

CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT
COUNCIL, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2000, AT 7:00 P.M., CITY HALL COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, 2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, B.C.

1. **PRESENT:**

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

STAFF: J.E. Barry, Acting Administrator
D. Brandt, Recreation Manager
R. Kojima, Development Officer
D. McTaggart, City Engineer
C. Bacon, Administrative Assistant

MEDIA: Merritt News
NL Radio
NV Voice
Shaw Cable
Merritt Herald

PUBLIC: 26 members of the public.

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Baird called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

A. Agenda, Regular Council Meeting, September 12, 2000.

474/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT the Agenda, Regular Council Meeting, September 12, 2000 be adopted with the addition of two items under Section 10. Correspondence A. iii) State-of-the-Fraser Basin Basin Conference and iv) letter from Circle Productions; AND one item under Section 11. New Business
i) First Night Celebrations. CARRIED

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

A. Minutes, Regular Council Meeting, August 22, 2000.

Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT the Minutes, Regular Council Meeting August 22, 2000 be adopted.

475/00 Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT the motion on the floor be withdrawn by Council. CARRIED

476/00 Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT the Minutes, Regular Council Meeting, August 22, 2000 be adopted as amended by rescinding Motion 452/00 and by adding "Merritt Branch" to Motion 447/00 in reference to the Bank of Montreal. CARRIED

B. Minutes, Special Council Meeting, August 29, 2000.

477/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT the Minutes, Special Council Meeting, August 29, 2000 be adopted. CARRIED

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A) Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw 1772, 2000-Weyerhaeuser.

B) Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1773, 2000 – Weyerhaeuser.

Mayor Baird called the Public Hearing to order and read the statement concerning public hearings.

The City Development Officer gave a brief overview of Bylaw No. 1772, 2000 and Bylaw No. 1773, 2000.

Mayor Baird called three times for anyone wishing to speak for or against the bylaws and hearing no one declared the Public Hearing closed.

6. PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS:

A) Community Pride Acknowledgement Awards presentation.

The City of Merritt Economic Development Committee and Merritt and District Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee joined to present the first Community Pride Acknowledgement Awards. The following businesses and individuals were recognized for their work in expanding Community Pride in Merritt.

Industrial Category	Tolko Industries Ltd.
Commercial Category	Railyard Mall
Institutional Category	Rotary Club/Rotary Club Bandshell
Residential Category	Gail and Jeff Bloom (Collettsville)
Residential Category	Mrs. Hanson (Bench area)
Residential Category	Ms. Popoff (East of Blair Street)
Residential Category	1901 Maxwell Avenue Housing Complex (West of Blair Street)

B) Presentation to Merritt Fire Rescue; Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Kelly Livingstone of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce was in attendance to present a corporate donation of \$5,000 to the Merritt Fire and Rescue Department for the purchase of air bags to be used in rescue operations. Gord Keyser, Safety Officer, was present to accept the donation on behalf of the Merritt Fire Rescue Department.

C) Gord Stewart, Nicola Watershed Stewardship Coordinator presentation regarding Watershed Stewardship Forum on September 23rd.

Gord Stewart, Nicola Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, explained the activities of the stewardship program and his position as a resource to the City in providing information on stewardship and environmental health. He also advised that he would be available to assist in preparing funding applications on behalf of the City.

D) Urban Systems "Vision 2000 – 2003" presentation.

Gordon Petersen of Urban Systems provided an overview of the process Council followed to establish their Vision 2000 – 2003 for the City of Merritt. He presented Council with two framed copies of the vision statement and provided each Councillor with an individual copy. Mr. Peterson also urged Council to carry the vision forward by reviewing the Official Community Plan, as he felt that it did not accurately reflect the vision of the present Council.

7. **BYLAWS:**

- A) Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1772, 2000 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1773, 2000 – Weyerhaeuser.

1) Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1772, 2000.

478/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council give THIRD READING to City of Merritt Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1772, 2000. CARRIED

2) Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1773, 2000.

479/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council give THIRD READING to City of Merritt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1773, 2000. CARRIED

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A) Community Pride Acknowledgement Awards presentation.
B) Presentation to Merritt Fire Rescue; Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.
C) Gord Stewart, Nicola Watershed Stewardship Coordinator presentation regarding Watershed Stewardship Forum on September 23rd.

There was no further discussion on the three petitions/delegations listed above.

D) Urban Systems "Vision 2000 – 2003" presentation.

480/00 Moved by Councillor Reimer THAT Council direct staff to send a letter to Urban Systems thanking them for their involvement with Council in establishing the Vision 2000-2003; AND THAT staff also send a letter to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce thanking them for their \$5,000 donation to the Merritt Fire Rescue Department. CARRIED

9. **REPORTS:**

A. **Mayor's Reports:**

Mayor Baird proclaimed September 21, 2000 as the 3rd Annual SUBWAY DAY FOR CHILD and also proclaimed September 15th to 30th as Arthritis Campaign Week in Merritt. He advised that he attended the presentation by Yale-Lillooet MLA Harry Lali, of a \$7,750 grant under the Community Spirit Program of British Columbia 2000, to the Merritt Lawn Bowling Association for expansion of their facilities.

