

CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES FOR THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT
COUNCIL, MONDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2002 AT 5:30 P.M., CITY HALL COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, 2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, B.C.

1. **PRESENT:**

COUNCIL: Mayor Baird
Councillors L. Barr, R. Gage, H. Kroeker, R. Sherwood
Councillor E. Reimer (arrived at 5:47 p.m.)

ABSENT: Councillor G. Cavaliere

STAFF: J. Bridarolli, Administrator
H. Osachoff, Financial Services Manager
L. Sanders, Deputy Treasurer
P. Strain, Operations Manager (arrived at 5:55 p.m.)
C. Fraser, Corporate Administrative Assistant

MEDIA & PUBLIC: Nil

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Baird called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

A. Agenda, Committee of the Whole Meeting, February 25, 2002.

Moved by Councillor Barr THAT the Agenda, Committee of the Whole Meeting, February 25, 2002 be adopted. CARRIED

4. **REPORTS:**

A. Accounts Receivable Review; Financial Services Manager's February 20, 2002 Memorandum.

The Financial Services Manager and Deputy Treasurer gave an overview of the outstanding accounts receivable. These accounts are of significant amounts and are from years as far back as 1995. The outstanding accounts were discussed on an individual basis with the Finance Department providing background information where available for the accounts.

Councillor Reimer entered the Council Chambers at 5:47 p.m.

The Committee agreed by consensus that the procedures for collecting accounts receivable need to be reviewed by the Financial Services Department and that documentation from the Financial Services Department be presented to Council on a quarterly basis with documented action taken on the outstanding accounts named in the Accounts Receivable Review.

Councillor Barr left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council THAT Council allow staff to write off \$11,941.64 of the Accounts Receivable accounts identified in the Financial Services Manager's February 20, 2002 memorandum and correct a billing error of \$2,383.00 of the Accounts Receivable accounts; AND THAT staff bring forward a status report on the remaining Accounts Receivable accounts identified in the Financial Services Manager's February 20, 2002 Memorandum in 2 months.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

THAT Council allow staff to write off \$11,941.64 of the Accounts Receivable accounts identified in the Financial Services Manager's February 20, 2002 Memorandum and correct a billing error of \$2,383.00 of the Accounts Receivable accounts; AND THAT staff bring forward a status report on the remaining Accounts Receivable accounts identified in the Financial Services Manager's February 20, 2002 Memorandum in 2 months.

B. 2002 to 2006 Financial Plan for Discussion; Financial Services Manager's February 22, 2002 Agenda

The Financial Services Manager gave an update of the most recent changes to the budget and requested the Committee reach a consensus on capital projects and property taxation.

The Committee agreed by consensus to designate a budget of \$4,000.00 for the Recreation Commission.

The Committee agreed by consensus at 8:03 p.m. to take a short recess.

Mayor Baird called the meeting back to order at 8:11 p.m.

The Committee discussed policing issues for the City of Merritt.

The Committee gave direction to the Financial Services Manager by consensus to delete the addition of one RCMP member for the year 2002.

The Financial Services Manager discussed the increase in the amount available for Capital Projects as well as options available to Council such as short-term borrowing and long-term borrowing.

The North East Beautification Program was discussed and Councillor Reimer presented a drawing for signage at an estimated cost of \$10,000.00 with landscaping done by City employees.

Councillor Barr returned to the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

The Committee directed that Public Works bring forth a list of Capital Works Projects totalling \$200,000 to \$300,000 for short term borrowing consideration.

Taxation rates were discussed and the Financial Services Manager reviewed the impact of 4%, 3% and 2% tax rate increases.

The Committee agreed by consensus to a minimum increase of 4% taxation rate.

The Committee had Airport Development and Economic Development discussions.

Moved by Councillor Kroeker at 10:01 p.m. THAT the meeting be extended for 30 minutes.

CARRIED

The Committee discussed the portion of the budget pertaining to the City partnerships with Nicola Valley Tourism Association, Merritt and District Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Committee.

Moved by Councillor Barr THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council THAT Council supports in principle the partnerships as proposed in the 2002 Budget between the City of Merritt and the Nicola Valley Tourism Association and the City of Merritt and the Community Futures Development Corporation.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

THAT Council supports in principle the partnerships as proposed in the 2002 Budget between the City of Merritt and the Nicola Valley Tourism Association and the City of Merritt and the Community Futures Development Corporation.

The Committee discussed the Order of British Columbia 2002 Call for Nominations.

Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council recommends and nominates Berta Fraser for the Order of British Columbia. CARRIED

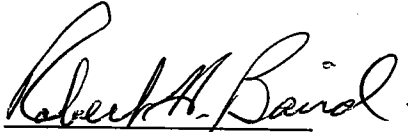
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

THAT Council recommends and nominates Berta Fraser for the Order of British Columbia.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee of the Whole agreed by consensus at 10:25 p.m. that the meeting be terminated.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


R.H. Baird, MAYOR


C. Fraser, CORPORATE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT