



# **MINUTES**

## **CITY OF MERRITT**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Tuesday, August 13, 2019  
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. J. Dinwoodie, Director of Engineering & Development  
Mr. S. Smith, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr. W. George, Tourism & Economic Development Manager  
Mr. W. Anderson, Financial Services Manager  
Mr G. Lowis, Corporate Services Co-op Student

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Call to Order**

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

**2. LATE ITEMS**

**3. PUBLIC INPUT**

Ginny Prowal of 2070 Aspen Street, spoke to item 8.1 on the agenda, the Council Remuneration Bylaw. She described the special role of Mayor and Council and mentioned that there are many other people who provide great amounts of volunteer time without recognition or pay.

Jacqueline Whitecross of the Nicola Valley Pro Rodeo Association, spoke to item 9.2 and also requested additional funds, noting a number of projects required at the rodeo grounds. She also proposed a \$3,500 option that would involve two pages of sponsorship advertising instead of one.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes- July 23rd, 2019**

203/19

***THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 23rd, 2019 be adopted***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**5. PUBLIC HEARING**

Nil

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

**6.1 ASK Wellness Society**

Bob Hughes, Executive Director of ASK Wellness Society ("ASK Wellness") introduced the ASK Wellness organization, outlining their role in the community and provided an introduction to members of the ASK Wellness team, including Cliff Thorstenson (a local who sits on the Board of the Society) and Keri Cooke, the Merritt Director of ASK Wellness. Keri Cooke went into further detail about the programs that ASK Wellness offered in Merritt, including the Housing Outreach Program, which is operated out of three housing complexes, the Three Eagles, Tradewinds Terrace and Juniper House.

Ms. Cooke also provided information regarding the following programs: Health Navigation, Harm Reduction, a SHOP & Street Outreach program, Community Living and finally, the Adults with Addictions Supportive Housing (AASH) program that is run in partnership with Interior Health.

Ms. Cooke and Mr. Hughes answered questions from Council regarding the process for selecting and vetting applicants who desire to use ASK Wellness services.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7.1 Notice of motion - Traffic calming on Reid Avenue**

Proposed by Councillor Bhangu

Council discussed the fact that in addition to the issues being faced at Reid Ave, that many other streets are facing similar problems.

Scott Hildebrand provided an update regarding measures that are being taken and considered to provide traffic calming, including the use of the speed sign, which is collecting data on car counts as well as speed data. Traffic bollards and crosswalk lights are also being considered.

***THAT Council immediately implement traffic calming measures on Reid Avenue***

Against (5): Linda A. Brown, Kurt Christopherson, Adam Etchart, Travis Fehr, and Tony Luck

**DEFEATED**

## **8. BYLAWS**

### **8.1 Council Remuneration Bylaw**

File 3900.2266

204/19

***THAT Council read City of Merritt Council Remuneration Bylaw No. 2266, 2019 a first time;***

Against (2): Mike Bhangu, and Travis Fehr

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

*Councillor Bhangu proposed the following amendment to the Bylaw:*

**Amendment:**

*THAT Council amend Bylaw 2266 to defer the pay raise for Council until the next election.*

**DEFEATED**

*Councillor Fehr proposed the following amendment to the Bylaw:*

**Amendment:**

*THAT Council defer reading of Bylaw 2266 until after January 1, 2020.*

Against (5): Linda A. Brown, Kurt Christopherson, Adam Etchart, Tony Luck, and Melvina White

**DEFEATED**

205/19

***THAT Council read City of Merritt Council Remuneration Bylaw No. 2266, 2019 a second time;***

Against (2): Mike Bhangu, and Travis Fehr

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

206/19

***THAT Council read City of Merritt Remuneration Bylaw No. 2266, 2019 a third time.***

Against (2): Mike Bhangu, and Travis Fehr

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**8.2 Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Retail Cannabis Cap**

File 3900.2187

207/19

***THAT Council read City of Merritt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2267, 2019 a first time***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

208/19

***THAT Council read City of Merritt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2267, 2019 a second time;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

209/19

***THAT Council direct staff to schedule a public hearing for City of Merritt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2267, 2019.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

### **8.3 Business Licence and Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaws**

File: 3900.2268

210/19

***THAT Council give first reading to the Business Licence Bylaw No. 2268, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

211/19

***THAT Council give second reading to Business Licence Bylaw No 2268, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

212/19

***THAT Council give third reading to Business Licence Bylaw No 2268, 2019.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

213/19

***THAT Council give first reading to the Okanagan-Similkameen Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw 2269, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

214/19

***THAT Council give second reading to the Okanagan-Similkameen Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw 2269, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

215/19

***THAT Council give third reading to the Okanagan-Similkameen Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw 2269, 2019***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

216/19

***THAT Council give first reading to the Fraser Valley Inter-Municipal Business Licence Bylaw 2270, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

