

CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT
COUNCIL, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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, R. Sherwood

ABSENT: Councillor Reimer

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

MEDIA: NL Radio
Nicola Valley Voice
Shaw Cable

PUBLIC: 20 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 26, 2000.

510/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT the Agenda, Regular Council Meeting, September 26, 2000 be adopted with the addition of item 6 C. Petitions and Delegations; Merritt Senior Citizen's Association and one item under C. Administrative Reports; iii) Storm Sewer Upgrade – Irvine Avenue. CARRIED

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

- A. Minutes, Regular Council Meeting, September 12, 2000.

511/00 Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT the Minutes, Regular Council Meeting, September 12, 2000 be adopted. CARRIED

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: Nil.

6. PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS:

- A) International Student Exchange Program, students from Taiki, Japan; Earl Hockin, Assistant Superintendent, School District No. 58; letter dated June 27, 2000.
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Mayor Baird welcomed four students and their teacher, from Taiki, Japan, to the City of Merritt and presented them with a memento of the City.

- B) Jennifer Cody, Chairperson, Merritt Food Forum; letter dated September 19, 2000.
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Jennifer Cody, Chairperson of the Merritt Food Forum made a presentation to Council outlining the role of the Merritt Food Forum in our community and requesting that Council consider implementing a Food and Nutrition Policy for the City of Merritt.

- C) Merritt Senior Citizen's Association; letter dated September 22, 2000.
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Frank Stanich, President of the Merritt Senior Citizen's Association made a presentation to Council requesting that Council support their application to the Ministry of Community Development Cooperative and Volunteers for a Community Solution Grant to assist in building an addition to the Senior Citizens Hall.

7. BYLAWS: Nil.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A) International Student Exchange Program, students from Taiki, Japan; Earl Hockin, Assistant Superintendent, School District No. 58; letter dated June 27, 2000.
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No further discussion of the above topic.

- B) Jennifer Cody, Chairperson, Merritt Food Forum; letter dated September 19, 2000.
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512/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council support in principle the drafting of a Food and Nutrition Policy; AND THAT Council appoint one member from Council to be part of the work force to establish that policy. CARRIED

513/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Councillor Barr be appointed as the Council liaison representative to the Nicola Food Forum. CARRIED

C) Merritt Senior Citizen's Association

514/00 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council authorize staff to send a letter to the Merritt Senior Citizen's Association supporting their application for building addition funds to the Ministry of Community Development Cooperatives and Volunteers for a Community Solution Grant; AND THAT the City will partner in securing the balance of funds required, for successful completion of the project. CARRIED

9. REPORTS:

A. Mayor's Reports:

Mayor Baird commented briefly on the Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association Executive Meeting held in Merritt on September 20, 2000; he advised that NVIT/UCC project was now underway; attended with Councillor Kroeker and Councillor Reimer the opening ceremony by Minister of Highways Harry Lali of the Highway 97C Coquihalla Connector four-laning project; attended the presentation by Yale-Lillooet MLA Harry Lali of new annual funding for Merritt Doctors.

Mayor Baird proclaimed October 5th World Teachers' Day in British Columbia and the Month of October as Autism Awareness Month.

515/00 Moved by Councillor Barr THAT staff be directed to send a letter to the local British Columbia Teachers' Federation to communicate our appreciation to the teachers in our public schools for the role they play in assuring the well-being of society. CARRIED

Mayor Baird also discussed the upcoming UBCM Convention; he suggested that Council meet to discuss the upcoming convention and the UBCM resolutions that will be presented there.

B. Liaison and Commission/Committee Reports:

Councillor Barr reported on behalf of Councillor Reimer that the Annual Property Tax sale was completed on September 25, 2000; next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 3rd; City accounting system has been upgraded; and in mid-October a budget comparison report will be presented for review of Council.

Councillor Barr attended the Community Health Advisory Council Meeting September 13th; attended the Access Awareness Meeting September 14th. The Access Awareness Committee identified snow removal for those who cannot do their own, as a priority project.

Moved by Councillor Bar THAT WHEREAS THE Access Awareness Committee supports the City of Merritt Bylaw requiring snow to be removed from sidewalks and WHEREAS the Committee is aware that there are people within our City who cannot, through physical disability, comply with the Bylaw and do not have an able-bodied person who can undertake this responsibility on their behalf; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council allow the Access Awareness Committee to use up to \$2,000 of the \$5,000 budgeted for Access Awareness projects, to enter into a fee for service agreement to provide snow removal for those citizens who apply and register, have a valid handicapped parking decal, and have no able-bodied person to undertake this responsibility for them, such agreement to be administered by the Access Awareness Committee in consultation with the Treasurer as to the mechanics of payout.

516/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT the motion be amended to include THAT an applicant needs to only meet two of the three identified criteria in the motion.
CARRIED

VOTING RESUMED ON THE MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED.

517/00

Moved by Councillor Bar THAT WHEREAS THE Access Awareness Committee supports the City of Merritt Bylaw requiring snow to be removed from sidewalks and WHEREAS the Committee is aware that there are people within our City who cannot, through physical disability, comply with the Bylaw and do not have an able-bodied person who can undertake this responsibility on their behalf; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council allow the Access Awareness Committee to use up to \$2,000 of the \$5,000 budgeted for Access Awareness projects, to enter into a fee for service agreement to provide snow removal for those citizens who apply and register, have a valid handicapped parking decal, and have no able-bodied person to undertake this responsibility for them, such agreement to be administered by the Access Awareness Committee in consultation with the Treasurer as to the mechanics of payout AND THAT an applicant needs to only meet two of the three identified criteria. CARRIED

Councillor Barr also gave a brief overview of the topics and discussions that took place at the Watershed Stewardship Forum she attended on behalf of Council on September 23, 2000.

