

CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT  
COUNCIL, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2000, AT 7:00 P.M., CITY HALL COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS, 2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, B.C.

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1. **PRESENT:**

COUNCIL: Mayor R.H. Baird  
Councillors, L. Barr, G. Cavaliere, H. Kroeker,  
E. Reimer, R. Sherwood, R. Gage

STAFF: J. Barry, Acting Administrator  
H. Osachoff, Treasurer  
D. McTaggart, Engineer  
D. Brandt, Recreation Manager  
J. Johnson, City Planner  
J. Norburn, Recreation Facilities Manager  
B. Kelsey, Fire Chief  
C. Bacon, Confidential Secretary

MEDIA: Shaw Cable  
Radio NL

PUBLIC: 22 people.

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

A. Agenda, Regular Council Meeting, February 8, 2000.

65/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council adopt the Agenda as amended by  
adding to Section 13. ADJOURNMENT TO IN-CAMERA; Item C. Land Issue.  
CARRIED

4. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

A. Minutes, Regular Council Meeting, January 25, 2000.

66/00 Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Council adopt the Minutes, Regular  
Council Meeting, January 25, 2000 as amended by adding Councillor Reimer to  
those recorded as opposed to Motion 44/00. CARRIED

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Nil.

6. **PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS:**

A. Merritt Senior Secondary Art Department delegation.

Shannon Dunn and Linda Suzuki of the Merritt Senior Secondary Art Department made a presentation to Council of a bronze relief art piece presented to the City for display on behalf of the M.S.S. students.

B. Peter W. Vlahos, Project Manager, Nicola Native Lodge Society; letter dated February 3, 2000.

Peter Vlahos, Project Manager, Nicola Native Lodge Society made a presentation to Council regarding rezoning of the property on the Coyote Bluffs site and also requested that the rezoning application fee be waived.

C. Morgan Ashbridge, Merritt 1<sup>st</sup> Night Celebration; Recreation Manager's January 28, 2000 Memorandum.

Morgan Ashbridge, Project Coordinator for the Merritt 1<sup>st</sup> Night Celebrations presented Council with an overview of the 1<sup>st</sup> Night Celebrations, a financial report and a request for the balance of \$570.57 to be forwarded to the BC 2000 Homecoming Event.

7. **BYLAWS:** Nil.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Merritt Senior Secondary Art Department delegation.

67/00 Moved by Councillor Gage THAT Council send a letter to the Art Department care of Shannon Dunn and Linda Suzuki congratulating the students for their work and thanking them for their donation to the City. CARRIED

B. Peter W. Vlahos, Project Manager, Nicola Native Lodge Society; letter dated February 3, 2000.

68/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council direct staff to undertake to investigate and research what is required to enable the request of the Nicola Native Lodge Society to proceed upon application by the Society. CARRIED

- C. Morgan Ashbridge, Merritt 1<sup>st</sup> Night Celebration; Recreation Manager's January 28, 2000 Memorandum.
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69/00 Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT Council approve the request from the Millennium Events Committee to forward the \$570.57 remaining in the 1999 New Years Eve Party budget to the BC 2000 Homecoming Event, July 1, 2000.

CARRIED

9. **REPORTS:**

A. **Mayor's Reports:**

Mayor Baird spoke briefly about the Visioning Exercise attended by Council and members of Staff on February 1, 2000. He advised that he met with the Western Canadian Liberal Caucus as well as the Mayors of Logan Lake and Kamloops. Discussion included future projects for Merritt, including revitalization of the RAP Program; dyking project; dredging of Nicola Lake Narrows project and their commitment to keep Council advised of Federal funding for infrastructure rehabilitation projects. He accompanied the Chair of the Economic Development Committee and City Planner to a meeting in Vancouver regarding Sutlej Motor Company's possible relocation to our area. He also advised that Council will be attending the UBCM sponsored Seminars in Local Government Decision Making for Newly Elected Officials in Penticton February 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.

B. **Liaison and Commission/Committee Reports:**

Councillor Sherwood advised that the Public Works Crew finished the Quonset building; work is continuing on sewer hookups; sign maintenance; water maintenance of leaks at Colletville pumphouse; hydrants maintenance; storm sewer maintenance downtown; continuation of snow removal; construction of a new road at the cemetery; painting at the shop and the repair and painting of barricades.

Councillor Reimer – Nil.

Councillor Gage gave a brief report regarding the directors meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Dinner will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> and tickets for the dinner will be available at the Chamber of Commerce.

Councillor Barr reported on the Access Awareness Committee Meeting of February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Discussion took place regarding who can qualify for handicapped parking decals and they viewed a video on safe scooter operation. Councillor Barr advised that Chairman Mike Touchie contacted managers of the Railyard Mall regarding above ground signage for handicapped parking stalls. There was discussion on the progress of the snow removal program operated in partnership with the Rotary Club of Merritt; discussion of Access Awareness Week Activities;

the ramp between the Senior's Centre Museum area and the Railyard Mall was identified as a consistent concern to the membership, specifically the grade of the ramp, lack of railings and maintenance of ramp.

- 70/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council recommend rebuilding the ramp that is presently in place between the Senior's Centre and the Railyard Mall to grade with hand railings and ensure that it is adequately maintained; AND THAT this recommendation be referred to budget discussions in March. CARRIED

Councillor Barr advised that the next meeting of the Access Awareness Committee is April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Councillor Cavaliere advised that he attended the Sign Bylaw Meeting and they reviewed the current bylaw. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. He also referred to a memo from the Recreation Manager designating July 1<sup>st</sup> as Homecoming Day. The Recreation Commission is to select a famous person to return to Merritt for the celebrations and that an ad will be placed in newspaper.

Councillor Kroeker advised he attended the Tourism Advisory Committee meeting. He spoke about the formation of the Nicola Valley Tourism Association comprised of City of Merritt, Chamber of Commerce, Lower Nicola Indian Band and Community Futures.

- 71/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT City Council approve in principle the establishment of the Nicola Valley Tourism Association. CARRIED

Councillor Kroeker received an invitation from Forest Renewal BC to attend meetings on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Vancouver to introduce the Forest Community Economic Development Program for 2000 – 2001 fiscal year.

- 72/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT there be representation at the Forest Renewal BC meeting by two members from the Economic Development Committee who are authorized to attend. CARRIED

Councillor Kroeker also attended a meeting with representatives from Suttlej Motor Company, Minister of Transportation and Highways Harry Lali, members of the Employment and Investment Ministry of BC, the Mayor and City Planner. Information from representatives of Suttlej Motor Company indicated a commitment to establish in Canada and confirmed that Merritt was short-listed as a possible site.

Councillor Kroeker asked Councillor Barr to comment on the meeting with the Interior Science Council.

Councillor Barr advised that following a meeting of the local high tech industry members hosted by the Interior Science Council in Merritt, the following major needs were identified: directory of service providers and high tech industry; and inventory of telecommunication infrastructure and a plan to fill in the gaps.

73/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council commit \$2000 to the Interior Science Council's project, with the funds to come from the Economic Development Committee budget once finalized after March budget discussion. CARRIED

Councillor Barr also met with Member of Parliament, Jim Hart, Councillor Reimer and a gentleman from the Economic Development Committee from Peachland.

**C. Administration Reports:**

**1) Requires Council Action:**

- i) Development Variance Permit 1999-07 – Rotary Park Bandshell; City Planner's February 1, 2000 Memorandum.

74/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Development Variance Permit Application DVP1999-07 be approved by resolution. CARRIED

- ii) Arena Fees and Charges; Recreation Facilities Manager's January 18, 2000 Memorandum.

75/00 Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT the fees and charges for the Nicola Valley Memorial Arena not be increased for the 2000/2001 ice season, and that the fees be reviewed again in the winter of 2001. CARRIED

- iii) Disposal of Two – ½ Ton Pick Up Trucks; Engineer's February 2, 2000 Memorandum.

76/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council award the sale of Unit #32 in amount of \$50.00 and Unit #44 in amount of \$50.00 to the Merritt Secondary School Drag Racing Club. CARRIED

- iv) Municipal Solid Waste Recycling – Annual Report; Engineer’s February 2, 2000 Memorandum.

77/00 Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT this item be received for information only. CARRIED

78/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report regarding monthly cost of the recycling program; AND THAT Staff arrange a meeting with Council and the local Thompson-Nicola Regional District representatives to discuss recycling. CARRIED

2) **Receive for Information:**

- i) 1999 Admission Statistics for the Nicola Valley Aquatic Centre; Recreation Facilities Manager’s February 1, 2000 Memorandum.

Received as information only.

- ii) Year-End (Quarterly) Policing Report, Merritt Municipal Detachment – 1999; S/Sgt. J. Senft January 26, 2000 Memorandum.

79/00 Moved by Councillor Gage THAT this item be received for information only. CARRIED

80/00 Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Staff arrange for a meeting with S/Sgt. J. Senft and Council to discuss policing issues. CARRIED

- iii) Reports: Building Permits by Classification for the Month Ending January 2000; City of Merritt Building Permits for January 2000.

Received as information only.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A. **Potential Responses:**

- i) BC – Southern Interior Wood Processing Centre; Mayor Joanne Kineshanko, Lumby, B.C., January 27, 2000 Memorandum.

81/00 Moved by Councillor Reimer THAT the Council support the initiative of the Lumby Value-Added Sector in pursuing establishment of a Wood Processing Centre. CARRIED

- ii) Merritt Lions Club; Letter February 1, 2000.

82/00

Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council send a letter of Support to the Merritt Lions Club supporting their project to turn the old Coquihalla rail bed between Merritt and Hope into a hiking and biking trail.

CARRIED

**B. Receive for Information: Nil.**

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. February 21 – 27<sup>th</sup> Heritage Week.

Mayor Baird proclaimed the week of February 21 – 27<sup>th</sup> as Heritage Week.

**12. MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD:**

Al Clarke from Radio NL had questions regarding the land tax implications of rezoning of the Nicola Native Lodge Society property; an explanation of the visioning exercise attended by Council and Staff and Council's direction on policing issues within the community.

**13. ADJOURNMENT TO IN-CAMERA:**

- 1. Adjournment to In-Camera Motion; February 8, 2000.

83/00

Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council deems it necessary to close this meeting to the public in order to deal with the following items In-Camera:

- A) Minutes, In-Camera Portion of the Regular Council Meeting, January 25, 2000.
- B) Employee Negotiations; 4 items.
- C) Land Issue.

AND THAT this meeting be adjourned for five minutes to resume in the Boardroom of City Hall.

CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:50 P.M.

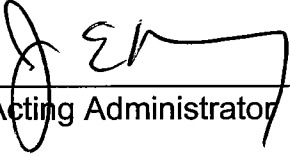
MEETING RESUMED IN-CAMERA: 9:07 P.M.

14. TERMINATION OF MEETING:

MEETING TERMINATED 10:44 P.M.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

  
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Robert H. Baird, MAYOR

  
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J.E. Barry, Acting Administrator