

Council Meeting Highlights November 23, 2015

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.

Fire Department service

Members of the Campbell River Fire Department received exemplary service medals and long service awards. On behalf of the community, Council extended congratulations and thanks to:

- Captain Ed Stawski – 35-year long service award medal
- Fire Chief, Ian Baikie - 30-year exemplary service medal
- Captain Ken Dawson – 30-year exemplary service medal
- Firefighter Peter Doherty – 30-year exemplary service medal
- Firefighter David Lagos – 30-year exemplary service medal
- Lieutenant Gord Dawson – 25-year long service award.

Portion of 402 Evergreen Rd. to be donated to Campbell River Hospice Society

The City of Campbell River will subdivide-off a portion of the City reservoir property on Evergreen Road to donate to the Campbell River Hospice Society for their proposed new building. This portion of the property is not needed for current or future operation of the reservoir facility and will support a much-needed hospice service in the community. Requirements in the City's Subdivision Development Servicing Bylaw 3419, 2010 to bury overhead wires was waived because it is likely that this location would remain the only area on this stretch of the street with underground utilities because surrounding properties are already developed and not likely to be subdivided for the foreseeable future.

Hospice Society grant to be considered during budget deliberations

During upcoming budget deliberations, Council will consider providing an additional grant to the Campbell River Hospice Society in the amount of \$45,500 to offset increased utility servicing costs, with funds provided from Council Contingency account. Council will also consider an additional grant of \$12,803 to offset increased development cost charges and the building permit fee for the expanded facility, with funds from the City's Community Land Development account. These two requests would amount to a donation that would be \$101,319.

Tidemark Theatre upgrades to be considered during financial plan meeting

Kim Emsley-Leik, managing director of the Tidemark Theatre Society presented to Council on how the theatre supports the local economy through a thriving arts and cultural precinct in downtown Campbell River. The society has completed a number of interior building improvements and is aiming for upgrades to the exterior of the building, including painting, façade improvement and signage as well as the connection of the theatre, library and courtyard to Spirit Square. A budget is proposed to paint the exterior of the library and theatre in 2016 and will be considered by Council during the financial plan meetings in December.

Spirit Square request for increased funding to be part of Council's financial plan meeting

The Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission requested a budget increase of \$7,200 to support the social and cultural fabric of the community through Spirit Square

programming. Spirit Square has proven to be a very positive venue for the development of local artists, fund raising for local community organizations and socializing. The Commission believes that 2016 initiatives will build on this success and further enhance the positive contribution Spirit Square programming makes to our community.

Council will consider the request during the upcoming financial plan meetings.

Viewing platform for Dick Murphy Park to be considered during budget deliberations

Council supported development of a construction-ready design to rebuild a viewing platform at the north end of Dick Murphy Park that will be considered during the December financial planning deliberations. The design would be a replica of the previous structure and make use of the existing pilings at an estimated construction cost of \$45,000.

The previous platform was in disrepair and removed for safety reasons in January 2015. The existing steel piles were left in place to support a future platform.

Funding of \$25,000 was approved for the design and engineering of a re-built platform. Onsite Engineering developed three conceptual design options of varying size and scope for the City's consideration. All three options include a tie-in to existing gravel pathways and furniture and amenities throughout Dick Murphy Park.

Logger Mike replacement plan to be considered during budget deliberations

Council approved the proposal from the Shoreline Arts Society for the replacement of Logger Mike and will consider a budget of \$25,000 for the project at the 2016 Financial Plan deliberations.

Logger Mike is an iconic feature in the City's downtown core. The yellow cedar statue has withstood over 15 years of weathering. It was refurbished and repaired in 2009 and now needs to be replaced. The pole that supports the carving was replaced during the 2009 construction of Spirit Square and is expected to be functional for several more decades.

Staff and the Shoreline Arts Society worked together to develop a proposal to replace the existing Logger Mike with a newly carved statue during the society's 2016 chainsaw carving event, which takes place during the City's Canada Day celebrations.

Partnership with Willow Point Business Improvement Area

Council approved in principle the Willow Point BIA Society's plan for a banner project that would see 35 banners hung from lamp standards in the Willow Point area during the fall, winter and spring seasons. A number of the banners could be left in place during the summer season when the Arts Council, Shoreline Arts and City banners are displayed.

The society will also re-landscape the two garden beds located at Ken Forde Park, which marks the entrance to the Willow Point area.

The proposed banner project at \$6,400 and the landscaping project at \$3,600 would consume the \$10,000 available to the society for beautification and public art and amenities for 2015.

Public notification of the partnership plan will be published in the local newspaper, and the proposed partnering agreement be brought back to Council for final consideration once the statutory notification requirements have been completed.

All-weather field fees remain on par with grass fields pending comprehensive fee review

With the new all-weather field soon to open at Robron Park, City staff will consult with user groups to reach a consensus on appropriate user fees for use of the artificial turf field.

Healthy pursuits are a vital part of the Campbell River lifestyle, and Council wants to ensure that sports groups are able to access fields and recreational facilities at reasonable rates.

City staff are undertaking a comprehensive review of costs of recreation amenities and fees paid locally, and rates paid in other comparable municipalities. The review is anticipated to be complete by spring 2016.

Operating costs for the administration and maintenance of sports facilities are substantial, and initial research has indicated that, for playing fields, the majority of municipalities charge an hourly booking and lighting fee.

A series of partial reviews of Campbell River's recreation rates have been conducted over time.

- 2014 – partial review – to bring youth and senior fitness rates in line with rest of fitness rates
- 2012 – partial review - adjustments made to field and lighting fees
- 2010 – partial review of fitness fees – youth and seniors rates not adjusted
- 2010 – partial review – adjustments for HST issue
- 2008 – Facility Rental Rates review

2015 Third Quarter Operating and Capital Report

As of September 30, 2015, the City's operating and capital financial results are within expectation. Slight budget variances from 2014 are primarily caused by a timing difference, with significant invoices for the third quarter yet to be received for RCMP, transit, and solid waste; results are expected to be normalized by the end of the year.

The capital spend by the end of the third quarter is low at 28 per cent of the budgeted expense by the end of September. This is due to the continuation of large capital projects (which include the ongoing Norm Wood Environmental Centre upgrades, Robron Park all-weather field, and the Campbell River water supply project) into the 2015 fourth quarter.

Carbon Neutral 2014 update

In 2011, the City of Campbell River adopted its Carbon Neutral Plan, an action plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting its Climate Action Charter commitments. The Carbon Neutral Plan includes the City's emission reduction targets for 2012, 2020, and 2050, as well as action planning for continued emissions reduction. The City's greenhouse gas targets are based on reducing total emissions relative to a 2008 benchmark.

To date, initiatives to reduce emissions were funded primarily through external grant funding and include:

- energy retrofits to City facilities,
- installation of a Green Roof at City Hall,
- solar hot water installations at the RCMP station, Fire Hall#1, Sportsplex and Simms Creek pump station,
- upgrades to blowers at Norm Wood Environmental Centre,
- installation of LED street lighting,
- the purchase of hybrid vehicles and an electric passenger vehicle, as well as installation of GPS units and a corporate anti-idling policy,
- installation of electric vehicle charging stations and incorporation of a 5 per cent biodiesel blend for fleet diesel vehicles.

From 2008 to 2014, the City's municipal emissions from buildings and fleet vehicles decreased by more than 14 per cent as a result of these efforts. The City has been recognized for its GHG emissions reduction efforts with several climate action awards from the Province of BC, Community Energy Association, Solar BC, the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

As part of the provincial reporting system, the City is now responsible for reporting contracted services emissions, which have increased since 2008, resulting in the City's overall corporate

emissions rising. Significantly lowering GHG emissions will require investment and staff resourcing.

Permits for 415 5th Ave. converts house for church purposes

The house at 415 5th Ave. has been rezoned to allow public use for Sunday school and after-school programs for a maximum of 40 people by the Gateway Foursquare Church. No additions or new buildings are planned.

Public hearing to be held for 891 Kalmar Rd.

The applicant proposes to rezone the property at 891 Kalmar Rd. to allow a secondary suite to be constructed in the dwelling. While the proposal is in an established single family dwelling neighbourhood, the suite is expected to have minimal impact on the surrounding neighbourhood and is supported by policy in the Official Community Plan. Time and location of the public hearing will be published in the newspaper and on the City's website.

Clean-up ordered for 2282 Dalton Rd.

Discarded household items, scrap chairs, metal, lumber, tree branches and torn tarps left in full public view have generated a number of complaints to the City. This property has become steadily more unsightly over a two-month period, and despite the City sending a letter to the owner on Oct. 14 requiring the removal of the materials, to date no clean-up has occurred.

Council authorized a City contractor to enter onto the property to perform the work in the event that the property owner does not comply with the notice.

New car dealership approved

Following a presentation by representatives of Steve Marshall Motors, Council approved the major development permit application that will allow Steve Marshall Ford to relocate from their current location in downtown Campbell River to the southwest corner of Island Highway and Woodburn Road. The development includes a new building to house vehicle service areas, offices and the showroom. This proposal is consistent with the direction provided in the Official Community Plan and zoning bylaw.

Age-friendly assessment and planning awaiting grant funding

Council endorsed the age-friendly assessment and community planning process, and will work with community members to establish an age-friendly community if the City receives the \$20,000 UBCM 2016 Age-friendly Community & Project Grant.

Council supports application to host Tourism Association of Vancouver Island event in May 2016

Tourism Campbell River & Region could host the Tourism Industry Association of BC annual general meeting and summit in May 2016. Council will provide a letter of support for Tourism Campbell River & Region's application.

2016 Council meeting schedule approved

Meeting schedule will be available in December 2015 on the City's website (www.campbellriver.ca) under *Your City Hall/Council meetings*.

Future of Forestry Task Force terms of reference approved – call for volunteers

The City will advertise for members to serve on the Forestry Task Force on our website and in our local newspaper.

The Forestry Task Force will build on the work of the previous Future of Forestry Task Force, and in cooperation with other existing governments and agencies, work to enhance and retain

business, and enhance the sustainability of the forest sector to benefit the community and the City of Campbell River. The task force will also work to secure a community forest license for the City to generate revenue, create employment, protect our watershed and wildlife habitat enhance tourism and recreation, provide job training, research and education and promote non-timber forest resource business opportunities.

Clean Air bylaw to be reviewed

Council requested that the Fire Chief and the City Environmental Coordinator report back on a request to make changes to the Clean Air bylaw, after receiving correspondence expressing concerns about air quality and the possibility of wildfires from a Strathcona Regional District resident, who suggests the bylaw requires updating as a result of the population increase south of the City.