



MINUTES

CITY OF MERRITT

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

12:00 P.M.

Held online due to social distancing requirements
Public access link published on City website
& social media accounts

PRESENT: Mayor L. Brown
Councillor A. Etchart
Councillor T. Luck

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. G. Lowis, Deputy Corporate Officer
Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT
Mr. S. Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order

Mayor Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:01pm

2. Late Items

Recommendation:

THAT Committee add the Financial Position Report to New Business

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Nil.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Finance and Audit Committee Meeting Minutes - April 15th, 2020

Recommendation:

THAT the Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee Meeting held on April 15th, 2020 be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations & Recognitions

Nil.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nil.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 COVID 19 and Cash Flows

Ms. Thiessen introduced the report, and explained the peaks in the graph due to required transfers.

Cllrs praised the report, and questioned how robust it was, and what effect Covid would have. Ms. Thiessen explained the balancing act, and attempts to reduce staff activity rather than raising costs for Covid protocols.

Mr. Hildebrand mentioned the straits larger cities are in, having lost airports, casinos, and other revenue-generating facilities.

Recommendation:

THAT the Committee receive this report for information

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.2 Draft Reserve and Surplus Policy

Ms. Thiessen made a presentation about how surpluses are distributed into reserves, and the appropriateness of using reserves and surpluses for capital spending. She also explained the reserves required under the *Community Charter*.

There was discussion about costs of equipment and lifecycles, and how more work was needed around that, risk, downtime, etc. Amortization and

replacement schedules should now be properly aligned over what City have experienced.

Members and staff discussed reserve plans, including a potential cemetery reserve. Ms. Thiessen then introduced the draft policy itself and talked through the issues covered.

The resolution on the agenda was discussed, including the ability of council to consider it directly if they want.

Ms. Thiessen said she would clean up the policy, add RCMP and land acquisition, and bring it back to Finance & Audit committee before Council.

Recommendation:

THAT the Finance & Audit Committee have provided staff with input and direction on the draft Reserve and Surplus Policy presented prior to the policy being considered by the Policy Committee.

AND THAT the Committee direct staff to incorporate the discussion, go to senior managers, and return to Finance & Audit

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8. CLOSED ITEMS

Recommendation:

THAT the Committee close this meeting, pursuant to section 90(l) of the Community Charter, "discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report]"

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8.1 Financial Position Report

8.2 Vote to return to open session

THAT the Committee return to open session, having concluded the business that required closure pursuant to section 90(l) of the Community Charter, "discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report]"

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

Mayor Brown, Chair, declared the meeting closed at 1:40pm

Deputy Corporate Officer

Greg Lowis

Mayor

Linda Brown