217/19

***THAT Council give second reading to the Fraser Valley Inter-Municipal Business Licence Bylaw 2270, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

218/19

***THAT Council give third reading to the Fraser Valley Inter-Municipal Business Licence Bylaw 2270, 2019.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

219/19

***THAT Council give first reading to the Thompson-Nicola Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw 2271, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

220/19

***THAT Council give second reading to the Thompson-Nicola Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw 2271, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

221/19

***THAT Council give third reading to the Thompson-Nicola Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw 2271, 2019.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

222/19

***THAT Council direct staff to publish the required statutory notice that the four aforementioned bylaws will be considered for adoption at the August 27th, 2019 meeting.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**9.1 City of Merritt 2018 Annual Report**

Councillor Christopherson and Mayor Brown expressed thanks to staff for putting together the Annual report and encourage the public to read the document, noting the interesting information that the public may be unaware of.

223/19

***THAT Council accept the City of Merritt 2018 Annual Report as presented.***

**9.2 Nicola Valley Pro Rodeo 2019 Sponsorship**

File 8100

225/19

***THAT Council sponsor the 2019 Nicola Valley Pro Rodeo at the Chute Sponsorship level of \$2,500 from the Council Contingency fund.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

*Councillor Luck proposed an amendment:*

**Amendment:**

224/19

***THAT Council amend the main motion to provide a sponsorship of \$3,500 instead of \$2,500.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**9.3 MIABC Voting Delegate**

File: 0270

226/19

***That Council resolve to change the City's MIABC delegates to Mayor Linda Brown and Councillor Adam Etchart***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**9.4 City of Merritt B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (B.C. PNP) Entrepreneur Immigration Pilot Committee Quarterly Report**

Mr. George provided an overview of the BC PNP program and the applications and referrals that the City of Merritt has made to date.

227/19

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

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**9.5 Rural Dividend Grant Application**

228/19

***THAT Council provide a resolution in support of the City of Merritt's 2019 BC Rural Dividend Fund Grant Program Application, to advance the Economic Development Community Development Projects.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**9.6 Potential Boundary Extension**

229/19

***THAT Council direct staff to explore options around a potential boundary expansion to include the music festival site within the City of Merritt, in consultation with the Thompson Nicola Regional District ("TNRD");***



**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

230/19

***THAT Council authorize staff to spend up to \$15,000 plus GST from the Council Contingency fund on a Boundary Extension Scoping Study, if deemed necessary by staff.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

#### **9.7 Lions Park Pedestrian Bridge Crown Land Tenure Application**

231/19

***THAT Council direct staff to make an application for Crown Land Tenure for the Lions Park Pedestrian Bridge.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

#### **9.8 CAO Update**

Scott Hildebrand presented Council and the public with information on the following initiatives:

- Recognized Greg Lowis for his contributions to the City of Merritt during his 4-month Law Co-op term.
- Informed about the deployment of a Merritt Fire Rescue truck and crew to fight the Eagle Bluff fire.
- A permanent plan to reduce garbage and litter at DeWolf Way.
- Irvine/River Ranch - An alteration to the exit from Irvine to allow better clearance for vehicles.
- Emergency planning training.
- Forestry renewal engagement workshop.
- Increased watering restrictions given the drought conditions on the Coldwater River
- An overview of the Strategic Planning process and a list of some of the initial items being directed by Council.

### **10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

## **11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor Etchart discussed the importance of supporting our forest sector and encouraged Council and the public to explore all options to support this sector.

Mayor Brown announced that the Chamber of Commerce is scheduling a Community Clean-up day on September 21st, with more details to follow.

## **12. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **12.1 City of Fort St. John - Support for Provincial Libraries**

File: 0135

### **12.2 City of Pitt Meadows - Support for Enhanced Provincial Library Funding**

File: 0135

### **12.3 City of Pitt Meadows - Confirming Municipal Jurisdiction to Regulate Single-Use Items**

File: 0135

### **12.4 City of Prince George - Support for Funding Provincial Libraries**

File: 0135

### **12.5 District of Sechelt - Support for Funding Provincial Libraries**

File: 0135

### **12.6 District of Elkford - Support for Funding Provincial Libraries**

File: 0135

### **12.7 District of Taylor - Support for Funding Provincial Libraries**

File: 0135

### **12.8 Village of Pouce Coupe - Support for Funding Provincial Libraries**

File: 0135

### **12.9 Municipality of North Cowichan - Regional Management of Forestry**

File: 0135

### **12.10 Thompson Okanagan Tourist Association**

File: 0275

**12.11 UBCM Community to Community Forum**

File: 0270

**12.12 Gas Tax Agreement Community Works Fund Payment**

File: 0270

**12.13 City of Victoria - Establishing a Lobbying Regulations System**

File: 0135

**12.14 Strategic Planning Priorities**

**13. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 9:26pm

---

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