



CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CITY HALL

2185 VOGHT STREET

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

AT 4:30 PM

1. PRESENT:

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

REGRETS

Councillor D. Norgaard

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. S. Boven, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. S. Bird, Director of Engineering & Development
Ms. C. Fraser, Deputy Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Ms. M. Miles, Director of Corporate Services
Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT

Merritt Herald
Q101

9 Members of the Public

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Menard called the meeting to order at 4:30 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 Tuesday, May 17, 2016 be adopted

4.2 Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 (following the Special Committee of the Whole) be adopted

5. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognition

Nil

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DOWNTOWN
PARKING

6.1 Downtown Parking; Council Discussion
File: 0250

Mr. Brian Snee representing the "Downtown Voice" reiterated the group's position to Council stating that the bylaw regarding parking within the downtown is detrimental to downtown business and they would like the bylaw rescinded.

Council and members of the "Downtown Voice" had discussions with regards to:

- Survey regarding sufficient parking in the downtown
 - The "Downtown Voice" has not conducted any such survey; however, they stated that the amount of current parking spaces is not the issue. The concern is with the cost of provision of parking spaces for any new business locating within the downtown.
- Number of parking spaces currently available within the downtown
 - Chief Administrative Officer advised that this information can be obtained from the aerial view.
 - The "Downtown Voice" reiterated the number of parking spaces is not the concern, and that their concern is the cost.

- Mr. Snee stated that the new costs can be a factor whether a business sells and can deter the sale. There are a number of business owners within the downtown looking to retire and sell their business and the bylaw could create additional costs for prospective new owners.
- The membership of the "Downtown Voice" was clarified
 - "Revolving" membership.
 - Open doors for all meetings to downtown business owners with the majority of businesses on board.
- History
 - The current bylaw has been in place since March 2015 with a \$3,500.00 fee per additional parking spot required.
 - The previous bylaw of 1987 had a fee of \$4,700.00 per additional parking spot required.
 - \$3,500.00 has been collected in fees since 2015.
 - Chief Administrative Officer was not aware of any complaints from business owners regarding the bylaw. The Planning & Development Department can provide information regarding any such complaints.
 - Clarification was provided that this portion of the bylaw is being raised at this time as there is now a voice to speak for the downtown. The parking reserve was originally established in the event that should a parkade be required, funds would be available. There is currently \$67,000.00 in the parking reserve.
- When questioned about options of angle parking and a one-way downtown, the "Downtown Voice" expressed their desire to keep the discussion on the current concerns being the cost of additional parking spaces and requested that they not delve into other parking concerns.
- There have been some concerns expressed to the Mayor from the business community in regards to this matter.
- A concerned citizen/previous member of Council provided Council with some history on the vacant lots within the downtown. He explained that previous Councils' had a plan in place and that this is not a new issue being dealt with by the current Council; however, he was under the impression that the bylaw had been

rescinded.

- "Downtown Voice" thanked Council for their consideration and for listening to the concerns of the downtown business owners.
- A current property owner has a new tenant moving into a building and requested clarification as to when he could advise the tenant of Councils' choice on repealing the bylaw.
- Council advised that request to remove the \$3500 parking stall fee from the Zoning Bylaw will be taken into consideration and that the "Downtown Voice" will be kept informed of Council's decision.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Nil

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.

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

Corporate Officer

Confirmed on the Day of _____, 2016

Mayor