The Mayor expressed his congratulations to BC Youth Ambassadors Kristina Klein, Tiffany Rose and Shanna Fraser on their success at the First BC Youth Ambassador competition held in Merritt in September. He also thanked Urban Systems for their involvement in creating the Vision 2000-2003 for the City of Merritt. He advised that copies of the vision statement would be available to the public for their reference.

B. Liaison and Commission/Committee Reports:

Councillor Barr advised that the next Access Awareness Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at City Hall. Councillor Barr challenged Council to become involved in the Community Pride Initiative by suggesting Council consider funding for Christmas decorations in the downtown core.

Councillor Cavaliere advised that the Sign Bylaw Meeting was a success and that the next Sign Bylaw Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. He also commented on the success of the Labour Day Parade; completion of the outdoor rink on the Bench; the Aquatic Centre pool closure for annual maintenance; and the Recreation Program Brochures now available.

Councillor Kroeker thanked the Mayor for his involvement in organizing the City float in the Labour Day Parade; advised that the Community Futures Conference will start on Sunday, September 17th; commented on Nicola Valley Tourism Association grant of \$50,000 from the province's Community Enterprise program; noted that the Coquihalla four-laning to start in the near future with sod turning ceremonies on Thursday at 2 p.m.

481/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT a letter be sent to the Honourable Harry Lali, Minister of Transportation and Highways thanking him for his work in bringing the Coquihalla four-laning project to fruition. CARRIED

482/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council direct staff to begin work with Urban Systems to complete a draft proposal to review the Official Community Plan; AND THAT staff bring this proposal back to Council for review. CARRIED

Councillor Gage commented on two Protective Services issues to be discussed at UBCM Conference; policing costs and replacement of RCMP members who leave, as well as cost sharing for fire rescue service on the Coquihalla Highway. He advised that the Chamber of Commerce Business after Business meeting will be held Wednesday from 5 – 7 p.m. at three locations on Voght Street; Freedom Hair Designs, Latitude 22 and D & A Computers. He attended the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council Annual General Meeting and Barbecue at the Ballie House.

Councillor Reimer advised that four applications have been received for the Adopt-A-Road Program and applications for the remaining four roads are available at City Hall.

Councillor Sherwood provided an update on Public Works capital projects and other Public works activities. He discussed the ninety-day trial period for traffic control changes at various locations within the City.

483/00 Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Council endorse the proposed changes to traffic signage for a ninety day trial period at the following locations:

- Quilchena and Voght (removal of no left turn signage)
 - 7-Eleven (removal of no left turn signage on Voght Street)
 - Installation of four-way stop at Quilchena and Charters
 - Installation of Emergency Vehicle parking signage at the Nicola Valley Memorial Arena
- CARRIED

Councillor Sherwood advised that the Flying Club meeting will be held this Wednesday; he also commented on the Community Youth Council Meeting he attended at the hospital.

484/00 Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Council direct staff to send a letter of support to the Phoenix Centre in Kamloops to urge the extension of the Adolescent Outreach Worker Contract and to Nicola Valley Health Care to urge extension of the Psychiatric Social Worker position, which terminates at the end of September.

CARRIED

Councillor Sherwood also spoke briefly concerning funding of the new program for youth called "Night's Alive", which is coordinated by the Outreach Program and promotes night activities for youth.

C. Administration Reports:

1) Requires Council Action:

- i) Municipal Insurance Association of BC – Annual General Meeting; Treasurer's August 29, 2000 Memorandum.
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485/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council appoint Mayor Baird as voting delegate and Councillor Kroeker and Councillor Reimer as alternates to vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia.

CARRIED

- ii) Development Permit 1997-G – Superstar Properties/Oberto Oberti; Development Officer's September 1, 2000 Memorandum.
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The Development Officer gave a brief overview of the development permit application.

486/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT City of Merritt Development Permit Application 1997 – G be approved subject to the applicant providing security required for landscaping at the time the building permit is issued. CARRIED

- iii) Development Permit 2000-F – Gage; Development Officer's September 1, 2000 Memorandum.
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Pursuant to Section 231 of the Local Government Act, Councillor Gage declared he was unable to participate in discussing or voting on this issue since the owner of the property is a family member. Councillor Gage immediately left the Council Chambers at 8:55 p.m.

The Development Officer gave a brief overview of the development permit application.

487/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT City of Merritt Development Permit Application 2000-F be approved; AND THAT City staff investigate the possibility of a three party agreement between the applicant, the owner of the Barton Insurance site and the City of Merritt, to complete sidewalk and curbing along the east side of Chapman from Quilchena Ave. to Coutlee Ave.; and that this proposal be brought back to Council; AND FURTHER THAT if an agreement cannot be reached, the applicant install sidewalk and curbing as required. CARRIED

Councillor Gage returned to the meeting at 9:15 p.m. on completion of discussion and voting of the above topic.

