

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OCT. 5, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

### ***New safety requirements for Council meetings help prevent spreading the coronavirus.***

*Presentations to Council by City staff and community members use online video conferencing technology. Watch City Council meetings live or view recordings at [campbellriver.ca](http://campbellriver.ca).*

### **Council adopted 2019 Annual Report**

Building on the award-winning features of the 2017 and 2018 annual reports, the City of Campbell River has published its 2019 Annual Report, with extensive financial analysis and a City Scorecard performance report. The City Scorecard uses graphic icons to track trends, illustrate service delivery and share results. The 2019 Annual Report again features spectacular Campbell River photos and infographics, and department sections highlight key municipal service performance measurement. The report concludes with a year-in-review milestones section.

The report is compiled and published in accordance with requirements established by the *Community Charter*, and standards set out by the Government Finance Officers Association of United States and Canada.

The 2019 Annual Report identifies that the City has made significant progress on Council's strategic priorities in the past year, and those priorities that continue to be a focus in 2020.

Find the 2019 Annual Report on the City's website at <https://campbellriver.ca/your-city-hall/financial-plans-reports>

### **Truck Loggers Association update on activities and forest sector strategies**

Truck Loggers Association executive director Bob Brash provided a virtual presentation to Council, with an update on TLA activities, and options for Council's involvement and support for forest sector strategies. The association has more than 60 local members, including the City of Campbell River as an associate member.

Council **endorsed a letter from the Resource Works Society regarding forestry issues**. Campbell River will join other BC Mayors in sending a letter to the three leaders of the provincial political parties about the New Approach to Old Forests report. The letter will also request that a socio-economic impact assessment of the local forest sector be undertaken.

### **Council to consider landscaping maintenance for Sybil Andrews Cottage**

Ken Blackburn, Executive Director, Campbell River Arts Council, presented to Council regarding garden and landscaping maintenance for Sybil Andrews Cottage and Walter Morgan Studio. Volunteers are no longer able to support the necessary maintenance on the grounds, and the Campbell River Arts Council requests Council's support in maintaining the grounds. Seeking a comprehensive heritage garden plan. Council requested a report on a needs, options and cost implications for gardening plan, which will be referred to financial deliberations at the end of the month.

## COVID-19

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**2020 Permissive Exemption from Taxation considered**

Council gave third reading to the 2020 Permissive Exemption from Taxation Amendment Bylaw, which includes property owned by the Campbell River Head Injury Support Society.

At the Aug. 31 meeting, Council moved forward with the Community Partnership Committee's recommendation to grant 79 community organizations with City property tax relief estimated at \$521,770. This program assists many local organizations with the ongoing operation of arts, culture, recreation, social, emergency and spiritual facilities and programs that greatly enhance quality of life in the community. Council's Community Partnership Committee reviews permissive tax exemption applications and makes recommendations to Council for consideration.

**Public hearing to be held for proposed subdivision on Wood Road**

Council gave first and second reading and directed that a public hearing be held for a proposed subdivision at 1905 Wood Road. This property is located on the northwest corner of Discovery Drive and Wood Road in the North Campbell River neighbourhood. It is currently designated as "neighbourhood" in the Official Community Plan. This designation supports a range of low to medium density housing while maintaining existing character, and accommodates modest new growth through sensitive infill and providing a range of housing types.

The application proposes to rezone the property and subdivide it into three lots. If the rezoning application is approved, it will allow a maximum of six units (three duplexes or three single-family units with suites). This type of residential infill development is consistent with the surrounding land uses and residential character of the area, which is predominantly single-family dwellings on both larger and smaller subdivided lots. There is a ditch along both boundaries of the property, which will require a Streamside Development Permit to be submitted and approved at the subdivision stage.

**User fees and charges bylaw to be updated to include Robron Fieldhouse**

Council gave first three readings to the User Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw to include the new Robron Fieldhouse.

The Campbell River Youth Soccer Association (CRYSA) oversaw the construction of the field house located at Robron Park. Once the facility is completed (anticipated this fall), the facility will be owned by the City of Campbell River, which will be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance.

As per the agreement between the City of Campbell River and CRYSA, the club will receive a credit toward future costs associated with renting the Robron Fieldhouse.

**Housing Growth Review stormwater analysis**

The findings of this drainage report will be combined with the other components of the overall Housing Growth Review project as part of a holistic recommendation to Council regarding the City's housing growth strategy for the next 10 years.

