning meeting.

Councillor Baxter reported on her attendance at City meetings.

Mayor Goetz reported on his attendance at Nicola Meadows, Minister meeting regarding the hospital, Food Bank meeting, TNRD meeting and support of high school programs.

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

13.1 Year End Report - Visitor Information Centre at the Baillie House

13.2 Letter from City of Kamloops re: Delinquent Property Taxes

It was noted the Provincial Government has expressed concern regarding this matter, staff will be providing more information on the impact to the City of delinquent property taxes.

14. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 7:20 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