



CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBER

TUESDAY, JULY 06, 2011

AT 6:00 PM

1. PRESENT:

Mayor Susan Roline
Councillor D. Baker
Councillor M. Goetz
Councillor H. Kroeker
Councillor A. Murdoch
Councillor S. Sanders

REGRETS

Councillor N. Clarke

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Noble, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Fraser, Deputy Clerk
Mr. D. Finnigan, Public Works Superintendent
Ms. D. Lovin, Collector/Deputy Financial Services Manager

Merritt Herald

6 Members of the Public

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roline called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

3. REPORTS

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING CONTAINERS

3.1 Chamber of Commerce with Downtown Merchants to Discuss with Council the Solid Waste and Recycling Containers in the Downtown Core

File: 5360

Informal discussion regarding garbage bins and pick up schedules in the downtown core was held with representatives of the Merritt & District Chamber of Commerce who was representing the downtown businesses.

Mayor Roline provided the action item from the City Centre Plan addressing this issue within the City Centre Plan.

The following issues, concerns and possible solutions were discussed:

- Businesses do not want bins
- Letter from Council indicates this meeting is to not only address the issue of bins but also the fees
- Letters have been written to Council requesting a meeting with Council - was refused and advised this matter would be going through the Chamber of Commerce
- Businesses have been requesting changes for over 2 years
- Other cities have been canvassed with 8 out 10 having adopted user pay schedules
- Penticton for example sells garbage bags and recycle bags to businesses
- Animal nuisance concerns
- Kamloops & Kelowna allow businesses to contract out to other independent haulers
- Charge a pay per use system so businesses can survive in the downtown core
- The idea of reducing the number of bins in the downtown core was suggested a couple of years ago but businesses did not have a desire to proceed
- Prorated garbage rates would be difficult to administer
- Businesses willing to work with City to set fee
- Need to make changes now rather than waiting for the new recycle/garbage truck
- Health and safety issues and concerns arise with just the use of plastic bags - bags need to be in canister like residential refuse

- Restructuring of the current bylaw and rates within the bylaw
- Most of the garbage on Quilchena is placed by outside sources
- Reduce number of bins, frequency of pick-ups
- Reduction of number of bins reduces the number of crimes
- Have business owners complete a form for the amount of usage they will have
- Appetite for businesses to take garbage home for disposal
- Central location of garbage bins – put a couple of dumpsters at the recycle depot
- Garbage dumpster be in an enclosed locked area
- Rarely one solution pleases everyone – how many businesses would support
- With some options labour becomes less efficient and reduces productivity level
- Chamber of Commerce representatives will champion this project and canvass more of the businesses and come back to Administration with suggestions
- Reduce number of bins in International Alley
- Cost recovery for the City

Administration will work in conjunction with the Merritt & District Chamber of Commerce and provide options for Council to consider

4. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6:58 p.m.

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

**Original signed by
Deputy Clerk**

Confirmed on the 12th Day of July, 2011

**Original signed by
Mayor**