Councillor Cavaliere advised that the Sign Bylaw Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers; Nicola Valley Aquatic Centre is now open.

Councillor Kroeker advised that the Community Futures 13th Annual Conference was an overwhelming success; the next Nicola Valley Tourism Association Meeting is scheduled for October 3rd; Economic Development Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning. Councillor Kroeker commented briefly on the purchase price of Christmas lighting for the three blocks of Quilchena Ave.

518/00

Moved by Councillor Kroeker that the Economic Development Committee spend the \$5000 authorized for Christmas Decorations in the community on the three blocks of Quilchena Avenue and also in other areas of the community.

CARRIED

Councillor Kroeker also advised that the letter received by the Economic Development Committee regarding the City Float in the Santa Claus Parade was discussed and the Committee is willing to undertake this project. Councillor Kroeker advised that he will go on a field trip with the Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forestry Practices Society. He also commented briefly on the meeting hosted by UBCM that he attended in Vancouver, regarding Policing Costs. Recommendations will be going forward to UBCM from this meeting, the main recommendation is that a negotiation committee be set up to deal with the province on the issues identified.

Councillor Sherwood provided an update on Public Works capital projects and other Public works activities. He advised that he attended the Flying Club Meeting the previous week and that the Fly-In Breakfast was attended by approximately 40 – 50 aircraft. He advised that the Youth Centre received a \$30,000 gaming grant and that he attended a steering committee meeting discussing late night activities for youth. He also advised that the Teachers' Union contributed towards funding for Merritt Youth to attend the Youth Action Crime Symposium in Vancouver.

Councillor Gage advised that he attended the Nicola Valley and District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting on September 21st and that the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held on Wednesday October 25 at 5:30 p.m.

C. Administration Reports:

1) Requires Council Action:

- i) Claybanks R.V. Park Contract Agreement; Recreation Manager's September 19, 2000 Memorandum.
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519/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Council approve the extension of the contract agreement for the operation of Claybanks R.V. Park for a further two year term with Sherri and Auggi Ripplinger, expiring December 31, 2002 and that the agreement be prepared for signing by the Mayor and City Clerk AND FURTHER THAT Council approve the increase in full hook-up site fees from \$18.00 to \$20.00 per site, GST inclusive land that the Contractor portion of the fees collected increase from \$7.75 to \$8.75 per site on full service sites. CARRIED

- ii) Christmas Office Closure; Acting Administrator's September 21, 2000 Memorandum.
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520/00

Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT Council authorize closure of City Hall on Wednesday, December 27, Thursday December 28, and Friday December 29; AND THAT the Aquatic Centre schedule as proposed be adopted. CARRIED

- iii) Storm Sewer Upgrade – Irvine Avenue; Engineer's September 25, 2000 Memorandum.
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521/00

Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council awards the Storm Sewer Upgrade on Irvine Avenue to Lower Nicola Backhoe Inc. in the amount of \$25,645.50 plus GST. CARRIED

2) Receive for Information: Nil.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

A. Potential Responses:

- i) Canadian Pacific Railway; Acquisition of CPR land for park; letter dated July 31, 2000.
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522/00

Moved By Councillor Barr THAT the letter from the Canadian Pacific Railway be received as information only at this time. CARRIED

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- ii) UBCM Late Resolution – Gaming – Profit Sharing; City of Enderby, Letter dated September 13, 2000.
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523/00

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT the letter from the City of Enderby be received as information only. CARRIED

- iii) Town of Port McNeill; letter dated August 22, 2000.

524/00

Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT THE Economic Development Committee respond by letter to the companies identified in the letter from the Town of Port McNeill and voice our concerns that their actions have on our economic development. CARRIED

- iv) Application to TELUS for Funding for the New Merritt Library; letter from the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council dated September 20, 2000.
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525/00

Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council direct staff to send a letter to the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council supporting their application to TELUS for funding for the new Merritt Library. CARRIED

- v) Letter dated September 2000 from R.D. Edginton, 1904 Sage Place and Bylaw Services Officer Memorandum dated September 21, 2000.
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Above correspondence received as information only.

- vi) Municipal Leaders' Statement on Climate Change; Federation of Canadian Municipalities September 14, 2000 letter.
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526/00

Moved by Councillor Barr THAT Council endorse the resolution by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities regarding the Municipal Leaders' Statement of Climate Change. CARRIED

B. Receive for Information:

- i) Marianne Auch (Kampa); Thank You note.
ii) New Dangerous Dog Legislation; Attorney General's letter dated August 25, 2000.
iii) The Virdi Family; Thank You Note.
iv) Stockwell Day; letter dated July 29, 2000.

Above four items received as information only.

11. NEW BUSINESS: Nil.

12. MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD:

The Media had questions for Council regarding the Thompson Regional Health Board and the Policing Conference.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

A) Adjournment to In-Camera Motion.

527/00 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, September 12, 2000.
- B) Litigation affecting the City; (1) Item.
- C) Potential litigation affecting the City; (1) Item.
- D) Employee Negotiations: (1) Item.
- E) Acquisition of Improvements; (1) Item.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:10 P.M.

MEETING RESUMED IN-CAMERA: 9:30 P.M.

14. TERMINATION OF MEETING:

MEETING TERMINATED: 11:25 P.M.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


Robert H. Baird, MAYOR


J.E. Barry, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR