



## Council Meeting Highlights January 23, 2017

*Please note Council meeting highlights are not a substitute for the City's comprehensive Council meeting minutes, found on the City website: [www.campbellriver.ca](http://www.campbellriver.ca). Council meeting agendas, minutes and webcasts are available from the link on the homepage. Find archives of Council Meeting Highlights at: [www.campbellriver.ca/councilmeetinghighlights](http://www.campbellriver.ca/councilmeetinghighlights)*

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### **Nuyumbalees Cultural Society transfers Tribal Journeys Talking Stick to City**

Rod Naknakim, president of the Nuyumbalees Cultural Society, transferred the Tribal Journey Talking Stick to City Council. The transfer protocol included a blessing with a song about the Thunderbird. The Talking Stick will be prominently displayed for the next two months at City Hall. The Tribal Journeys 2017 event will be a monumental event in the community, supported by both the Wei Wai Kum and We Wai Kai First Nations, expected to bring 5,000 visitors over the B.C. Day long weekend in August. Estimated cost to host the event is \$750,000. Local sponsors are the City of Campbell River, the Strathcona Regional District, BC Hydro, Interfor and TimberWest. The event takes place at Cape Mudge on Quadra Island Saturday, Aug. 5 and in Campbell River Monday, Aug. 7. Tribal Journeys is a celebration of the Pacific Northwest (Washington, British Columbia and Alaska) indigenous peoples' traditional mode of transportation, and a significant cultural experience for all participants.

### **Campbell River Crime Stoppers update**

Campbell River Crime Stoppers president James Forsyth and coordinator Rob Hickey provided Council with a statistical update on 2016 Crime stoppers operations in our community, as well as a summary of web site and social media activity. Crime Stoppers has been active in Campbell River since 1972, providing an opportunity for people to provide information about a crime without fear of reprisal. The last year yielded 245 calls, 203 tips, four arrests, nine cases cleared and six charges laid. People can share tips via social media and by telephoning 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477).

### **Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North requests Council support**

George Wagner and Patrick McKenna, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North thanked Council for their previous assistance and requested further support for their multi-unit development project at 477 Hilchey Rd. They anticipate up to \$200,000 in fees could be waived related to development cost charges, development permit fees, building permit fees, construction permit, subdivision fees, and infrastructure servicing costs as well as other potential planning fees. With completion of this development, a total of 17 family homes will have been built in Campbell River through Habitat for Humanity. Council directed staff to report back to Council to clarify on compliance with the zoning bylaw and how the proposal fits with the official community plan and development guidelines for this area.

### **OCP Amendment Bylaw adopted**

Council gave third reading to and adopted the OCP Amendment bylaw after passing a change to the proposed land use map to designate land adjacent to Clarke Rd. in Quinsam Heights for neighbourhood development. The amendment was given first and second readings at the Oct. 24 Council meeting, and a public hearing was held at the Nov. 7 Council meeting. A seven-month review of the Official Community Plan included five public consultation sessions on four focus areas: Quinsam Heights, secondary residences, commercial designations and development permit clarification and streamlining.



## Council Meeting Highlights January 23, 2017

### **First two readings for bylaw to prohibit pay parking in public areas**

The amendment to the Zoning Bylaw would prohibit pay parking in areas zoned for public areas, including the hospital. A public hearing on the proposed amendment will be held Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Proposed changes to playing field user fees and charges**

Council gave first and second readings to proposed increases in field user fees and confirmed that all field user groups had been notified about how to share feedback with Council.

Chad Braithwaite, president of Campbell River Slo-pitch, provided Council with a presentation regarding field user fees and maintenance of ball diamonds. The league opposes a change from a per-player to an hourly fee. Council directed staff to review data in a report provided by this field user group and compare it to previous information shared in reports to Council. The slo-pitch report will also be forwarded to the Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission for review.

### **Clock and sign at 1231 Spruce St. approved**

Council approved a variance permit to erect a 14.3-metre free standing clock tower and sign in Campbellton. Council approved the installation of the clock and sign that previously stood in the Tye Plaza for the Spruce Street location on the understanding that it will not impede the view of properties on the slope behind the site. Ted Arbour, owner of the property, presented a letter of support from the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association for clock tower installation. The sign portion of the tower will be changed to advertise the business on the property.

The variance was required because, according to the sign bylaw, the maximum permitted height of a free standing sign is 7.5 metres.

