



CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING COUNCIL CHAMBER TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013 AT 5:00 PM

1. PRESENT:

Acting Mayor D. Baker
Councillor K. Christopherson
Councillor M. Goetz
Councillor H. Kroeker
Councillor C. Norgaard

REGRETS

Mayor S. Roline
Councillor A. Murdoch

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Noble, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. S. Boven, Public Works Manager
Mr. D. Finnigan, Public Works Superintendent
Ms. C. Fraser, Deputy Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Mr. S. O'Flaherty, Development Services Officer
Mr. L. Plotnikoff, Leisure Services Manager
Ms. P. Sibilleau, Financial Services Manager
Mr. D. Tomkinson, Fire Chief

GUESTS

Dr. R. Peacock, School District No. 58 Superintendent
Mr. K. Black, School District No. 58 Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. G. Comeau, School District No. 58 Board Chair
Mr. T. Kroeker, School District No. 58 Trustee
Mr. D. Laird, School District No. 58 Rural Trustee
Mr. S. McNiven, School District No. 58 Assistant Superintendent
Mr. G. Swan, School District No. 58 Trustee

1 Member of the Public

2. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

3. REPORTS

SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 58

4.1 School District No. 58 to discuss the following topics with Council:

Middle School update
Process and timing of projects such as school closures
Arrangements with Conayt Society

Councillors and School Trustees discussed :

- 12 month consultations for school closures
- Transparent process as required by law with a public process required
- No private discussions with Conayt prior to closure of the school
- Leased for remainder of the year (June 2013) to Conayt
- Keep recreation facility access for community - Conayt using rates previous to school being closed
- Rates of facility remaining as is cannot be commented on at this time
- Conayt going to provide apprenticeship programs
- Building is empty at this time
- Zoning issue with City - zoning request needs to come from current owner. Conayt proposed use would fall under current uses as per School Board
- Temporary use permit also discussed
- Soccer field use - now with water meters being installed rate will be increased and maintenance in discussion with Conayt
- Entire fields and buildings leased to Conayt but retain right with leases to acquire property back
- Tax exemption

Modular School update Portables

School Board advised:

- That District No. 58 has been chosen as a district for a pilot project with modular schools (Nicola-Canford)
- Projection 1 year for completion
- Only 5 portables left at the middle school property
- Modulares are not like portables – like a manufactured home
- Modular is a fixed structure on a foundation
- Modular components can be added or removed as the demand requires
- Fire concerns and safety concerns of portables
- No modular schools proposed within City limits – this is only a pilot project at this time by the Ministry to meet the need of rural community schools

Joint Use Agreement

Leisure Services Manager advised that there is a joint use arrangement v agreement. Imperative that the arrangement be reviewed with an agreement be implemented
School Board receptive to an agreement being worked out between the Secretary/Treasurer and the Leisure Services Manager

Collettsville sidewalks

Letter of November 09, 2012 from School District Board Chair with response from Mayor in later November 2012

- Concerns of student hit last year on Lindley Creek Road
- Safety of children walking to and from school
- Council look at this project during the budget discussions
- Local Area Service petition process
- Imposition of Council placing taxes/costs on residents
- Storm drainage issue needs to be addressed by Council. At time that storm drain issue is addressed that the sidewalk issue be considered. Storm drainage study can be provided to School District when available.
- Why is a soccer field and gymnasium more important than student safety on sidewalks? Collettsville was promised sidewalks when coming into City boundaries.
- Collettsville has been addressed by Council many times
- Process needs to be initiated by those residents affected

General Discussion: Drug Free Zone

- Joint installation of “Drug Free Zone” signs
- Not seeing intended results from judiciary which were at the time of acceptance was that the judiciary was going to provide the maximum fines allowed for the offence committed within the zone
- Stronger emphasis on the Drug Free Zones
- Origin intent was distribution and production when signs were initiated
- Enforcement within school environment is strong deterrent – creative ways to educate students on impact of drug use, distribution and production
- More visibility, frequency and exposure of RCMP around schools is effective
- Joint workshop with School Board, RCMP and Council to address healthy living within the community. School Board will provide names of interested members to sit on the workshop committee
- Who is responsible for the maintenance of the signs and how many signs are there – purchased through the School District and maintained by the City

Where do we go from here – who is going to do what and in what time frame? These minutes will be on the next Council meeting for Council to provide direction to Administration in the form of resolutions

Meeting frequency

- Bi-annual meetings to be continued

4. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6:45 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 February, 2013

**Original signed by
Acting Mayor**