

Council asked staff what procedures were in place to ensure the public could still make representations to public, and Mr. Lewis explained the commitments made to residents about written, video, and audio submissions.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes- December 15, 2020

Resolution No: 2021RC-01-01

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 15, 2020 be adopted

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

5. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

Nil

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Adoption of Bylaw 2301, 2020

Council to consider adoption of Bylaw 2301, 2020 which received three readings at the December 15th, 2020 meeting

Resolution No: 2021RC-01-02

THAT Council Adopt Bylaw 2301, 2020

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Snow removal

Oral report from Mr. Henderson and Mr. Smith

Staff will present options for Council that can be considered in greater detail at the January 29th Committee of the Whole budget.

Mr. Henderson introduced the item, and explained about Merritt's current snow removal programs.

Mr. Smith noted that the presentation was based on what staff had heard from members and residents, and asked for Council input if any more information was required.

They explained the hope to see United Way in action this year for snow-clearing assistance for residents, and talked through the presentation, explaining the priorities for staff, and the capabilities of current equipment.

Councillors discussed logistical problems, including that snow in downtown had to be removed to somewhere, and that areas of the City had intermittent sidewalks, and gaps between lots resulting in no owner to shovel a walkway. It was raised that shoveling snow into the street made matters worse for neighbours when a grader drove past.

Councillors noted that BC law prohibits private citizens from driving ATVs on City highways, although it can be permissible for properly arranged municipal employees. It was also noted that Highway 8 is MOTI maintained, although property owners with sidewalks on Nicola Avenue are still subject to the City's bylaws.

Resolution No: 2021RC-01-03

THAT Council direct staff to bring forward modifications to the snow removal policy taking into account the Council discussion on January 12th

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

Resolution No: 2021RC-01-04

THAT Council direct staff to bring forward to January 29th, 2021 Budget Committee of the Whole details on:

Pushing snow to the middle of the road, with follow-up snow removal;

Driveway windrow clearing;

Clearing of downtown parking areas;

Increased service during large storms (more than 20cms).

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8.2 Municipal Security Issuing Resolution for Fire Hall Expansion project

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

8.6 Council Remuneration - Rejection of annual increase

To be introduced by Mayor Brown

The Mayor noted that tax revenues were down, and residents of Merritt were suffering. In recognition of that, she was proposing that members return their annual increase.

Resolution No: 2021RC-01-09

THAT Council calls upon all elected members at the City of Merritt to return the 2021 CPI increase to remuneration awarded under section 4.1 of Bylaw 2266, 2019 to the City.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Etchart thanked staff for the presentation on snow clearing, and said given the extreme weather, staff had done the best they could with resources available.

Councillor White said the open letter Mr. Smith had written had been very much appreciated as a sign the City was listening to residents.

Councillor Christopherson wanted to thank YRB for their work keeping highways clear, but also raised concern about the effects ploughs had creating multiple windrows a day on properties along Nicola Avenue.

Councillor Bhangu commended City Hall and Merritonians on their dialogue, and for remaining kind in dealing with one another.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

11.1 SILGA correspondence

Members spoke about the possibility of recommending resolutions to SILGA coming out of the snow-clearing discussion earlier. Mr. Lewis promised draft resolutions would come to council on lobbying the Province for MOTI highways and use of ATV vehicles.

11.2 City of Kamloops