### **Council to support social procurement infrastructure pilot project**

Campbell River will participate in a social procurement infrastructure pilot project with the Vancouver Island Construction Association, the City of Victoria and the Town of Qualicum Beach, by contributing funding of \$14,000 from Council contingency. Funding will pay for development of social value/community benefit criteria to be considered as part of the City's purchasing policy – to align existing local government spending with strategic social goals. This could help achieve policy goals in the areas such as inclusive economic development, indigenous economic reconciliation, skills training and workforce development, youth employment, supportive employment, supply chain diversity, social enterprise capacity building and improved small business access to public sector supply chain.

### **Changes to Community Beautification grant applications**

City Council endorsed several changes to the City's annual beautification grant program to better administer the program and provide clarity on how to access the grant funds. The Community Beautification program provides grants up to \$10,000 annually to each of the City's four business groups: the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association, the Downtown (Heart of the City) Business Improvement Association, the Pier Street Association, and the Willow Point Business Improvement Association.

Key changes approved include:

- a new application deadline of May 31 annually
- a requirement that all work is complete no later than December 1 annually
- and that each organization must provide matching funding either via in-kind donation or a financial contribution.

The new application package will be distributed to each organization.

### **2016 Community Beautification grants approved in principle**

Council approved in principle a partnering agreement with the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association and the Pier Street Association which, once formally approved, will see work completed to benefit those areas funded under the City's beautification grant program. The Campbellton Neighbourhood Association continues to add and improve existing planting beds within the Campbellton Community Garden, and a City contribution of \$2,000 will complement the significant community and volunteer efforts put into the project. Another \$8,000 in funding has been approved in principle to erect banners featuring local salmon species on City light standards along both 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> avenues. The Pier Street Association has had \$10,000 approved in principle to reimburse costs associated with the installation of new piling wraps around several street signs in the Pier Street area, as well as maintenance and replacement of several planter boxes. The partnering agreements will be advertised and comments received from the community prior to final approval.

### **Council to consider participating in 2017 Communities in Bloom competition**

Campbell River received an invitation to participate in the Canada 150 category of the 2017 National Edition of Communities in Bloom. The invitation will be reviewed by staff and the Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission to confirm whether there is community interest and commitment to participate.

### **Long-term debt policy approval**

Council approved the City's long-term debt policy that provides a framework for external borrowing to fund the 10-year capital plan. The policy sets the use of debt for asset renewal and capacity upgrades for core asset infrastructure, limits the amount of borrowing the City will undertake using legislated guidelines, and recommended debt terms that balance short and long-term flexibility and affordability. Using both internal reserve funds and external borrowing to fund the City's necessary capital upgrades is a key component of the City's *Financial Stability & Resiliency Program*. The use of debt allows the City to spread payments over a period of time, providing a fair and equitable balance of costs and benefits between present and future users of the City's core infrastructure and maintaining stable taxes and user fees.

### **City to borrow from Municipal Finance Association for water infrastructure upgrades**

Council approved transferring \$2.9 million of interim debt financing to long-term for a 15-year term with the Municipal Finance Authority. The City's long-term capital plan includes major infrastructure projects for water and sewer in the next few years with the use of both internal reserve funds and external borrowing. In 2013, the City obtained approval from the electorate to use long-term debt financing for necessary core infrastructure upgrades for sewer and water as part of the long-term capital plan. The recent upgrades completed included watermain upgrades on Dalton and Eardley Street, as well as funding towards the construction of the current Water Supply Project. These upgrades ensure the City can maintain water service levels through watermain renewals and major water system upgrades.

### **Audit Service Plan**

Council received the Fiscal 2016 Audit Services Plan from the City's external auditors, MNP. The Audit Services Plan confirms that a formal opinion on the City's 2016 financial statements will be delivered to Council at the regular meeting to be held May 8, 2017, which will allow the City to file its year-end financial information with the Province before the annual deadline of May 15. There are no major changes in the planned audit work or legislation.



## **Council Meeting Highlights January 23, 2017**

### **Council endorses application for wildfire prevention grant**

Council authorized the Strathcona Emergency Program to apply for and, if successful, manage a 2017 grant to support a strategic wildfire prevention initiative fuel management prescription. The fuel management prescription partnership between the City of Campbell River, Strathcona Regional District, School District 72 and Strategic Natural Resources Consultants Inc. in the forest located west of the Campbell River Museum will indicate how to best decrease this area's vulnerability to fire.

Council was pleased to this learn that this grant, if awarded, will also be used to support student education; through contracting Strategic Natural Resources to develop the prescription during field tours with the Carihi Secondary School Forestry class. Over multiple days, the students will learn how to identify fuel types, forest health issues and danger trees.