

CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT
COUNCIL, TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2002, AT 7:00 P.M., CITY HALL COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, 2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, B.C.

1. **PRESENT:**

COUNCIL: Mayor D. Laird
Councillors G. Cavaliere, R. Gage, S. Guertin
H. Kroeker, E. Reimer, R. Sherwood

STAFF: J. Bridarolli, Administrator
J.E. Barry, Corporate Services Manager
A. Clark, S/Sgt Merritt RCMP
C. Fraser, Corporate Administrative Assistant
H. Osachoff, Financial Services Manager
P. Strain, Operations Manager

MEDIA: Shaw Cable
Radio NL

PUBLIC: 2

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Laird called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

A. Agenda, Regular Council Meeting, December 10, 2002.

601/02 Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT the Agenda, Regular Council Meeting, December 10, 2002 be adopted with the addition of further information for Item 9. C.1. iv). Letter dated December 04, 2002 from Solicitor General Rich Coleman. CARRIED

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

A. Minutes, Regular Council Meeting, November 26, 2002.

602/02 Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT the Minutes, Regular Council Meeting, November 26, 2002 be adopted. CARRIED

B. Minutes, Inaugural Council Meeting, December 02, 2002.

603/02 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT the Minutes, Inaugural Council Meeting, December 02, 2002 be adopted. CARRIED

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5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Nil
6. **PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS:** Nil
7. **BYLAWS:** Nil
8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nil
9. **REPORTS:**

A. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Laird reported on the numerous meetings he has attended since the Inaugural Meeting. These include a meeting with Active Mountain Resort and MLA Dave Chutter to discuss Active Mountain Resort's development plans as the original casino license is no longer available as of November 15, 2002; a meeting with Aspen Planers which resulted in a meeting being arranged with the Economic Committee and Aspen Planers for December 20, 2002; and a meeting with Dave Chutter, MLA regarding Circuit Court in Merritt and the purchase of the Court House which has resulted in a Special Council Meeting with Mr. Chutter being scheduled for December 16, 2002.

Mayor Laird attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District where John Ranta was elected as the new Chairperson for the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. Mayor Laird advised Council that the issue regarding the Thompson-Nicola Regional District maintaining the Forestry Recreational Sites will be discussed on December 12, 2002 and requested Council's direction.

- 604/02 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council support in principle the Thompson-Nicola Regional District maintaining the Forestry Recreation Sites subject to verification of costs set at \$2.00 per \$100,000 of assessment value. CARRIED

Mayor Laird also reported on his attendance at the Official Opening of the Lower Nicola Indian Band School and advised that Nicola Valley Tourism Association has been refocused and reenergized. He suggested that Councillor Cavaliere be appointed as the liaison.

- 605/02 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Councillor Cavaliere be appointed as liaison to the Nicola Valley Tourism Association.

B. Liaison and Commission/Committee Reports:

Councillor Sherwood reported he met with the Financial Services Manager; advised that 21 applications for Grants-In-Aid have been received for budget deliberations; the first budget meeting will be held in

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December; and reported he had also met with S/Sgt Al Clark, RCMP Merritt Detachment.

Councillor Reimer reported the City entry in the Santa parade received third place status for Lighting; thanked EC Gross for use of their shop to decorate the float; Merritt Senior Secondary Jazz Band for performing on the float; and Council and staff for assistance in decorating the float.

Councillor Reimer also mentioned that the Adopt-A-Road program has wrapped up for 2002 with all designated roads adopted and cleaned.

Councillor Gage reported on the many activities of the Merritt and District Chamber including the Board of Directors Meeting November 28, 2002 the very successful Santa Parade November 29, 2002, Leaders Luncheon December 11, 2002 with Mayor and Council, Board of Directors Meeting December 12, 2002, Leaders Luncheon January 15, 2003 with West Coast Rally Association, and the Annual General Meeting January 23, 2003.

Councillor Gage reported he met with the City of Merritt Operations Manager and visited sites to be addressed during budget deliberations.

Councillor Cavaliere reported the Access Awareness Committee meeting has been rescheduled for December 19, 2002; the Winter Leisure Guide will be available December 13, 2002; and commented on the First Night Celebrations December 31, 2002.

Councillor Cavaliere reported the Recreation Commission has extended the deadline for submissions for slogan and logo designs for the Recreation Commission to January 03, 2003; the Recreation Commission held a meeting specifically for revamping the bylaw governing the Recreation Commission and have requested a meeting with Council and the Recreation Commission to discuss the changes; and advised the Spring Sport Recreation Cultural Fair will be March 01, 2003 hosted by the Recreation Commission.

Councillor Cavaliere further reported the Youth park Committee held a Public Meeting December 09, 2002 with van der Zalm & Associates present to unveil the concept drawings of the new Youth Park; the next meeting of the Youth Park Committee is December 16, 2002; advised that the Youth Park Committee has not yet begun door to door fundraising; advised that although the Nicola Valley Aquatic Centre remains closed, the Fitness room is open on a limited basis; and advised the anticipated completion date of repairs is January 10, 2003 with the grand re-opening scheduled for January 13, 2003.

Councillor Guertin reported on the activities of the Fire Department and advised he met with the Leisure Services Manager to discuss the repairs

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to the Nicola Valley Aquatic Centre and has another meeting scheduled with the Leisure Services Manager next week.

