

# CITY OF MERRITT

## **MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT COUNCIL, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1996 AT 7:00 PM, CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, B.C.**

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### 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  
Planner - F.Sinclair  
Fire Chief - R.Finley  
Recreation Manager - D.Brandt  
Aquatic Centre Manager - J.Norburn  
Confidential Secretary - B.Harrison

#### MEDIA:

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

Mayor Norgaard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

934/96 Moved by Councillor Cowan, seconded by Councillor McCormack that Council ADOPT the Agenda, Special Council Meeting, Oct.29/96 CARRIED

### 1. AWARD OF TRUCK BYPASS CONTRACT

The contract for the Truck Bypass was prepared by Lidstone, Young with input from Jonathan Huggett. The bypass is contractually scheduled to be completed by the end of October, 1997.

935/96 Moved by Councillor Typusiak, seconded by Councillor Laird that Council AUTHORIZE the Mayor and Acting Clerk to execute the Truck Bypass Contract with Walter and SCI and further to AUTHORIZE the Administrator or his designate to be the City's liaison with Walter and SCI. CARRIED

## **MINUTES, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 29, 1996**

### **2. BUDGET**

#### **REVENUES:**

There was an unexpected increase of \$285,245 in school tax revenue over budget which is remitted to the province and does not affect the City budget process as the City is strictly the collector of school taxes for the province. The City received an increase of \$4,516 which was due to changes in assessments. The Seniors' Housing provided an unexpected grant in lieu of \$11,900. The administrative revenue from the northeast sector project increased \$24,000 as a result of debt placement costs being significantly lower than anticipated. The Claybanks RV Park revenue was \$1,000 lower than anticipated and the rental revenue on the Baillie house was \$2,700 lower than anticipated as the renters moved out.

Councillor Laird felt that the house should continue to be rented in the short term to prevent vandalism pending Council's decision on the use of the property.

Garbage revenue was \$2,000 higher than budgeted and cemetery fees were \$4,000 more than anticipated, both a function of increased use.

Revenue from the rentals of the Civic Centre were \$7,500 lower than budgeted, due partly to an increase in co-sponsored events and a decrease in use of the multi-purpose room over 1995.

Aquatic Centre revenue was \$3,050 more than originally budgeted.

Facility fees were \$2,500 lower than planned due to lower field use and less recreational programming.

Licenses, Permits, Fees and Fine revenue was \$2,800 lower than anticipated due largely to the anticipated permits from the Railyard project and Coquihalla Resources not having proceeded.

Interest on Investments is \$10,000 more than budget due to delay in expenditures.

Grant revenue was increased \$15,800 which was a result of the \$10,000 smallwood application grant, an increase of \$1,000 in RCMP charges for criminal record searches which is collected for the City, and \$2,100 for the volunteer centre study by the Healthy Communities Group. The smallwood application and the volunteer centre study will be offset by corresponding expenses.

The total revenue surplus over budget is \$362,031.

## MINUTES, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 29, 1996

### 2. BUDGET

#### EXPENDITURES:

Council expenditures were down by \$2,400 due largely to a decrease of \$4,000 in dues and subscriptions and \$1,000 in advertising. The Healthy Communities project was increased by \$2,100 which was offset by a corresponding grant in the revenue side and there was a \$500 expense for special events which had not been planned.

Administration expenses were \$6,000 lower for the contract Clerk, \$1,500 higher for advertising and \$2,500 lower for Boundary Restructure expenses. The Forestry Study was a \$10,000 unplanned expense which was also identified as a corresponding unplanned grant revenue. The school road marking budget of \$5,000 was not used as once the marking was studied, the need was found to not be as great as anticipated, therefore the necessary marking costs were part of the public works budget. The total administrative expense was \$2,000 lower than budget.

Police protection's RCMP Contract expense was \$2,500 higher than budgeted.

Bylaw Services expenses were \$3,300 lower than budget due mainly to the MTI ticketing printing costs which are pending the implementation of the MTI Bylaw.

Fire protection's costs increased by \$17,500 which was a direct result of increased calls, including calls outside the city for which the city is not reimbursed.

