

Council Meeting Highlights May 9, 2016

Please note Council meeting highlights are not a substitute for the City's comprehensive Council meeting minutes, found on the City website at: www.campbellriver.ca. Council meeting agendas, minutes and webcasts are available from the link on the homepage.

City employee wins B.C. water operator of the year award

Mayor Andy Adams congratulated Ed Travanut, the City's water foreman, for being awarded the 2016 Excellence in the Water and Waste Industry Award from BC Water & Waste Association. The Mayor thanked Travanut and the City's entire team in the water and wastewater departments for their dedication to providing this vital local government service. The City has issued a news release and photo with more details on this award.

Long service award for City Manager

Mayor Andy Adams acknowledged Deborah Sargent's long service recognition award by the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators. In 2015, Campbell River's city manager reached a 10-year milestone for service as a chief administrative officer, on top of another eight years in a senior municipal management position. Mayor Adams stated, "I'm pleased to say that since Deborah has worked with the City over the past year, she has demonstrated her unfailing commitment to excellence. The City and our citizens are very fortunate to have her leading our City team."

Local student proposes Borrow a Bike program

Jamiliya Wellard, a student at Ecole Phoenix Middle School, made a presentation to Council requesting support to implement a Borrow a Bike program to enhance local recreation and tourism in July and August. The proposed Borrow a Bike program would be a free system run by volunteers Saturday and Sunday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., from a mobile office near the seawalk. Council directed staff to forward the proposed program information to the City's Youth Action Committee, the Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission and Volunteer Campbell River.

Update from Campbell River Head Injury Support Society

Campbell River Head Injury Support Society's executive director Shelley Howard and executive assistant Jennifer Kay presented an update on current activities and future plans. With support from the community and BC Housing, the society plans to expand their facilities provide additional support for people with brain injuries and prevent homelessness.

Jubilee Heights development update

Ross McKeever and Jason Carvalho of Couverdon Real Estate/TimberWest Forest Corporation provided an update on the status of the Jubilee Heights Development project. They also asked Council to make the Erickson/Harrogate/Larwood sewer infrastructure upgrade a priority as a near-term capital project. They suggest that this sewer upgrade should be included in the City's 10-year capital plan and scheduled for completion by year end 2017 to maintain the single family lot supply in south Campbell River.

Forestry Task Force update

Councillor Charlie Cornfield provided a report on the Forestry Task Force's current activities and interest in attending an upcoming conference as well as their investigation of opportunities to capitalize on the value-added wood-based economy.

Council approves 2015 audited financial statements

Council approved the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended Dec. 31, 2015. The City's financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, and the City's independent auditor provided a clean audit opinion on the statements. Overall, the financial statements demonstrate close alignment between the City's 2015 financial plan and actual results, as well as a net increase in both financial and non-financial assets, and a decrease in long-term debt. The auditor emphasized that the City's overall increase in financial position can be maintained with reinvestment in the City's infrastructure via stable tax and user fee increases.

Council approves Tyee Plaza apartment building downtown revitalization tax exemption

Council has approved a five-year tax exemption for the Tyee Plaza residential apartment building at 1299 Shopper Row, slated to be under construction shortly. The exemption falls within the City's Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw, which outlines the value and the length of the exemption, depending on the details of the project. For this project, the approved exemption is a five-year term on the municipal taxes for the improvements on the land. The exemption term begins with occupancy of the new building.

Variance approved for 1878 Nunns Rd.

Council approved a development variance permit to replace an aging garage structure with a new addition to the house on the same footprint. The garage at 1878 Nunns Road is attached to and forms part of the house. Built around 1989, the garage is located less than one metre from the rear property line, which does not conform to the rear yard setback requirement of seven metres.

Private moorage approved for foreshore area adjacent to 4065 Discovery Drive

Council approved a private moorage facility within a leased area of Discovery Passage adjacent to 4065 Discovery Drive. Bylaw amendments were required to create a zone to regulate private moorage facilities and to rezone the area adjacent to 4065 Discovery Drive to permit the construction of a private moorage facility. The bylaw was given first and second reading on April 11, 2016 and a public hearing was held on April 25, 2016. No one attended the public hearing and no written submissions were received.

Variance approved for 619 Talon Place

The applicant will construct a new single-storey house on a vacant parcel. Given the relatively small size and irregular shape of the parcel, the applicant is not able to meet the minimum required front and rear yard setbacks at 7.5 metres, which will be reduced to 5.5 metres. The alternative to the variance would have been to build a two storey house, which could meet the required yards by distributing floor area to a second floor; but would have had a much greater impact on the neighbouring single-storey homes.

