



# **MINUTES**

## **CITY OF MERRITT**

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Tuesday, September 29, 2020  
5:30 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. Smith, Chief Administrative Officer**
- Mr G. Lowis, Deputy Corporate Officer**
- Mr. W. Anderson, Director of Finance and IT**
- Mr. D. McArthur, Planning & Development Services Manager**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

**2. LATE ITEMS**

**3. PUBLIC INPUT**

Craig Gray of 1951 Merritt Ave spoke to item 6.1, to express his concerns about the Kengard Well, and the cost and quality of water provided.

Further, he queried support for the theatre society, suggesting that until the future of large events was known, such projects should be reconsidered.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes- September 15, 2020**

2020SC-03-01

*THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 15, 2020 be adopted*

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1 Investing in Canada Infrastructure – Grant Applications**

Mr. Smith introduced the possible options for the West Merritt Active Transportation Path, and that the proposal from staff had been modified following staff discussions with the Provincial government, to include only the active transportation aspects.

Council discussed various aspects of the plan, including the amenities that had been removed, protected bike lanes, the cost to the City if successful, the potential impact of multiple grants on each other, and future projects.

Cllr Christopherson declared that with concerns raised about one grant's impact on another, he could be perceived as having a conflict of interest, and left the room at 6.03pm.

Council continued discussing the engineering plans and details of what was included in the proposal.

Cllr Fehr declared that his business could be perceived as giving him a conflict of interest, and left the room at 6.09pm.

Cllrs Christopherson and Fehr returned to the room at 6.11pm, after the first vote had taken place.

Mr. Smith introduced the Kengard Well application, noting it was entirely preparatory at this point, but that the City wanted to have shovel-ready projects for future applications. He explained that while Merritt's aquifers appear well-stocked with water, the Coldwater river is the most drought-sensitive water basin in BC, and that upgrades to the Kengard Well could

completely reduce Merritt's dependence on the Coldwater river and connected aquifers.

Council discussed the scale of the project, and various water issues and policies at Merritt, and the environmental situation in the Nicola valley, the status of fish, and the importance of water for expansion.

Cllr Christopherson declared himself in conflict of interest for the third item due to being a Director of the Nicola Valley Theatre Society, and left the room at 6.25pm.

Mr. Smith introduced the potential support for the Theatre Society, noting that many letters have been provided in the past and that this would simply be an update to that.

Following the vote, Mr. Smith asked if Council wanted a clause in the letter indicating that if the Government were choosing between the two projects, to support the Theatre over our own. Council discussed this expressing support for the idea, concern that it might indicate a lack of confidence, and what it might mean for the City's application. No motion was moved.

2020SC-03-02

***THAT Council direct staff to submit an application for the West Merritt Active Transportation Path – Phase 1 project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation stream;***

***AND THAT Council support the project and commit to the City's share of project costs (26.67%), which equals \$614,864 of the total project cost of \$2,305,451.***

Against (1): Melvina White

Absent (2): Kurt Christopherson, and Travis Fehr

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

2020SC-03-03

***THAT Council direct staff to amend the 2020-2024 Financial Plan to include the preparation of engineering plans to upgrade the Kengard well, with costs to come from Gas Tax funds.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

2020SC-03-04

***THAT Council authorize the Mayor to provide an updated letter of support to the Nicola Valley Theatre Society to accompany their ICIP grant applications.***

Absent (1): Kurt Christopherson

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil.

**8. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**8.1 Vote to close meeting to press & public**

The meeting was adjourned at 6.38pm until 7pm, to allow members to attend the Nicola Valley Food Bank AGM either in person, or on Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6.38pm.

The meeting resumed at 7.01pm. Cllr Etchart was absent, attending the food bank AGM. Remainder of Mayor & Council and Mr. Smith were present for the remainder of the meeting.

2020SC-03-05

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

Absent (1): Adam Etchart

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

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**9.1 Adoption of Minutes - August 18th, 2020**

**9.2 New Business**

**9.2.1 Personnel update**

9.2.2 Personnel update

10. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 7:45pm

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Corporate Officer

Sean Smith

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

Confirmed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

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Mayor

Linda Brown