Building Inspection's expenses were \$2,100 lower than budget.

Development services expenses were \$6,000 less than anticipated due to better processing, not having as many outside referrals of developments and more applications.

Engineering costs were \$2,000 lower than budget.

Public Works expenses were \$24,000 less than anticipated due in large part to planned road maintenance in Collettsville not taking place while the road construction was taking place. Sign maintenance labour costs were down \$2,000 as a result of using sign cut offs instead of replacing the entire post and sign.

The Public Works Garage costs were reduced by \$2,000 which was a result of the expected donation of used oil storage bins.

Garbage maintenance cost were \$20,000 less than budget.

Cemetery costs were \$4,000 more than budget due to an increase in use.

## MINUTES, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 29, 1996

### 2. BUDGET EXPENDITURES - Cont'd.

Recreation administration cost were up by \$6,500 due to the janitorial, electrical and gas costs for the new City Hall building.

Civic Centre expenses were reduced by \$2,000 due to the relocation of the City Hall offices.

Aquatic Centre expenditures increased \$10,375 due to increases in maintenance costs.

The Arena costs were down \$7,800 due to closure being longer than anticipated.

Facility Maintenance was up by \$3,700, partly accounted for by \$1,700 for the Baillie House and Youth Centre electrical improvements which cost \$1,000 more than budget.

Fiscal services expenses were reduced by \$4,300.

As presented earlier in the budget for taxes levied by others, the increased school tax revenue is offset by an increase of the corresponding expense which is remitted to the provincial government in the amount of \$285,245.

The total of expenditures is \$264,440 more than budget.

**The Amended 1996 budget has a surplus of revenue over expenditures of \$97,691.00**

Budget alternatives were discussed by Council with a list of proposed project funding. A summary of the Arena Contingency Funding was presented along with recommendations from the Administrator that Council:

- fund the arena over runs (\$25,000)
- pave the arena east parking lot (\$35,000)
- refurbish the civic centre into useable space - 3 meeting rooms, handicapped doors, paint the former City Hall space and possibly soundproof those rooms(\$25,000)
- Signage for the whole civic complex - mainly from Voght Street (\$10,000)

Councillor Cowan broached the subject of the City Pound and the possibility of any funding to upgrade or renovate the existing facility (estimate of \$20,000). She feels that Council should make a commitment to this project.

Councillor Typusiak felt that the skateboard park plan should be a priority of Council. The incentive for the kids to fundraise and garner support from the community will be lost if Council does not demonstrate a commitment to the park.

**MINUTES, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 29, 1996**

**2. BUDGET - Cont'd.**

The Recreation Manager reminded Council that the Ball Association has been delayed on their proposals for ball field improvements at Central Park until a Park Master Plan has been completed. She felt that this would be a conflicting message if Council approved the skate board park plan without the master plan being completed.

Councillor Typusiak felt that the existing recreational facilities are geared toward adults telling kids what they will use, Merritt has not allowed the kids input into what they would like to see.

936/96 Moved by Councillor Typusiak, seconded by Councillor Cowan that Council APPROVE the Amended 1996 Budget as presented and ALLOCATE \$97,500 of the 1996 Budget to the following projects:

- \$35,000 east arena parking lot
- \$25,000 arena retrofit overruns.
- \$ 3,500 skate board park plans
- \$ 9,000 civic complex signage
- \$25,000 civic centre retrofit

CARRIED


Councillors Miller and Cowan felt that the skate board park plan should not be site specific until after the completion of the park master plan.


Councillors Typusiak and McCormack felt that if the kids agree to the corner of Voght Park being the preferred site that Council should not waste it's money on a generic plan and support that site. Councillor Miller felt that the site should be generic.

The Recreation Manager wished to clarify Council's wishes if the kids decided that Central Park would be the preferred site rather than Voght Park. It was the wish of Council that if Central Park was indicated that the plan must wait until after the Master Plan is completed.

937/96 Moved by Councillor Typusiak, seconded by Councillor Laird that Council TERMINATE this meeting at 8:45 pm. CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

  
C.R. Norgaard, MAYOR

  
T.C. Day, ACTING CLERK