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### **City receives Government Finance Officers Association of North America Awards**

The Government Financial Officers Association of North America presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is the highest form of recognition in government budgeting. Since the award's inception in 1984, this is the first time Campbell River has been a recipient. A Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation was also presented to the City's finance manager Myriah Foort. The award is in recognition of the exemplary practices within the 2015-2024 financial plan, under a program created by the City's finance team, called the Financial Stability and Resiliency Program.

### **Odour regulations adopted with amended public nuisance bylaw**

Council received a staff report summarizing odour regulation bylaws from across British Columbia and adopted proposed amendments to the public nuisance bylaw that would address noxious odours. The bylaw also includes provisions for inspection and assessment by an independent odour control specialist, a credentialed professional with odour control qualifications, licensed to practice in British Columbia. The regulation would not apply to the operation, maintenance and construction of the City's wastewater system.

A related ticketing bylaw, which would provide the Bylaw department with recourse should someone complain of offensive odours emanating from a commercial or industrial operation, was also adopted.

This bylaw was given first and second readings on Sept. 6, 2016 and third reading on Nov. 7, 2016.

### **Airport Commission Bylaw adopted**

The bylaw states that the commission will continue to provide policy advice and recommendations to Council on various issues related to the airport, including long-range planning, economic development, marketing, air transportation planning and environmental and sustainability issues. Airport operations and maintenance will remain the responsibility of City staff. This bylaw received first and second readings on Nov. 21 and third reading on Dec. 12.

### **Revitalization tax exemption for 480 10th Ave.**

The owner of 480 10th Ave. will receive a revitalization tax exemption. The property is located on the corner of Cedar St. and 10th Ave. and will be converted into a new medical office. The value of the property and existing building was assessed at \$311,000 in 2016. The new construction value of the renovation is \$399,000. The associated property tax on new construction value is \$5,020, which equates to a total of \$25,100 over the five years that the City will exempt.

### **Ladder fire truck refurbishment**

The fire department's existing 1993 75-foot ladder truck requires refurbishment to comply with current National Fire Protection Association and safety standards. The work was awarded to Rocky Mountain Phoenix for a total cost of \$238,846.64 excluding GST. Council approved \$240,000 for this work in the 2017 budget from the Fire Reserve.

The refurbishment process is expected to take approximately 15 weeks. Once the work is complete, the truck will be stationed at the No.2 Fire Hall in Willow Point and provide aerial ladder and elevated water stream abilities in the south end of Campbell River.

#### **Council endorses findings of business licence program review**

A review of the City's business license program and service delivery was identified as a strategic action item in support of Council's strategic plan – specifically related to aligning internal processes in support of economic health within the community.

In 2016, City staff in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, completed a comprehensive review of the business licensing function, which included looking at the value this service provides to the business community. The review assessed the relevance and effectiveness of the program and consulted with the business community to determine whether any changes were required to ensure appropriate service delivery. The review also included an assessment of indirect business support services associated with the business license program, industry best practices and new initiatives as well as a complete review of the bylaw.

The City administers approximately 2,200 business licences and processes between 450 to 550 new business applications or closures each year. In total, the City collects approximately \$280,000 annually in business license fees, based on a flat fee per business per year. The majority of staff time is incurred through the initial processing of new applications. Campbell River is also one of several Vancouver Island communities participating in mobile or multi-jurisdictional business licensing.

#### **Social grant funding**

Over the last several years, the City has received a growing number of requests for funding assistance from local service organizations that provide many different social programs in the community. While direct funding of social programs is typically not the responsibility of local governments, the City of Campbell River has set aside some grant funding to assist local organizations as other funding opportunities become scarcer. Given the extensive need in the community for social funding, guidelines will be developed in early 2017 to ensure that any social grant funds awarded provide the most impact and direct benefit to the community.

#### **Support for wildfire prevention**

Council supported the Strathcona Regional District's grant application for a 2017 wildfire prevention initiative through fuel management. The initiative would identify objectives and strategies to lower wildfire hazard in the forest located west of the Campbell River Museum through a partnership between the City of Campbell River, Strathcona Regional District, School District 72 and Strategic Natural Resources Consultants Inc. Reducing this area's vulnerability to fire will help protect museum holdings. Grant funding would install signs about fuel management, support student education and contract Strategic Natural Resources to develop the program during field tours with the Carihi Secondary School Forestry Class, where participants would learn to identify fuel types, forest health issues and danger trees.

#### **Support for public art plan**

Council approved \$5,000 from the 2017 Public Art budget to be allocated for research to support a public art plan. The committee is continuing the process of creating a public art program, and will compile all existing information into a comprehensive planning document that will create a foundation for a public art plan.

The Public Art Committee has also completed the public art inventory, and plans to launch an interactive public art map on the City's website.



## **Council Meeting Highlights January 9, 2017**

### **Council approves policy for naming parks and facilities**

Council adopted a policy for naming parks and facilities that had been reviewed and endorsed by both the Advisory, Planning and Environment Commission and the Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission. The aims of the policy are to:

- celebrate the social, historical, cultural, and natural environment of our unique city
- enable easy identification of the park or facility
- recognize the contribution or achievements of individuals or groups from the community

The policy also allows for corporate sponsorship of community assets.