



CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

CITY HALL
2185 Voght Street
Merritt, B.C.

Tuesday, March 15, 2005
At 6:30 pm

Mission Statement: The purpose of the City of Merritt is to maintain a modern, attractive, economically viable City, with the appropriate services, infrastructure and supporting human resources.

Council

Mayor David Laird

Councillor Bob Baird

Councillor Richie Gage

Councillor Sheldon Guertin

Councillor Harry Kroeker

Councillor Elmer Reimer

Councillor Ron Sherwood

Country Music Capital of Canada

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CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005
AT 6:30 PM

1. PRESENT

Mayor David Laird
Councillor B. Baird
Councillor R. Gage
Councillor H. Kroeker
Councillor R. Sherwood

ABSENT

Councillor S. Guertin
Councillor E. Reimer

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. J. Freund, Leisure Services Manager
Mr. T. Reynolds, Financial Services Manager
Ms. R. Tolerton, Corporate Services Manager

Merritt Herald
Merritt News
Radio NL

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

3. REPORTS

GRANTS-IN-AID

- 3.1 Grants-in-Aid re: Arts Council & Valley Visual Artists - Bev Veale and Jean Kiegler
Nicola Valley Community Arts Council Memorandum dated February 22, 2005
File: 1851
Moved, seconded and CARRIED

THAT a \$3,000.00 grant-in-aid be given to the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council, of which \$1,500.00 will be directed to the Valley Visual Artists.

Ms Veale reported on the activities of the Arts Council stating they were taking on new premises in the Old Courthouse, pending some renovations (\$2200 lighting, \$360 carpeting and painting). The Opening Show for the Arts Council and the Valley Visual Artists is slated for the Courthouse on April 29 - May 1.

Valley Visual Artists have new premises in the basement of the Merritt News for a 6 month trial period.

Ms. Veale stressed the need to support Arts and culture in the community.

CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

- 3.2 Merritt & District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Members of the Merritt and District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Mr. Saug Sekhon, Mr. Peter Moyes, Mr. Ron Sanders, Mr. Sean Nickel, Ms. Parveen Sandur and Ms. Robyn Greblianus.

Topics discussed:

Mr. Sekhon stated that the Chamber wished to meet with Council periodically (every quarter) to keep the lines of communication open.

Mr. Freund reviewed the history and implementation of the new rates at the Civic Centre.

Ms. Greblianus spoke about the cuts to the Chamber's budget submission and that the Chamber would have to reformat their work plan.

Discussion ensued about the effectiveness of the Tourism and Economic Development Committee and the budgeting process. It was agreed that the Chamber would continue to submit budgets to the TED Committee which would be undergoing a restructuring to make it more effective.

Mr. Sekhon advised that the 2% hotel tax was in place but that the Association would likely wait for some of the funds to accumulate before determining a spending plan.

Ms. Greblianus outlined some of the Chamber's work plan which involved looking for funding for staff, fundraising for research and marketing plans, getting the new board oriented, and working towards a comprehensive tourism plan.

Mr. Moyes invited Council to attend the Awards Gala, and to attend the monthly Business After Business get-togethers.

Councillor Gage advised of tourism funding available from the Province through TOTA. Ms. Greblianus advised that neither UBCM nor TOTA had yet determined the process for dispersing the tourism dollars.

Councillor Gage reported on Minister Falcon's recent announcements about highway signage which would help promote tourism in the area.

**ADMINISTRATION
ACTIVITY REPORTS**

- 3.3 Administration Activity Reports: Managers responded to Council's questions with respect to the monthly activity reports.

4. TERMINATION OF MEETING


The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9:20 p.m.

Certified correct in accordance with Section 124(2) (c) of the
Community Charter.



Corporate Services Manager

Confirmed on the 12th Day of April, 2005.



Mayor