

Council Meeting Highlights May 8, 2017

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Two more downtown revitalization tax exemptions approved

Council has approved two applications for the City's Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption program. The exemptions were approved for buildings at 594 11th Ave. (Beach Fire Brewing and Nosh House – Ranger's Tongue Holdings), and at 920 Alder St. (North Island Employment Foundations Society). Both properties have undergone improvements that make them eligible for a tax exemption. Each exemption is for five years for 100 per cent of the increased property assessment value and related tax due to the improvements.

Council supports Chances Casino application to amend liquor licence

The application is related to constructing and licensing a new pub style restaurant within the existing building and changing the gaming floor layout. The proposed changes will increase the licensed capacity of the casino, which must be approved by the Provincial Liquor Control & Licensing Branch.

Temporary rainbow crosswalk approved

After careful consideration of the LGBT2Q Peer Youth Group's request for a permanent rainbow crosswalk at 10th Ave. and Shopper's Row, the City will paint a temporary rainbow crosswalk in support of the North Island Pride Festival, to be held June 27 at Spirit Square. Feedback from the Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission, the Advisory Planning and Environment Commission and City staff confirmed that a policy for non-standard crosswalks should be developed before permanent marking are considered.

Council supports annual BC Elders Gathering

From July 11 to 13, the BC Elders Council will host the 41st Annual BC Elders Gathering in Campbell River and the Comox Valley. The City of Campbell River is honoured to be selected to host 3,000 First Nation elders and their support people as well as corporate sponsors, government dignitaries and First Nation leaders. Council will provide a grant of \$15,000 to support the event and promote our community.

Clean audit for consolidated financial statements

No issues were identified by auditors from MNP LLP, who reviewed the City's 2016 consolidated financial statements. The financial statements demonstrate close alignment between actual financial results and the City's 2016 Financial Plan. The year-end results also demonstrate the City's financial position continues to increase with the focus on re-investment in infrastructure with stable tax and user fee increases through the City's Financial Stability and Resiliency Program.

Final report for Campbell River Economic Development Corporation

Council received the final report for the Campbell River Economic Development Corporation. Council **c**ommended the efforts of Freeman Mary Ashley and Joan Miller of INFilm and Creative Industries Council, who helped continue to deliver services through the transition from Rivercorp to new economic development and tourism management.

Tax rates bylaw adopted

In conjunction with Council's direction during financial planning and the City's property tax policy, Tax Rates Bylaw 3649 was adopted by Council. Tax notices will be printed and delivered



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by the end of May, with a tax due date of July 4. The bylaw received first three readings on April 24, 2017

Increased airport improvement fees

Council approved increasing the airport improvement fee from the current \$4 per passenger to \$6.25 in 2017 and \$8.50 in 2018 to reflect the Airport Commission's suggested increase of \$2.25 in 2017 and in 2018. The bylaw was given first and second reading at the April 10 Council meeting and third reading at the April 24 meeting.

Public hearing May 23

A public hearing at the next Council meeting will consider zoning change for two-family dwelling at 710 9th Avenue – the amendment would permit a single-family dwelling with a secondary suite or one two-family residential dwelling. The zoning amendment is consistent with the applicable Sustainable Official Community Plan policies and guidelines relating to housing and the neighbourhood designation.

Rezoning to be considered for land north of Jubilee Parkway

A public hearing is expected to be held in June to consider rezoning parts of land north of Jubilee Parkway – to align with proposed subdivision, proposed adjustments include changes from single-family residential to multi-family and from multi-family to single-family residential to align with proposed subdivision.

Chemical grouting and trenchless repairs of sanitary sewers

Superior City Contracting was awarded a \$120,000 contract to carry out repairs to the City's sewer system, primarily in Campbellton and some parts of Willow Point. Instead of digging up the pipes, the contractor will run a robotic device through the pipes to fix leaks and cracks using a chemical grout. This repair technique saves money because no digging or asphalt repairs are required.