- iv) Development Variance Permit 2000-03 – Fraser Hope Foundation; Development Officer's September 1, 2000 Memorandum.
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The Development Officer gave a brief overview of the development variance permit.

488/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Development Variance Permit application DVP2000-03 be approved by resolution. CARRIED

- v) Proposed Policy for Highway Sign Inserts; Development Officer's September 1, 2000 Memorandum.
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489/00

Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT Council adopt the following policy, as proposed by the Economic Development Committee, for the City's three highway welcome signs.

"local organizations could have inserts advertising local events upon approval of the committee, using the approved sign maker, paying all costs of the inserts and upon payment of a \$50 fee to the City to cover installation costs." CARRIED

- vi) Purchase of Air Cylinders; Interim Fire Chief's September 5th Memorandum.
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490/00

Moved by Councillor Gage THAT Council authorize the Merritt Fire Rescue Department to purchase 16 Air Cylinders from Acklands Grainger for a total of \$14,466.40 (including tax). CARRIED

- vii) Merritt Senior Citizens Association; Treasurer's September 7, 2000 Memorandum.
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491/00

Moved by Councillor Barr THAT the Merritt Senior Citizens Association be encouraged to make a formal request and presentation to City Council regarding their proposal to expand the existing building. CARRIED

2) Receive for Information:

- i) Quarterly Policing Report – Apr/May/June 2000 Merritt Municipal Detachment.
- ii) Bylaw Services Activity Report – August 2000.
- iii) August Building Permit Activity Report; Manager of Building Safety and Inspection Services; September 5, 2000 Memorandum.

Above three items received for information only.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A. **Potential Responses:**

- i) District of West Vancouver; letter dated August 21, 2000.

492/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Council direct staff to send a letter supporting the District of West Vancouver's resolution for the repeal the exception contained in Section 14 (2) of the Interpretation Act to the Honourable Harry Lali, Minister of Transportation and Highways and the Honourable Cathy McGregor, Minister of Municipal Affairs with a copy to the District of West Vancouver. CARRIED

- ii) Non-Profit Housing Association, Membership Information; Letter dated August 2000.

493/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT the above correspondence be received as information only. CARRIED

- iii) State of the Fraser Basin Conference 2000; September 7, 2000 Memorandum from Fraser Basin Council.

494/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT the above correspondence be received as information only. CARRIED

- iv) Circle Productions letter dated September 5, 2000.

495/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Council authorize the use of Claybanks RV Park parking lot, on or about September 29th to October 2nd, 2000 to film a Levis Jeans commercial, subject to proof of liability insurance and payment of appropriate fees; AND FURTHER THAT the producers take out advertising in the local media notifying the community of the event and erect signage adjacent to the park the day of filming.

CARRIED

B. **Receive for Information:**

- i) Letter from Residents' Council of the Coquihalla/Gillis House.

Council directed staff to forward a copy of the letter of thanks from the residents' Council of Coquihalla/Gillis House to the Public Works Foreman for his information and for the information of the public works crew.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A) **First Night Celebrations.**

Council discussed hosting the First Night Celebrations on December 31st, 2000. Councillor Gage advised he would assist as Committee Head in organizing the celebrations.

B) **Downtown retail street lighting.**

496/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council authorize \$5,000 from the 2000 Council contingency to purchase Christmas lighting for Quilchena Avenue in time for the Santa Claus Parade; AND THAT the Economic Development Committee determine what is required. CARRIED

497/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker AT 10:00 p.m. THAT Council extend the Regular Council Meeting a further one-half hour. CARRIED

12. **MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD:**

The Media had questions of Council regarding the City of Merritt 2000-2003 visioning exercise; the start date for the ninety day trial period for changing of signs; the Adopt-A-Road project; and the development project for the corner of Quilchena and Chapman.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Adjournment to In-Camera Motion.

498/00 Moved by Councillor Gage 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, August 22, 2000.
- B) Minutes, In-Camera Portion of the Special Council Meeting, August 29, 2000.
- C) Employee Negotiations: (5) items.

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

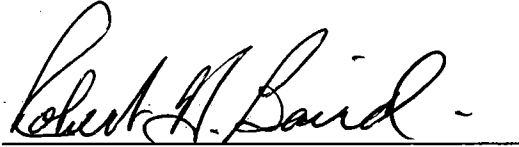
MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:05 P.M.

MEETING RESUMED IN-CAMERA: 10:34 P.M.
(In-Camera portion of Minutes kept separately).

14. TERMINATION OF MEETING:

MEETING TERMINATED: 11:53 P.M.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Robert H. Baird, Mayor



J.E. Barry, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR