



CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
2185 VOGHT STREET

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016
AT 6:00 PM

1. PRESENT:

Mayor Neil Menard
Councillor D. Baker
Councillor L. Brown
Councillor K. Christopherson
Councillor M. Goetz
Councillor G. Prowal

REGRETS

Councillor D. Norgaard

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. S. Boven, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Fraser, Deputy Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Mr. W. George, Business & Economic Development Manager
Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT

GUESTS

School District No. 58 Chair Gordon Comeau
School District No. 58 Vice-Chair Gordon Swan
School District No. 58 Trustee G. Ellingsen
School District No. 58 Trustee Brian Jepsen
School District No. 58 Trustee Tim Kroeker
School District No. 58 Trustee Dave Rainer
Mr. S. McNiven, School District No. 58 Superintendent
Mr. K. Black, School District No. 58 Secretary Treasurer
Ms. C. Perkins, School District No. 58 Assistant Superintendent

Merritt Herald
Q101

1 Member of the Public

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Menard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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MINUTES

3.1 Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 be adopted

4. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognition

SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 58 NICOLA
SIMILKAMEEN

4.1 Council to have discussions with School Trustees from School District No. 58 Nicola Similkameen regarding:

- Joint use agreement
- Colletville sidewalks
- Path/trail behind CMS
- Sagebrush Agri Society
- CMS - Vacant space

File: 0490

Joint Use Agreement - Council and School Board Trustees engaged in discussions covering many areas of a joint use agreement. The repeated message was that it is the desire of both parties to select staff members to establish a committee to create an inventory of both organizations that could be shared. The sharing of knowledge, parks, resources, facilities, supplies, and materials. For example irrigation systems. Parks and fields were also discussed and the School District confirmed that the schools are very restricted and are not allowed to spray for weeds on school property. Costs for the use of facilities such as janitorial services etc. needs to be realized.

Kevin Black, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 58 and Shawn Boven, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Merritt will have initial discussions regarding the formation of the committee i.e. committee composition, items for discussion and report back to both organizations as soon as possible

Colletville Sidewalks – discussions were had regarding the long term project for the sidewalks along Lindley Creek Road to ensure the safety of all students using this route to Central School, Merritt Senior Secondary and Colletville School. This is a concern for both organizations as there are ditches on both sides of Lindley Creek Road. The City has completed Phase 1 of the Storm Water Master Plan which is the preliminary design. A local area service would be required to implement and there had been no time line as this was an unfunded activity. The costing is possible for the 2017 budget cycle. No promises will be made by the City other than Council is heading into budget discussions and will respond back to the School District when the budget has been discussed. Alternate routes for students were also discussed. Another suggestion was to have a public open house with maps to show alternate routes to the public.

Mayor Menard will have discussions with the Chief Administrative Officer and determine the status of the project and the City will respond to the School District

Path/trail behind Central Middle School – this is the very steep trail on School District property off of Armstrong Street that adjoins to the City easement at the top which the City has paved. A complaint has been received at the School District fearing liability issues. There is no secure handle along this trail that has been carved out of the bank purely by use over time by people going down the hill. The School District has discussed the option of fencing off the access point but asked if the City had any desire to develop a proper trail and if the City was interested in leasing any of the property and any other opportunity that may arise. The question of using education funds to connect two parts of the City was raised as well as the School District provided information that the alternate route is about one kilometer longer.

Kevin Black and Shawn Boven will continue these discussions regarding the trail and a response will be provided to the School District Trustees and City Council.

Sagebrush Agri Society – Mayor Menard advised that the City has referred this project to the Economic Development Manager to work with Mr. Lynn. The Sagebrush Agri Society has been working with Ms. Carrie Ware to prepare a business plan proposal. The City is not opposed to this project and has advised Mr. Lynn of their support.

CMS - Vacant Space - Mr. Black advised that the School District will have vacant space at the CMS building at the end of the month and inquired if there was any interest from the City to rent the wing next to the gym and the sports field. ICS is interested in occupying the entire building. Mayor Menard responded that Ms. C. Morrey had met with the City will be making a presentation to Council outlining the ICS proposal.

When the presentation to Council from ICS occurs, the School District will be advised

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nil

6. NEW BUSINESS

Nil

The City inquired about the large piece of property beside Colletville School asking if it was School District property and if so, did the School Board have any plans at this time. The School District responded the property indeed does belong to the School District and there are no plans for that property at this time

Interest in future joint meetings was expressed by both parties and once the first progress report comes from the topics discussed at this meeting are received by both parties, quarterly meetings could be arranged

7. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7:05 p.m.

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

**Original signed by
Deputy Clerk**

Confirmed on the 28th Day of January, 2016

**Original signed by
Mayor**