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University of Victoria Environmental Law articling student presentation re: proposed landfill

Matt Hulse, articling student with the University of Victoria Environmental Law Centre, presented on behalf of Campbell River Environmental Committee regarding the Upland Excavating Ltd. application to operate a solid, non-hazardous waste landfill at the company's gravel extraction pit located to the east of McIvor Lake.

The presentation covered the nature of the provincial authorization and how this authorization interacts with municipal zoning bylaws, including how the City might have the ability to restrict or prohibit the proposed landfill, despite provincial authorization. It also provided information on the concept of non-conforming uses and explained why the proposed landfill should not be considered a non-conforming use. The presentation suggested a number of ways that the municipality can further regulate the landfill to prevent harm to people and the broader environment, in the event that the property is rezoned to permit landfills on the property.

Council approves additional funding request from Visitor Information Centre

Freeman Mary Ashley, trustee of the Campbell River economic development corporation, which is providing interim management and operation of the Campbell River Visitor Centre, reported that budget shortfalls have occurred due to the success of this year's Discovery Guide and the need for student summer job funding. As the year's tourist guide supply has already been consumed to meet local and distributor demand for the remainder of 2016, an extra printing is required, at a cost of \$20,000. An additional \$10,000 will cover the shortfall in wages for two summer students hired through the federal summer student program. The \$30,000 increase in budget will come from surplus funds still held by the corporation.

Council adopts multi-family recycling bylaw

Council adopted the Recycling and Garbage Regulation Bylaw and Ticketing Bylaw amendments to ensure that all multi-family buildings implement recycling services 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 will offer financial incentives to 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 City's bylaw changes and the MMBC recycling program, as well as educational material for distribution to residents. This bylaw received first and second readings on April 25, 2016, and third reading on May 9, 2016.

Council adopts bylaw amendments on 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 to assess 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 Medical Marijuana Production Regulations and provide clarification on how this land use will be regulated within the City of Campbell River, Council added the following definition to the Zoning Bylaw:

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

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

This bylaw was given first and second readings on April 11, a Public Hearing was held on April 25 and third reading given on May 9.

Council confirms temporary use permits for legal marijuana operations only

According to the federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the retail sale of marijuana is currently illegal in Canada. Council confirmed that the City of Campbell River will manage and process inquiries and applications for temporary use permits only for marijuana operations that are considered legal under federal government legislation. Once marijuana operations are legalized or if an operator has received a permit from Health Canada, Council may consider permitting this use through a temporary use permit.

Public nuisance bylaw amendments adopted

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 readings on April 25 and third reading on May 9.

Council approved Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) 2015

Council approved the annual Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) for the year ended Dec. 31, 2015. The report outlines remuneration to, and expenses paid on behalf of, City employees for those earning in excess of \$75,000 annually. 2015 includes a retroactive payment of approximately \$600,000 made to employees at the fire department, including fire chiefs, firefighters and alarm room operators, for a contract settlement spanning the years 2012 to 2014. Also included is \$600,000 annual contract wage and benefit increases and \$700,000 for filling long-term vacancies. As per Council policy, the City is in the 50th percentile for exempt salaries as ranked against its comparator municipality group. Remuneration as reported includes taxable benefits which vary, but may consist of vehicle benefits, BC MSP, Life and Accidental Death insurance coverages. Employee expenses as reported consist primarily of training and professional development for staff, memberships to professional associations for designated staff, registration fees, travel expenses for training, and moving relocation costs as applicable. The statement also details amounts paid to City suppliers in excess of \$25,000. The SOFI report is required to be submitted to the Province annually before June 30.

Corporate Progress Report – Q1 2016

Staff have streamlined reporting to formulate one quarterly report to update Council on all City initiatives, which include ongoing strategic ventures, capital and operating projects, and operating financials.

The first quarter report for 2016 identifies that staff have spent the first part of the year on foundational work that will set a path of success for the year. Comments, status updates and year-to-date financials are provided for projects approved during financial planning. To date, 20 initiatives and/or projects have been completed from the reported total of 183.

The capital spend is low by the end of the first quarter, with six per cent of the budgeted expense expended, similar to 2015, which had a four per cent spend by the end of the first quarter. This is mainly due to the majority of construction for capital projects taking place during the summer months, which will result in an active second and third quarter.

As of March 31, 2016 the financial results of the City, for both operating and capital, are within expectation. Operating revenues are at nine per cent of the total budget, as compared to 12 per cent at the end of the first quarter in 2015. Operating expenses at the end of March are at 18 per cent of the total budget, which is the same as it was at the end of the first quarter in 2015. Budget variances are related to planned future activity, and are the result of seasonal operations, as well as timing differences with significant invoices not having yet been received for RCMP, transit, and solid waste. The year end results are expected to be on budget by the end of the year.

Cedar Street watermain update

In January 2016 a major watermain break occurred at Cedar St. and 9th Ave., resulting in significant damage to Cedar St. While the watermain was put back in service later that day and the road was returned to a safe state later that week, the damage to Cedar St. and the watermain was significant enough that the road and watermain required full reconstruction. Due to the priority to get Cedar St. back to normal this summer, staff fast-tracked the design and tender. While this unplanned project was not included in the City's budget for 2016, the approved budget included \$300,000 for watermain replacement design work. Through efficiencies found in the design of these other projects, the City anticipates it will be able to complete Cedar St. reconstruction and the remaining design work within the approved budget.

Council sends letter of support for C.R. Head Injury Support Society

The CR Head Injury Support Society is working to create affordable housing for individuals with brain injuries and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Council will send a letter of support from Council for the society's funding and grant applications.

Council to review amendments to Procedure Bylaw

The City Clerk provided Council with several ideas to streamline and improve meeting procedures and Council's decision-making process. In addition to these discussions, Council has requested that staff report back on ways to better address delegations. All of the proposed amendments are to assist Council in using its time efficiently and effectively, focusing efforts on issues of strategic importance.