



MINUTES
CITY OF MERRITT
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 21, 2020
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**

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr. S. Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer**
- Mr. S. Smith, Director of Corporate Services**
- Mr. G. Lewis, Deputy Corporate Officer**
- Mr. W. George, Tourism & Economic Development Manager**
- Mr. W. Anderson, Director of Finance and IT**
- Mr. D. McArthur, Planning & Development Services Manager**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. LATE ITEMS

2.1 Long-Term Capital Master Plan Grant application

New item 9.6, to be inserted before CAO update (under *Procedure Bylaw* s12(e) this requires unanimous vote by Council):

THAT Council approve submitting a Infrastructure Planning Grant application for development of a 10-Yr Infrastructure Capital Plan.

AND THAT the project cost be up to \$15,000, with the City funded portion being up to \$5,000 budgeted for 2020/2021.

Resolution No:

THAT Council add the proposed Long-Term Capital Master Plan Grant Application to the agenda

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Nil

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Special Council Meeting Minutes - June 30th, 2020

Resolution No:

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on June 30th, 2020 be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

4.2 Regular Council Meeting Minutes- June 30th, 2020

Resolution No:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 30th, 2020 be adopted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

4.3 Special Council Meeting Minutes - July 15th, 2020

Resolution No:

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on July 15th, 2020 be adopted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. PUBLIC HEARING

5.1 Public Hearing

Nil

6. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

6.1 Merritt Centennials

Neil Menard to present.

Mr Menard spoke to his letter. He thanked Council for their letter of support, and talked of the struggles hockey in BC is facing due to the Covid-19 crisis, with financial struggles, and prohibitions on numbers of attendees.

After answering questions from Councillors on how hockey is currently operating, he congratulated Messrs. Anderson, Hildebrand, and Smith on their new positions.

6.2 OCP Update - Engagement Strategy

Bob Evans from WSP to present.

Mr. Evans introduced the OCP engagement strategy proposed by WSP, and explained about his role in the process.

Councillors expressed excitement about the plan, and stressed the need to involve all sectors of Merritt's diverse communities.

Discussion about the proposed tagline suggested that the most important factor would be the use of the nle?kepmxcin language, tying back to the City's *Flourish under the Sun* motto.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Notice of Motion

Councillor Mike Bhangu made the following Notice of Motion at the June 30th, 2020 meeting:

Cllr Bhangu began by reading an amended version of his motion.

Councillors discussed a desire to demonstrate that Merritt is more than just country music, and to celebrate diversity, and Merritt's history.

There was discussion about trying to integrate the proposal with a downtown plan, and about there being no funding hypothecated for this project.

After the vote took place, Councillors raised a query about funding. Mr. Smith suggested that this mural would not go forward immediately, but with the resolution passed, could be included by staff in the next budget round.

Resolution No:

That the City work with the current economic recovery initiatives and create a culture and diversification mural highlighting the many cultures of Merritt in their cultural attire, past and present.

And That this mural be created on a City facility, or available non-City facility pending a moveable mural frame, to fit with the Economic Recovery downtown beautification mural project.

Against (1): Adam Etchart

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.2 Active Transportation Survey results

Mr McArthur to introduce

Mr McArthur introduced the report, and explained the data that had been found, including the low figures for current users of active transportation, and the fear that had been found for personal safety particularly while cycling. He talked about the various possible factors that lead to low uptake in different contexts, and the planned work to come. He went into further detail when answering questions from Councillors.

7.3 Zoning Bylaw update

Mr McArthur to explain plans for public consultation

Mr McArthur noted the methods of engagement that would be coming, including the upcoming in-person meetings and webinar, and the dedicated web page. Councillors clarified that spaces were for public if it all possible. He also noted potential amendments were being suggested, including two proposed new parks that would need to be rezoned.

8. BYLAWS

8.1 Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2285, 2020

Resolution No:

THAT Council Adopt Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2285, 2020

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 2020 Tax Sale

Mr Anderson explained the legislative context of tax sales, and how the upset price is calculated. He provided information on how the current situation of delinquent properties compares to previous years, and the Province's alterations to statutory requirements.

Resolution No:

THAT Council instruct staff to make the arrangements for a tax sale as normal on September 28, 2020, without the October penalties applied

Against (1): Mike Bhangu

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 2019 Report on Development Cost Charges

Mr Anderson introduced the report, and explained the requirement to report on an annual basis, and the intention to review DCCs in the future.

Councillors discussed the delays and age of the current DCC bylaw. Mr. Anderson and Mr. McArthur suggested that the DCC bylaw was tightly linked to the Official Community Plan, and that the DCC bylaw could be reviewed as soon as the OCP review was finished.

Resolution No:

THAT Council accept the 2019 Development Cost Charges Report as submitted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.3 City of Merritt BC PNP Committee 2020 Second Quarterly Report

Mr George introduced the report, and explained how he looks forward to having the Community Futures present

Resolution No:

THAT Council accept for information the B.C. PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Pilot 2020 First Quarterly Report.

9.4 City Marketing Update

Verbal report from Mr. George

Mr George provided an update on the City's marketing strategy and experiences, and the current work staff are doing to sell the City

9.5 UBCM

Provincial Ministry appointment book for virtual UBCM 2020

Mayor and Council made a series of suggestions to staff about ministries and topics to be covered.

9.6 CAO Update

Mr. Hildebrand provided updates on development rates in the City, and work being done by various departments. He also informed Council about the current rate of collection of property taxes, and how that compared to previous years. He was able to announce that Mr. George, the City's Economic Development Manager had been elected to the Board of the British Columbia Economic Development Association.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Cllr Luck reported he was very happy to be back in the chamber

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 Merritt Green Energy

Councillors expressed interest in their finding alternative sources of fuel, and encouraged residents with concerns to write letters during the consultation period. It was noted that no standing air test exists in Merritt, but MGE have committed to extensive testing of their burn material.

12.2 Baillie House 2nd Quarter information

12.3 Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

12.4 City of New Westminster

Council recessed at 9.41pm

13. Late item

13.1 Long-Term Capital Master Plan Grant Application

Council returned from adjournment at 9.51pm, and acknowledged that the late item added to the agenda under item 2.1 had not been dealt with.

Mr. Smith introduced the item, and briefly spoke to it.

Resolution No:

THAT Council approve submitting a Infrastructure Planning Grant application for development of a 10-Yr Infrastructure Capital Plan.

AND THAT the project cost be up to \$15,000, with the City funded portion being up to \$5,000 budgeted for 2020/2021.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

14. Closed session

14.1 Vote to close

THAT this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(a) of the *Community Charter*: personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality; and (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

Resolution No:

THAT this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(a) of the Community Charter: personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality; and (k) negotiations

and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

14.2 Adoption of Minutes - July 15th, 2020

14.3 Personnel update

14.4 Fire Hall Expansion - Oral update

14.5 Vote to return to public meeting

Resolution No:

THAT this meeting be returned to open session, having concluded the business that required closure pursuant to s90(1)(a) and (k) of the Community Charter.

15. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 10.30pm

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