

CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES FOR THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT
COUNCIL, TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2002 AT 7:00 P.M., CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, B.C.

1. **PRESENT:**

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

ABSENT: Councillor L. Barr

STAFF: J. Bridarolli, Administrator
J.E. Barry, Corporate Services Manager
H. Osachoff, Financial Services Manager
P. Strain, Operations Manager
D. Lang, Leisure Services Manager
R. Nicolas, Manager of Building Safety & Inspection Services
R. Godard, Fire Chief

MEDIA: Merritt News

PUBLIC: 6 members of the public.

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Baird called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

A. Agenda, Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 19, 2002.

Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT the Agenda, Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 19, 2002 be adopted. CARRIED

4. **REPORTS:**

A. Public Consultation Process to review the City of Merritt Five-Year Financial Plan for the years 2002-2006.

The Financial Services Manager provided an overview of the City of Merritt Five-Year Financial Plan for the years 2002-2006. The Corporate Services Manager, Fire Chief, Manager of Building Safety & Inspection Services, Operations Manager and Leisure Services Manager each provided a summary of their respective departments.

**MINUTES, CITY OF MERRITT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING,
MARCH 19, 2002**

The public provided the following input:

Jean Howes asked:

- for an explanation of the increase in Legislative expenditures from 2001 Actual to 2002 budget;
- why the budgeted Municipal Emergency Program expenditure is nearly double the 2001 Actual;
- about the ownership of the Tourist Information Centre;
- for an explanation of the \$25,000 increase to the Civic Centre expenditure;
- what it cost to manage the Civic Centre with the former City Management person;
- whether the City was going to start contracting out services;
- about transfers to the City's own funds and reserves;
- for an explanation on cost recovery on City facilities;
- about the \$30,000 increase in BC Gas Franchise Agreement revenues;
- why the significant difference in supply and distribution under water utility expenses; and,
- if Council felt that the City was financially sound.

Pat Lamb asked:

- about the Community Futures Lease account expenditures;
- about the Council Contingency account and remarked that the Legislative expenditure should have only gone up by 10% from 2001 Actual to 2002 budget;
- why the \$20,000 increase to the budgeted Economic Development & Research expenditure from 2001 Actual;
- what the cost of the Civic Centre Management contract is;
- why the long-term debt isn't decreasing each year;
- for an explanation of the \$81,000 figure in 2000 Actual under Development Cost Charges;
- whether Merritt Avenue and Airport road are covered by the DCC background report;
- if \$1,200 for a fax machine at the Aquatic Centre was too high;
- whether the lower census figure for Merritt's population will have an effect on the Liquid Waste Management Plan; and,
- where deposits and payments from Latecomer Agreements could be found in the budget.

Tim Faubert questioned whether the completion of Merritt Avenue is included in the budget.

Mayor Baird thanked the public for attending the meeting and providing input. Mayor Baird advised that Councillor Barr had not been able to attend since she was representing Council at an Anti-Racism panel forum.

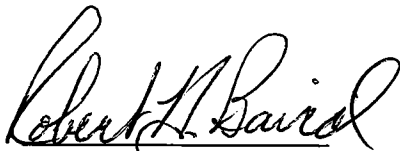
**MINUTES, CITY OF MERRITT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING,
MARCH 19, 2002**

The media had no questions.

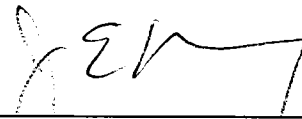
5. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Councillor Cavaliere at 9:56 p.m. THAT the meeting be terminated.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



R.H. Baird, MAYOR



J.E. Barry, CORPORATE
SERVICES MANAGER