



MINUTES
CITY OF MERRITT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, April 18, 2023
6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
2185 Voght Street
Merritt, B.C

PRESENT:

- Mayor M. Goetz**
- Councillor W. Charney**
- Councillor D. Egan**
- Councillor A. Etchart**
- Councillor C. Newman**
- Councillor M. Olguin**
- Councillor P. Petroczi**

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr. S. Smith, Chief Administrative Officer**
- Mr. G. Lowis, Director of Corporate Services**
- Ms. L. Brick, Deputy Corporate Officer**
- Mr. N. Thompson, Acting Director of Finance & IT**
- Ms. S. Thiessen, Financial Consultant**

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order

Mayor Goetz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1.2 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. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - April 6th, 2023

Council requested a correction to the minutes; the last signature should indicate Mayor Goetz as opposed to Mayor Brown.

2023CoW-07-01

THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 6th, 2023 be adopted, as amended.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

Nil

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 2023-2027 Tax Considerations

To be introduced by Ms. Thiessen

Ms. Thiessen presented the impact a tax increase would have at both a 3% and 5% option. Comparative communities presented include Smithers, Creston, Hope, Castlegar, Fernie and Revelstoke; Council requested staff consider replacing Fernie and Revelstoke with different comparable communities in the future. It was noted that comparable communities should have more 5,000 and less than 15,000 population range due to RCMP costs.

Staff are continuing to work on year end financial reporting, which limits Council's ability to view the full financial picture of the City.

4.2 2023-2027 Financial Plan modifications

To be introduced by Ms. Thiessen

Council reviewed the total funding requests identifying the items to be declined or referred to the 2024 budget process.

- 2023OP-3 Actioning Reconciliation: Council requested the Director of Planning and Development Services provide an alternate funding amount.
- 2023OP-76 Snow Removal project: Council requested that a volunteer program be established for 2024.

The meeting recessed at 7:16 pm and resumed at 7:26 pm.

- 2023CP-007 Claybanks Rebuild: Council requested that discussion of Claybanks Park be brought forward to a Committee of the Whole.
- 2023CP-028 Cleasby Street Extension: Council requested further review and that the item be referred to the 2024 budget process.
- 2023CP-033 Fleet Pick Up Truck (water/sewer): Council requested that this item be removed from the budget. Council requested additional fleet management information accompany future for requests.
- 2023CP-054 Fire Smart Interpretive Garden/Micro Park: Council requested additional information and that this item be listed as grant conditional. Council advised they are not opposed to further consideration if the work can be done at a significant reduction in costs if grants are not available.
- 2023CP-034 New sidewalk Forksdale: Council requested the item be removed from the budget; it was noted that a comprehensive sidewalk plan could be developed.
- 2023CP-025 Ball infield leveling: Council requested further information on the site situation.
- 2023CP-024 Dug out roofs: Council inquired what material will be used to replace the wooden roofs.
- 2023CP-043/045/047 Self Propelled Floor Saw/Sidewalk Grinder/Trackless Sidewalk Maintenance Machine: Staff are requested to bring back further information on the purpose of the apparatus, what it attaches to and what costs it will save.
- 2023CP-021 Sidewalk Maintenance Repair: Staff are requested to provide further information on the overall sidewalk program.
- 2023CP Cleasby Extension Water & Sewer: Council requested the items be removed from the budget.
- 2023CP-066 Treatment and Sludge Chemicals: Council inquired if these items can be purchased in bulk to avoid increases in prices.
- Public Works Office Renovation: Council requested more information be provided.

- Voght Street upgrades: Council requested more information on reserves sources and possible grants to assist with funding project.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2023, at which time updated numbers with provisional approvals and requested information be provided.

2023CoW-07-02

THAT the Records Coordinator position be removed from the budget proposal.

DEFEATED

2023CoW-07-03

THAT the Social Development Planner position be removed from the budget and moved forward to 2024.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

2023CoW-07-04

THAT a review of 2023OP-76 Snow Removal project be forwarded both to the Age Friendly and Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Youth Committee.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

2023CoW-07-05

THAT 2023CP-028 Cleasby Street Extension request be referred to the 2024 budget process.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

2023CoW-07-06

THAT Central Park Concession request be removed from the budget.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

2023CoW-07-07

THAT 2023CP-054 Fire Smart Interpretive Garden/Micro Park be grant dependent.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nil

6. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 8:48 pm

Corporate Officer

Greg Lowis

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

Confirmed on the ____ day of _____, 20____

Mayor

Michael Goetz