

Council Meeting Highlights

April 8, 2019

Please note on the City website: www.campbellriver.ca. Council meeting agendas, minutes and webcasts are available from the link on the homepage. Find archives of Council Meeting Highlights at: campbellriver.ca/councilmeetinghighlights

Public hearing for proposed bike shop with four residential units above in Willow Point

A proposal to develop a mixed use commercial-residential building at 2424 South Island Highway received third reading and went to public hearing. Rezoning would allow for the development of approximately 420m² (4500ft²) of retail space (a bike store) on the ground floor and approximately four multi-family units on the second floor. Three people attended a neighbourhood public meeting in November 2018. Council has received two letters of support and no concerns about the proposal.

Delegation urges preservation of mountain views to the west

In response to proposed development plans to construct 33.2-metre buildings at 525 South Dogwood Street, residents of South Birch Street and the Mercroft neighbourhood made a presentation to Council urging the City to protect views of the inland island mountains and consider re-zoning the property to limit both height and density. They noted concerns about traffic congestion and suggested that high rises built near Robron Park would affect the views and enjoyment for people using the fields and walking paths.

Additional tax revenue from new construction

Campbell River continues to experience high rates of growth and development. In response to a report confirming that property taxation from new construction will be \$190,000 more than anticipated during December's financial planning deliberations, Council decided to retain these funds until they have the opportunity to discuss options at a Committee of the Whole meeting in June. Council set the 2019 tax rate at 2.55% in December and must adopt its 2019 tax rate bylaw before May 15. Campbell River's tax rate remains among the lower average across B.C.

Find more details at campbellriver.ca/your-city-hall/financial-plans-reports

Watch a video about the link between property taxes and local government services on the City's YouTube channel (one click from the icon at the top of the homepage at campbellriver.ca).

Amendments to public nuisance and ticketing bylaws

Council gave first two readings to proposed amendments to the Public Nuisance and the Ticketing for Bylaw Offences bylaws to permit bylaw enforcement officers to write tickets related to liquor consumption in public places. RCMP officers can currently write tickets related to drinking alcohol in public, and Bylaw enforcement officers can currently write tickets for consumption of liquor in parks. Consistent with what other communities do to assist RCMP to manage consumption of liquor in public places, this will help the City obtain compliance with bylaws that prohibit open drinking downtown. In the event that multiple tickets are unpaid, demonstrating non-compliance with the bylaw over an extended period of time, the City can apply to the Courts to have a person barred from the area. This strategy has been successful at reinforcing appropriate behaviour and reducing downtown disturbances in other jurisdictions.

City to support Baptist Church hosting Grassroots Kind Hearts dinner program

Council received a request from the Campbell River Baptist Church for continued funding to support hosting the Grassroots Kind Hearts dinner program in a safe and secure environment indoors at the downtown church location. Council agreed to continue to pay up to \$20,700 for operating and security costs to run the program for an additional six months.

Council also agreed to contribute \$5,000 toward the purchase of two new gas ranges to replace aging electric ranges in the church kitchen. The City contribution represents one-third of the total cost to replace the appliances.

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A report on the City's proposed social funding policy is scheduled to be considered by Council at the May 13 meeting.

Closure approved for lane at 1640 Perth Road

Council adopted a bylaw that would close the lane next to 1640 Perth Road, and permit the sale and purchase of the laneway land to consolidate adjacent lots. The City will maintain a right of way to access water lines and provide future pedestrian access at this location. Provincial approval for the road dedication has been received.

City to investigate gap in accessible parking requirement

Council received correspondence from the Legislative Assembly of BC requesting that the City adopt a bylaw to address accessibility parking requirements. Currently, the City's Zoning Bylaw requires parking spaces for people with a disability in accordance with the B.C. Building Code. With recent changes to the B.C. Building Code that remove the requirements for accessible parking, the City has no ability to require parking spaces for people with a disability. Council directed staff to provide a report on options for Zoning Bylaw regulations to address this gap, taking into account Canadian Standards Association standards.

Mayor and Council reports

- The City has won a Vancouver Island Real Estate Board of excellence for the water supply centre building. Council praised the work of staff and the collaboration with BC Hydro and Wei Wai Kum carvers Bill, Junior and Greg Henderson, whose art and totem poles are featured on the exterior of the building. Other Campbell River organizations were also recognized.
- Students filled Council Chambers on Friday, April 5, demonstrating their concern about the need for action on climate change. Staff shared information about the City's climate action plan, including strategies such as sea level rise planning and the urban forest management plan. Council praised the students' civic engagement as well as the Youth Action Committee and staff members who met with the students.
- Mayor Andy Adams has been elected as a trustee of the Municipal Finance Association.

Council will invite Dr. Aref Tabarsi to an upcoming Council meeting to make a presentation on pathology services at the Campbell River Hospital.

From Committee of the Whole meeting

Illumination of Discovery Passage Mural

Council agreed to commit \$9,000 in funding to light the Discovery Passage mural located at 871 Island Highway. The 550-square-foot mural has become a focal point for welcoming people into the downtown. The addition of lighting will enable the City to promote the feature as a visitor attraction at night, while generating increased safety and overall activity in the downtown. The project also meets the objectives of the *Refresh Downtown* strategy by adding more lighting opportunities downtown and enhancing community character.

Downtown small initiatives program update

Council received an update regarding the *Downtown Small Initiatives Program*. The program was first adopted in 2016 with the intent of funding place-making and street activity as part of the City's downtown revitalization efforts. Over the years, the City has steadily increased programming and beautification initiatives that help attract businesses, tourists, and residents to the downtown as a destination for food, leisure, entertainment, and community participation.



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In 2018, projects included CR Live Streets event series, the parklet program, and further improvements to Tidemark Square. The City also implemented several new small initiatives, including installing customized trash receptacles along Shoppers Row, bike racks outside the North Island Employment Foundations Society building, exterior wall sconces at the Downtown Safety Office, nighttime illumination of the Dreamscape Mural, drone footage of the CR Farmer's Market, and umbrellas and stands for the Honey Lemon Grill parklet.

Projects for the 2019 *Downtown Small Initiatives Program* include launching a food truck pilot program, continued CR Live Streets events, installing a parklet outside of Grey Dog Diner and bike parking at the corner of 11th Avenue and Cypress Street, replacing canopy lighting at Tidemark Square, installing more customized trash receptacles, a cigarette litter abatement project, and adding landscaping around utility boxes at Tye Plaza.