



MINUTES

CITY OF MERRITT

Tuesday, June 25, 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. Smith, Director of Corporate Services
Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT
Mr. G. Lewis, Corporate Services Co-op Student
Mr. J. Dinwoodie, Director of Engineering & Development
Mr. W. George, Tourism & Economic Development Manager
Mr. W. Anderson, Financial Services Manager

MEDIA & PUBLIC: Q101
43 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

2.1 KVR Trail Presentation

175/19

ADD KVR Trail presentation as 5.4

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT

3.1 Ginny Prowal

Ms. Prowal congratulated Council on hiring Mr. Dinwoodie.

She said the item on extending BC Transit to Coldwater reserve does not affect her but would provide a safe way to get back to the reserve.

On item 8.4 cannabis retailers, she asked how many Merritt wanted. She also wanted to see rules on where cannabis could be smoked and rules on consumption of edibles.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Special Council Meeting Minutes - June 11th

176/19

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on June 11, 2019 be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

4.2 Regular Council Meeting Minutes- June 11th

177/19

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 11, 2019 be adopted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

4.3 Recommendation

178/19

THAT Council change the order of the agenda to accommodate those making presentations to Council by hearing the Delegations (item 5) prior to the Public Hearing

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

5.1 Airport Presentation; George Miller

File: 8410

Mr. Miller spoke about Merritt airport, and explained its 2B Classification for General Aviation, and the current status of lots adjacent to the runway. He explained distance requirements for how close a building of any given height could be in relation to the runway. He advised that Merritt airport should be run as a municipal department with a 7-member advisory committee reporting to Council. He believed that Merritt airport was perfectly located for tourism and could be better used than it currently is.

5.2 Opal Cannabis Co. Presentation;

Gabrielle Malette and Gunraj Gill

File: 0190

Ms. Malette and Mr. Gill spoke about their vision for non-medical cannabis in Merritt, with Opal Cannabis Co, including education, and ensuring that only people of legal age could access the store. They explained their hope to open in November, and the timeline to that point.

5.3 Gold Country Communities Society Presentation;

Marcie Down, Executive Director, Gold Country Communities Society

File: 0382

Ms. Down spoke about Gold Country, which provides information about tourism and economic development in the gold country area. She explained upcoming and active projects, including the visitor guide, and 2020 trail map. Merritt local businesses can advertise for free on the Gold Country website. She informed council of the images available on Flickr, and short videos promoting the region on YouTube. She explained statistics on visitors, and the value the free advertising could provide.

5.4 KVR, Lloyd Charney

Mr. Charney presented a video about the historic path followed by the Kettle Valley Rail route. He explained that all residents can benefit from the trail, either from direct use, or the economic benefit of increased tourism. He explained that the local First Nations are cautiously supportive, with questions about maintenance, use of the trail by ATVs, etc. He requested Council to show leadership, and for the City to promote the idea, including bringing together Chiefs and the TNRD.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.1 Public Hearing

Mayor Brown recessed to the public hearing at 8:17 p.m.

Following the Public Hearing, there was a ten-minute recess before the regular meeting resumed.

Mayor Brown reconvened the regular meeting at 9:43 p.m.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nil

8. BYLAWS

8.1 City of Merritt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2256, 2019

File: 3900.2187

Mr. Smith explained this was returning to Council for adoption as it required MOTI approval, which was given.

179/19

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2256, 2019 be adopted

Against (1): Mike Bhangu

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8.2 City of Merritt Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2263,2019

File: 2900.2116

Mr. Smith thanked the public for their input and explained the type of development that would be permitted under the current OCP designation compared to the proposed development.

Councillor Luck requested staff to look at parking permits.

Councillor Etchart also endorsed researching a residents' parking scheme.

Mayor Brown expressed support for parking permits.

180/19

THAT City of Merritt Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2263 be read a third time

Against (1): Mike Bhangu

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8.3 City of Merritt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2264, 2019

File: 3900.2187

181/19

THAT City of Merritt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2264 be read a third time

Against (1): Mike Bhangu

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 BC Transit Expansion Memorandum of Understanding;

Director of Finance & IT June 18, 2019 Report

File: 8500

182/19

THAT Council authorize staff to sign the Expansion Memorandum of Understanding including the proposed expansion of service to Coldwater reserve for the 2021/2022 transit year

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 Statement of Financial Information for 2018;

Director of Finance & IT June 19, 2019 Report

File: 1871

Ms. Thiessen said there was a missing asterisk indicating Cllr Bhangu was newly elected in 2018, which would be corrected in the document supplied to the Province.

183/19

THAT Council approves the City of Merritt Statement of Financial Information for the year ended December 31, 2018 as presented and authorizes the Mayor and the Director of Finance & IT to sign the statement on behalf of the City

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.3 Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Licence - 1999 Voght Street;

Director of Corporate Services June 20, 2019 Report

File: 0190

184/19

THAT Council direct staff to gather residents' views regarding the proposed Cannabis Retail Licence at 1999 Voght Street, by requesting written submissions in response to posting public notice at 1999 Voght Street, issuing notices to residents and business owners within one hundred (100') feet of the property, and by publishing notice in two (2) consecutive editions of the Merritt Herald

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.4 Retail Cannabis - Zoning Bylaw Amendment;

Director of Corporate Services June 20, 2019 Report

File: 0190

185/19

THAT Council direct staff to prepare, for Council discussion and debate, an amendment to the City of Merritt Zoning Bylaw No. 2187, 2015, removing the maximum cap of four (4) retail cannabis dispensaries in the City

Against (1): Mike Bhangu

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Councillor Bhangu

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report on what measures could be taken to reduce the number of unsuitable illegal suites in our community.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

11.1 Councillor Etchart

Councillor Etchart reported that he and Cllr Bhangu had attended the logger sports bootcamp.

11.2 Councillor Fehr

Asked if the City could participate in the logging fair despite not having attended the bootcamp. A City team was discussed.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 2019 UBCM Provincial Appointment Book

File: 0270

12.2 2019 UBCM Meeting Requests with Premier Horgan and Cabinet Ministers

File: 0270

12.3 2019 Community Recognition Awards Call for Nominations

File: 0250

13. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 10:44 p.m.

Original signed by
Corporate Officer
Sean Smith

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

Confirmed on the 09th day of July, 2019

Original signed by
Mayor
Linda Brown