Councillor Kroeker reported the Community Futures Development Centre meeting and tours scheduled for December 18, 2002 has been re-scheduled for January 17, 2003 and reported on the status of the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association "Yellowhead It" program.

606/02 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council direct staff to write a letter to the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association lending our support to their funding request to the British Columbia government for the "Yellowhead It" Tourism Partnership Program; AND THAT this letter be copied to the Minister responsible for tourism in B.C., Minister of Transportation, MLA Dave Chutter, and all MLA's along the Yellowhead Highway.
CARRIED

C. Administration Reports:

1) **Requires Council Action:**

i) Nicola Valley Aquatic Centre – Hot Water Heater; Leisure Services manager's December 03, 2002 Memorandum.

607/02 Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT Council directs an emergency expenditure of \$641.06 for the regulator on the domestic hot water heater at the Nicola Valley Aquatic Centre be taken from Council Contingency; AND THAT Council direct the preparation of an amendment of the financial plan to include the emergency expenditure and the funding source.
CARRIED

ii) Request for Lane Closure as Trade for Subdivision Road Dedication; Approving Officer's December 04, 2002 Memorandum.

608/02 Moved by Councillor Gage THAT Council support in principle exchanging a 2.5 metre portion of the lane adjacent to the properties described in the Operation Manager's December 04, 2002 Memorandum in return for the road dedication.

OPPOSED: Councillor Sherwood CARRIED

iii) Merritt Search and Rescue Storage; Approving Officer's December 04, 2002 Memorandum.

609/02 Moved by Councillor Gage THAT Council supports Merritt Search and Rescue in their request to use a portion of the airport basement to store supplies and equipment.

CARRIED

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- iv) Destination Resort Casino; Administrator's December 03, 2002 Memorandum.
- 610/02 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council recognizes the significant economic impact and employment opportunities a casino would have on the development of a destination resort; AND THAT the City of Merritt would support a development application of a project like this within their municipal boundary. CARRIED
- v) Reader Board Sign – City Hall; Councillor Harry Kroeker, Economic Development Committee Chairperson November 29, 2002 Memorandum.
- 611/02 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT Council approves a small deposit towards the purchase of a reader board sign for installation on City Hall at a price not to exceed \$11,000; AND THAT Council is advised to consider implementing policy for use of the reader board. OPPOSED: Councillors Guertin, Cavaliere, Sherwood CARRIED
- 612/02 Moved by Councillor Kroeker THAT the deposit for the reader board sign be in the amount of \$100.00. OPPOSED: Councillors Guertin, Cavaliere, Sherwood CARRIED
- vi) Canada – BC Infrastructure Grant Applications
- a) Groundwater Production Well Project; Administrator's December 03, 2002 Memorandum.
- 613/02 Moved by Councillor Sherwood THAT Council endorses the City's application for funding under the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program for the Groundwater Production Well Project. CARRIED
- b) Active Mountain Water Reservoir Project; Administrator's December 03, 2002 Memorandum.
- 614/02 Moved by Councillor Cavaliere THAT Council endorses the City's application for funding under the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program for the Active Mountain Water Reservoir Project. CARRIED

- vii) Merritt RCMP Budget Proposal Business Case – Year 2003; A.H. Clark, S/Sgt. Detachment Commander, Merritt RCMP December 02, 2002 memorandum.

S/Sgt A. Clark highlighted items in the budget proposal presented to Council and clarified any concerns.

- 615/02 Moved by Councillor Cavaliere that Council approve in principle the addition of one more Municipal RCMP member for 2003 and refer this addition to budget deliberations.
CARRIED

- 616/02 Moved by Councillor Gage that Council direct staff to send a letter to E Division advising of Council’s decision for police staffing for budget deliberations.
CARRIED

2) **Receive for Information:**

- i) 2002 General Local Election Results; Corporate Services Manager’s December 02, 2002 Memorandum.

Received as information only.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A. **Potential Responses:**

- i) Bench Park Path Improvements; Giselle Strodl letter dated November 17, 2002.

- 617/02 Moved by Councillor Gage THAT the matter of Bench Park Path Improvements be referred to budget discussions. CARRIED

B. **Receive for Information:**

- i) Charges Announced by RCMP; John Richey, Regional Director, BC Southern Interior Region, Red Cross letter dated November 22, 2002.
- ii) Letter of Congratulations; Michael Burton-Brown MAIBC, President, Architectural Institute of British Columbia and Dorothy D> Barkley, Executive Director, Architectural Institute of British Columbia letter dated November 22, 2002.
- iii) Energy Plan; Nancy MacLeod, APR Community Relations Manager, Thompson/Okanagan/Upper Columbia Region BC Hydro letter dated November 25, 2002.

The above three items were received as information only.

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11. NEW BUSINESS:

Councillor Gage discussed revising Council's Vision with new goals and objectives discussed in a retreat situation to be brought forward to Council.

Mayor Laird advised he has already been in discussion with the Administrator to proceed with such a retreat early in the New Year.

12. MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD: Nil

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Adjournment to In-Camera:

618/02 Moved by Councillor Sherwood 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, November 26, 2002; and,

B) Employee Negotiations; (2 items)

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9:03 P.M.

(In-Camera Portion of Minutes kept separately)

14. TERMINATION OF MEETING:

MEETING TERMINATED AT: 10:45 P.M.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


David Laird, MAYOR


C. Fraser, CORPORATE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT