



MINUTES
CITY OF MERRITT
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 23, 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**
- Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT**
- Mr G. Lowis, Corporate Services Co-op Student**
- Mr. W. George, Tourism & Economic Development Manager**

MEDIA & PUBLIC: Q101
12 members of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

2. LATE ITEMS

Nil

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Bob Wilson spoke on 7.2 (Traffic on Grimmet & Voght), in favour of a traffic light controlled intersection. He would also be in favour of that at Nicola & Voght.

He also spoke on 9.3 (Council remuneration), in support of Council having a raise, but over a three year period.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes- July 09, 2019

192/19

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 09, 2019 be adopted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Nil

6. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

Nil

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Notice of Motion - Bill C447

File: 0175

193/19

THAT Council send a letter of support to Dan Albas MP expressing support for bill C447 (<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-447/first-reading>)

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.2 Notice of Motion - Intersection of Grimmet Avenue and Voght Street

File: 5640

194/19

THAT Council direct staff to bring forward a report regarding options to create a traffic signal at the intersection of Grimmet and Voght Street

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.3 Notice of Motion - Support for Provincial Libraries

0135

195/19

THAT Council send a letter of support to the Province, urging increased provincial support to libraries

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.4 Notice of Motion - Council Committee Policy

File: 0595

Mr. Smith asked for further clarification, that the amended policy would come to Council for review. Mayor Brown confirmed that was what was sought.

196/19

THAT Council direct staff to amend the City of Merritt Committee Policy, which states that committee appointments expire on September 30th in the year of a general local election

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.5 My Buddies (1176091B.C. Ltd.) – Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence (3320 River Ranch Road)

File: 0190

Public input was explained, as was the staff recommendation to continue to the Province.

Council discussed lighting and traffic.

197/19

THAT Council recommend to the Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) that a Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence be issued to My Buddies (1176091 B.C. Ltd.) to operate at 3320 River Ranch Road, with operating hours from 9:00am to 11:00pm seven (7) days a week;

AND THAT Council direct staff to submit the recommendation, including any required supporting material, to the LCRB

Against (2): Kurt Christopherson, and Adam Etchart

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.6 Opal Cannabis Corp. – Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence (1999 Voght Street)

File: 0190

Public input was explained.

Council discussed opening hours.

198/19

THAT Council recommend to the Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) that a Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence be issued to Opal Cannabis Corp. to operate at 1999 Voght Street, with operating hours from 10:00am to 8:00pm – Monday through Saturday and 11:00am to 7:00pm on Sundays;

AND THAT Council direct staff to submit the recommendation, including any required supporting material, to the LCRB

Against (3): Kurt Christopherson, Adam Etchart, and Melvina White

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

7.7 Committee of the Whole July 09, 2019 Resolution

File: 8410

199/19

THAT the Committee of the Whole request Council to direct Staff to bring forward options amending the Official Community Plan and to consider the adequacy of the 2003 airport plan, in the light of public concerns

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8. BYLAWS

Nil

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Nicola Valley Institute of Technology - Letter of Support

File: 1850

200/19

THAT the City of Merritt support the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology by providing a letter of support for their Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) grant application

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 Visitor Information Centre at the Baillie House

File: 2240.48

Mr George presented the key data from the report.

201/19

THAT Council accept for information the 2019 Second Quarter Report for the Merritt Visitor Centre at the Baillie House

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.3 Council Remuneration

File: 3900.2206

Mr. Hildebrandt presented the report and explained the background of remuneration, including recent changes in tax law, and remuneration in cities and districts comparable to Merritt.

Councillor Fehr suggested the phase in made sense. Proposed to phase it in over three (3) years, defeated 1-6.

Councillor Bhangu suggested the raise be implemented after the next election, which was not seconded.

Council discussed the difficulties of raising their own salaries.

202/19

That Council direct staff to prepare an amendment to City of Merritt Council Remuneration Bylaw No. 2206, 2016, to raise Mayor and Council salaries to the average among comparable communities listed on Schedule "A", being thirty-six thousand five hundred eighty-two (\$36,582) dollars for the Mayor and seventeen thousand three hundred ninety-four (\$17,394) dollars for Council, effective the date of final adoption of the bylaw

Against (1): Mike Bhangu

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Amendment:

To phase in the alteration over the following three years.

Against (6): Linda A. Brown, Mike Bhangu, Kurt Christopherson, Adam Etchart, Tony Luck, and Melvina White

DEFEATED

Amendment:

To institute the pay structure after the next election, implemented over three (3) years.

9.4 Chief Administrative Officer Update

File: 0112

Mr. Hildebrandt provided updates on:

- Traffic safety progress and ideas in Merritt
- Fire safety work at 4010 Walters St
- Ask Wellness
- Flood restoration and mitigation, including bank repair work, bridge repair, and disaster financial assistance program
- Strategic planning
- Capital projects, including GPS tracking hardware, and the new loader

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Councillor Bhangu

Motion for the City to immediately implement traffic calming on Reid Avenue.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

11.1 Councillor Luck

Councillor Luck thanked Mr. Hildebrandt for his report.

Mayor Brown added this was all the senior managers working as a team to move the city forward.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 City of Port Moody

File: 0200

12.2 City of Prince George

File: 0200

12.3 District of Houston

File: 0135

12.4 Town of Gibsons

File: 0135

13. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 8.07pm

Original signed by
Corporate Officer
Sean Smith

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

Confirmed on the 13th day of August, 2019

Original signed by
Mayor
Linda A. Brown