



CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
2185 VOGHT STREET

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016
AT 6:00 PM

1. PRESENT:

Mayor Neil Menard
Councillor D. Baker (*arrived at 6:10 p.m.*)
Councillor L. Brown
Councillor K. Christopherson
Councillor M. Goetz
Councillor G. Prowal

REGRETS

Councillor D. Norgaard

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. S. Boven, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. D. Finnigan, Public Works Superintendent
Ms. C. Fraser, Deputy Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT

Merritt Herald
Q101

3 Member of the Public

2. CALL TO ORDER

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

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Nil

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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MINUTES

4.1 Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on Thursday, January 14, 2016 be adopted

4.2 Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 be adopted

4.3 Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on Thursday, January 21, 2016 be adopted

5. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognition

Nil

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nil

7. NEW BUSINESS

WATER, SEWER AND
TRANSIT

7.1 Water, Sewer and Transit budget
File: 1705

Introduction:

- Additions to Financial Plan Binder
- Transit
- Water
- Sewer
- Next steps

Overview:

- Average household costs

Councillor Baker arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Transit:

- Transit year is April to March
- 2015/2015 year saw a 16.6% increase in ridership, 17% increase in passenger trips per hour and 15.6% increase in passenger trips per capita
- Cost recovery increased to 24% (one of the best in the Province)

Transit Revenue Sources:

- Taxation
- Fares
- Administration fees
- Regional contribution
- Transfer from surplus

Transit Budget:

- Slight increase in Transit expenses
- Property tax collected will remain the same
- Utilization of surplus to keep taxes consistent

Discussions with Council regarding Transit:

- First Nation discussions regarding increased service levels to First Nation communities
- BC Transit currently has a moratorium on service expansion
- Age-Friendly Plan - bus stop every 500 metres (approximately \$150 per stop)
- Approach School Board for school buses not used during the day (union issues)

Water Revenue:

- Parcel taxes - 25%
- User charges - 71%
- Other revenue - 4%

Water Operating Expenses:

- Service levels to remain the same except as identified by request
- Slight lift in wages and hydro costs

Operating Increases Requested - One Time Expense:

- Hydraulic cut off saw - \$3,800
- Hydraulic tamper - \$3,00

Capital Expenditure Requests:

- Hydrant replacement program - \$25,00 (on-going)
- Decommission May Street well - \$23,000 (new item - one time)
- Commercial water meter replacement program - \$15,000 (on-going)
- Water main replacement program - \$500,00 (on-going)
- UV Disinfection for all wells - \$2,280,000 (in 2016 already)(contingent on grant funds)

Discussions with Council regarding Water:

- Universal residential water meters

Sewer Revenue:

- Parcel taxes - 54%
- User charges - 44%
- Other revenue - 2%

Sewer Operating Expenses:

- Service levels to remain the same except as identified by request
- Slight lift in wages and hydro costs

Operating Increases Requested - One Time Expense:

- Confined space entry assessment & work procedures - \$7,200

Operating Increases Requested - On-going

- New section for composting site - expense offset by reduction in tipping fees

Capital Expenditure Requests:

- RAS pump replacement & rebuild - \$16,000
- Sewer main replacement program - \$500,00 (on-going new funds)
- Compost site loader - \$275,000

Schedule for budget meetings:

- Saturday, February 13, 2016 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. department presentations and budgets to be announced

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7:01 p.m.

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

**Original signed by
Deputy Clerk**

Confirmed on the 09th Day of February, 2016

**Original signed by
Mayor**