City investigating temporary use permits for commercial medical marijuana operations

Following a public hearing April 25 and first and second reading of proposed bylaw amendments regarding the retail sale of marijuana, Council directed staff to provide a report on the feasibility of assessing marijuana operations through temporary use permits and report back to Council at the Aug. 8 Council meeting.

While the retail sale of marijuana is currently illegal in Canada pursuant to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, to formally recognize the federal government's regulations and provide clarification on how this land use will be regulated within the City of Campbell River, a proposed bylaw amendment includes the following definition to the Zoning Bylaw:

"Marijuana Operation" means cultivating, growing, producing, packaging, storing, distributing, dispensing, destroying, trading or selling of cannabis (marijuana) or its derivatives"

In addition, to provide greater clarity, the following clause is proposed to be added: “Marijuana operations are prohibited unless expressly permitted by this bylaw.”

Third reading for multi-family recycling bylaw

Council gave third reading to the Recycling and Garbage Regulation Bylaw and Ticketing Bylaw amendments to ensure that all multi-family buildings implement recycling services within their buildings by Dec. 31, 2016. In 2014, the City of Campbell River signed an agreement to accept funding from Multi-Material BC (MMBC) for the curbside recycling program, and passed a resolution to require recycling services in multi-family buildings. MMBC is now prepared to offer financial incentives to recycling collectors of multi-family buildings, and as such, the City is considering requiring multi-family buildings to have recycling programs. The MMBC incentive would enable multi-family buildings to receive recycling services from qualified collectors at a low rate and in many cases free of charge. The City has provided multi-family building owners with information on the MMBC recycling program and the bylaw changes, as well as educational material to use with residents. This bylaw received first and second readings on April 25, 2016.

Public nuisance bylaw amendments adopted to incorporate vacant building regulations

Council adopted amendments to the public nuisance bylaw regarding vacant premises, behavior standards at City facilities, camping on City lands and ticketing for those bylaw offences. The bylaw amendments regarding vacant buildings address three main issues to implement building maintenance standards, whether a building is occupied or vacant, including new requirements to secure vacant buildings by boarding up doors and windows, and proactive inspections of vacant buildings that have fallen into a state of disrepair to ensure that they are maintained, with property owners required to pay building inspection costs. The amendments received first and second reading at the April 11 Council meeting, and third reading April 25.

City receives report from University student regarding Upland’s proposed landfill

A report prepared by Matt Hulse, articling student from University of Victoria’s Environmental Law Program, on behalf of the Campbell River Environmental Committee, in regards to the Uplands Excavating Ltd “solid, non-hazardous waste landfill” application was received by Council and will become part of the information package related to this matter.

Updates to committee/commissions conflict of interest section adopted

The City’s solicitor reviewed the conflict of interest section in the advisory commission/committee bylaws, and recommended revisions to provide clear direction regarding requirements and process for commission and committee members, should they be concerned about having a conflict of interest on a particular matter. These would also apply to volunteer community members on City subcommittees and task forces. Council gave first and second readings to the proposed updates at the April 11 Council meeting and third reading April 25.

Transit passes for Syrian refugees

St Peter’s Anglican Church made a request to Council that the City help support both St Peter’s Anglican Church and Campbell River Baptist Church’s efforts to bring 16 refugees from Syria to Campbell River. They requested the City provide 11 adult bus passes and four student bus passes for one year to assist with the refugees’ transportation needs. As this request is for new residents to our community, the City would experience no loss of revenue from the existing system to provide 12 month transit passes. The City has provided free transit services in the past to a number of groups (i.e. exchange students, fund raising benefits) and during activities (i.e. Canada Day, election day) to benefit the community.

Council supports Eagles application for free defibrillator

The Fraternal Order of Eagles #3097 meets the criteria to receive a free defibrillator due to their large membership and use of their facility by outside groups. Council will send a letter of support for their application.

Support for Campbell River Hospital Foundation 2016 scrap metal challenge

The City will again support the Campbell River Hospital Foundation' by donating scrap metal from the Dogwood Operations Centre and installing a bin for public scrap metal drop-off at that location.

Council supports Molson Coors Canada and CMT One Horse Town Contest

The City and economic development staff will investigate opportunities to participate in the contest, which is currently in the nomination phase, allowing Canadians of legal drinking age to submit their vote on which small town (under 50,000 population) should receive a country music concert featuring award-winning Canadian musicians. This contest was launched last year and won by Lacombe, Alberta.

National Tourism Week is May 29 to June 4

City Council and the senior management team will work with the Visitor Information Centre staff on Monday, May 30, welcoming tourists at the Visitor Centre to kick off Tourism week.