

CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES , SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT COUNCIL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1996 AT 7:00 P.M. MEETING ROOM #1, 2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, B.C.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL:

Mayor - C.Norgaard
Councillors - R.Typusiak, B.Cowan, D.McLean, H.McCormack, D.Laird,
L.Miller

ADMINISTRATION:

Administrator - T.Day
Treasurer - S.Gill
Confidential Secretary - B.Harrison
Development Officer - J.Johnson

THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT:

Vic Endean, Rino Elverhoy, Eric Shishido, Terry Kress,
Pat Lunzmann - Director Area "M", Bruce McMahon - Director Area "N"

MEDIA:

Merritt News, Merritt Herald, NL Radio, Merritt Morning Mirror

Mayor Norgaard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. As this is an informal workshop to discuss issues with the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Administration and Directors there is no formal agenda for the meeting.

1. RECREATION FUNDING

Discussions regarding the \$75,000 contribution from the TNRD areas M and N elicited the comment from Director McMahon that he had no idea how this figure had been arrived at and that it was far too costly for the rural areas without a referendum being held. He felt that with the current recreation funding of \$28,000, an increase of this amount was definitely out of the question without a referendum and that he felt a referendum would fail, leaving the City with no recreational contribution from the rural areas. The City Administrator informed the Directors that the \$75,000 had been the contribution suggested by Director McMahon at the May 07, 1996 meeting and referred to in a letter of the May 08, 1996 to which the City had been awaiting a response. The TNRD Directors and Administrators suggested a figure between \$33,000 to \$50,000 based on population to be reviewed annually. After a Council caucus, the City

SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

1. RECREATION FUNDING - Cont'd.

proposed a \$50,000 agreement for 1997, to go to referendum in the Spring of 1997 for the remainder. The TNRD representatives would not accept the City's proposal, with Director McMahon suggesting a \$50,000 contribution or referendum but not both. Councillor Typusiak suggested that the figure should be based on a set criteria, to suggest \$50,000 is a totally arbitrary figure and it would be too difficult to negotiate without the figure being based on real costs and representation. He proposed a \$50,000 contribution, to go to referendum for the increase based on population and cost, on a five year agreement. Vic Endean, TNRD stated that historically recreation referendums fail and that all the user fees the city wished to collect would never approach the TNRD proposal of \$50,000. Mayor Norgaard suggested that it was misleading to compare the proposals on a percentage basis, that the increase for a \$75,000 contribution would be \$9.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value. The TNRD recessed to caucus for 5 minutes at 7:40 p.m. Following their return, the TNRD Administrator, Eric Shishido proposed a contribution of \$57,685 which is the maximum M and N contribution allowed without going to referendum. This is based on a 1996 assessment of \$53M with the 1997 assessment to be known in April. Council caucused for five minutes at 7:50 to consider their position. Mayor Norgaard stated that the City would agree to the maximum contribution based on assessed value, negotiated for three years (1997, 1998, 1999) to be reviewed at May 31, 1999 which would allow time for November, 1999 referendum planning if necessary. The TNRD Directors agreed to the City of Merritt proposal.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Discussion ensued regarding the use of consultants to study economic development within the region. Mayor Norgaard wanted assurances that the City/TNRD relationship would improve and that the City would get more input into studies and would get the opportunity to review drafts before they went to print. Vic Endean from the TNRD stated that the hiring of consultants was a board decision, not an administrative one. Mayor Norgaard stated that if consultants don't bother to consult with the communities they are researching, their results will be flawed through lack of information. She stated that if the TNRD received enquiries that could include Merritt, our Development Officer should be contacted to provide the City promotional package rather than the TNRD sending generic information about the region. Rino Elverhoy, the TNRD Economic Development Officer said that he would direct any specific enquiries to Merritt, however regional enquiries get generic information. Councillor McLean enquired as to the poor quality of work by the consultants that had been recently hired by the TNRD and the value had been received for the money spent. Mr. Elverhoy defended the process of hiring the consultants however he did say that the Economic Profile consultant had nearly been fired and that the Growth Strategy consultant had almost been dismissed, however with some additional input, they had accepted their results. Councillor Typusiak commented that in the six years that he had been on

SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Cont'd.

Council, he had known Mr. Elverhoy to be extremely busy and that he felt that economic development in individual areas benefited the region as a whole. It was therefore very important to retain a co-operative philosophy amongst the individual communities and the regional economic development officer. Mr. Elverhoy stated that he would always co-operate with individual municipalities however, he would not interfere or appear without invitation.

3. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Councillor Typusiak questioned the TNRD representatives as to whether or not they were prepared to proceed with regional recycling initiatives, he noted that a recent advertisement for recycling proposals had been in local newspapers, however no supporting information had been forthcoming. Terry Kress outlined the Request for Proposals that was advertised in August as encompassing six regional recycling depots, located in Merritt, Chase, Clearwater, Barriere, Logan Lake, Ashcroft, and Cache Creek. The TNRD had received four proposals which had been reviewed and the proponents interviewed. The recommendations of staff were going to the Executive Committee at their Regular Meeting on October 10th, therefore he could not divulge any details of the proposals. The TNRD Administrator offered that the recycling issue would be a political decision as to whether the TNRD was prepared to enter into recycling and at what cost. Mr. Kress asked if Merritt would be prepared to offer a depot site at no cost if the proposals were acceptable and that the funding formula would probably be based on assessment. Mayor Norgaard stated that Council would keep an open mind regarding recycling however, they could not commit themselves until they had the opportunity to view the proposals. Councillor Typusiak had attended a recycling conference in the spring and offered that the TNRD should consider moving from straight assessment to adding tipping fees as an incentive to reduction through user pay. Mr. Kress advised that the Brookmere landfill site is now closed and the transfer station will open next Monday. There is the possibility that the Coldwater and Upper Nicola Bands will be closing their landfills and using the regional landfill in Lower Nicola. Usage figures for the Lower Nicola Landfill will be available in the end of October.

4. LIBRARY

Council discussed the need for a commitment regarding a library site in the Civic Centre Master Plan. The TNRD was shown the plan for the development of the site last spring and at that time passed a motion to negotiate a site. Council requested more information as to what stage the TNRD was at considering their new building in Kamloops was just starting construction. Eric Shishido said that there would not be any negotiations until the Kamloops building was finished and then they would look at the Merritt site.

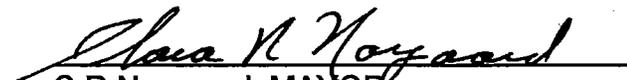
SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

5. FIRE PROTECTION FOR AREAS M AND N.

Director McMahon brought the issue of fire protection forward as he disclosed discussions had been initiated with the Lower Nicola Indian Band regarding fire protection for Lower Nicola. If Area N was taken out of the mutual aid agreement, was the City prepared to continue protection for Area M? Mr. Shishido stated that expansion of a fire protection area is much simpler than removing areas as MIA would have to be consulted and approve of such a move. Mayor Norgaard advised the TNRD to decide exactly what they were requesting and to present a proposal to the City as we required a formal renegotiated agreement for Area M if they wished to exclude Area N from the protection area.

The meeting was terminated at 8:45 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


C.R. Norgaard, MAYOR


T.C. Day, ACTING CLERK