



CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
2185 VOGHT STREET

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016
AT 6:00 PM

1. PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. S. Boven, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. B. Currie, Collector/Deputy Financial Services Manager
Ms. C. Fraser, Deputy Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT

Merritt Herald
Q101

0 Member of the Public

2. CALL TO ORDER

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

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

4. GENERAL MATTERS – Delegations and Recognition

Nil

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nil

6. NEW BUSINESS

**OUTLINE FOR
BUDGET
ORIENTATION**

- 6.1 Outline for Budget Orientation Meeting; Director of Finance & IT
January 19, 2016 Report
File: 1700

Ms. S. Thiessen provided a power point presentation to Council outlining the process for the 2016 budget

Introduction:

- Overview
- Introduction to Financial Plan information binder
- Budget requirements
- Background information
- Challenges and opportunities
- Next steps

Overview:

- Population: 7,469
- Number of property tax folios: 3,525
- Value of tangible capital assets: \$45,101,982 including 62 kms of paved roads, 74 kms of water and 60 kms of sanitary sewer

Long term planning:

- Water utility master plan
- Sanitary sewer utility master plan
- Integrated storm water master plan
- Parks, recreation and cultural master plan
- Cemetery master plan
- Strategic plan

Revenue Sources:

- User fees
- Grants
- Debt
- Taxes

How do we compare (property tax comparison)

- Use same municipalities throughout our organization when doing comparisons i.e. population, amenities etc.

Tax distribution

Multiples

- Council controls the multiples

Tax rate history 2011-2015

Impact of assessment changes

- 1% overall tax increase = \$68,000

Impact of a 2% tax rate increase

Effect of no or low tax increases

Challenges:

- 2016 cost increases
- New functions
- Changes to services

Opportunities:

- Surplus and reserve levels that provide security and sustainability
- Access to debt financing if required
- More stable hydro service in City, will allow for more growth and development
- Telus fibre availability will benefit businesses and residents

Next steps:

- Council to provide staff with any specific directions and requests for information
- Departments will present their budgets to Council
- Public input

Council topic requests for budget discussions:

- FTE's
- Surplus v. carry forward
- What projects did not get done as a result of the cost overruns for the lacrosse box
- Snow removal
- Capital projects such as arena equipment, Colletville sidewalks, fire hall expansion, signage, CPR lands
- Storm sewer master plan table 6
- Recommendations in water utility master plan
- City owned buildings life cycle (replacements)
- Trails
- Sidewalk at 7th Day Adventist church
- Age-Friendly plan recommendations
- Protective fence at hole #9 on the golf course
- River Ranch Road residents' concerns about big rigs, RV's, horse trailers at McDonalds and Tim Horton's - short barrier fence around the corner
- Airport
- Detox/rehab Centre
- Midday Valley Road and Lindley Creek Road truck traffic

Schedule for budget meetings:

- Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:00 p.m. - water, sewer and transit
- Saturday, February 13, 2016 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. department presentations and budgets to be announced

7. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7:24 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**