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**2021 Community Resiliency Investment Grant Application**

Council authorized the Community Resiliency Investment grant application being submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities as part of the City's ongoing work to reduce wildfire risk, and committed to overall grant management if the application is successful. The application includes a plan for public engagement and involving students from the Carihi forestry program.

**Extension for restaurants and pubs' temporary expanded service area**

Earlier this year City Council adopted a resolution that provided the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch with blanket authorization to expand the service areas of licensed establishments without requiring any further resolutions from City Council. This was done to support the hospitality industry and streamline the approval process so that licensed establishments in Campbell River could expand seating areas in response to physical distancing requirements during the pandemic. Since then, outdoor patio spaces have been approved and established, which has allowed restaurants, pubs and bars to maintain the same number of seats spread out over a larger area. These temporary service area expansions were due to expire on Oct. 31, 2020 and may now be extended for another year.

**Watershed Protection Policies at Mclvor Lake**

Council received a report and will consider a proposed amendment to the Official Community Plan that would designate residential properties around Mclvor Lake as part of a green and protected area. The change would discourage lakeshore densification, minimize development impact and provide greater shoreline protection to prevent soil erosion and environmental damage that could affect drinking water quality. Consultation with the Province, Council's advisory committees and interested community members would take several months in 2021. In the meantime, a staff review of watershed policies will continue.

**Utility franchise fees**

In response to an inquiry about the amount of gas franchise fees received by Vancouver Island communities, Council received a report confirming that prior to 2015, the City received no compensation from FortisBC BC as the City's ability to charge FortisBC a service fee for an exclusive franchise was revoked by the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act. The provisions limiting local governments on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast in charging a service fee to natural gas companies was repealed on January 1, 2015. Subsequently, the City of Campbell River entered into an agreement with FortisBC where FortisBC pays the City an operating fee equal to three percent of the gross revenues for the provision and distribution of all gas consumed within the City of Campbell River. This percentage is consistent with the amount received by other communities in the province. To date, the City has received approximately \$792,466.

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**Development Applications Status Report #9**

The report outlines that since the last report was provided to Council in August, there have been 12 new applications, and 14 applications completed.

Currently, there are 76 active files. Of those files:

- 43 require action from the applicant and
- 33 require action from the City.

Of the 33 applications awaiting City action:

- 12 are fee simple subdivisions
- 1 is a bare land strata subdivision
- 1 is a temporary use permit
- 3 are combined OCP & Zoning Bylaw amendments
- 6 are Zoning Bylaw amendments
- 8 are Major Development Permits
- 3 are Minor Development Permits
- 3 are Development Variance Permits and
- 1 is an Agricultural Land Reserve application

**Council endorses Remembrance Day flyby**

Council will support the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 137 request for a Canadian Air Force flyby at 500 feet over downtown during the 2020 Remembrance Day Ceremonies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a small, private ceremony is planned. Members of the public are asked not to attend out of respect for public health prohibitions on large gatherings and instead honour this day at home.

**Cycling lanes for Hilchey Road**

In response to correspondence from the Cycling Advocacy Committee of the River City Cycle Club, urging Council to increase cycling infrastructure on Hilchey Road, Council requested that active transportation considerations be incorporated into all reports to Council on major roadwork projects. The City intends to install lines for cycling lanes on Hilchey Road in 2021 when weather is suitable for line painting.

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## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Council reconvened the public hearing on a proposed second residence at 7050 Gold River Highway. Council had recessed the Aug. 31 public hearing to allow for a discussion about watershed protection and policies to discourage lakeshore densification before considering a final decision on this application. This bylaw, if adopted, will increase the allowable parcel coverage from two to three per cent. An online public hearing was held for a proposed zoning amendment. The property is zoned for rural neighbourhood use. It borders crown land and McIvor Lake and was subdivided from a larger parcel in 2012. The current rural neighbourhood land use designation requires a site-specific amendment to permit a second residence and increase in lot coverage.

The proposed second residence is a 1,300 square-foot home for relatives of the current owners. It would be set back 75 metres from the highwater mark of lake. Development permits would address environmental concerns around streamside development and watershed protection.

The City has received three letters in support of the proposal and no letters of opposition.

## **HIGHLIGHTS from OCT. 6 COMMITTEE of the WHOLE MEETING**

### **Business Recovery Task Force report (see Oct. 5 news release for detailed statement)**

Council has requested a report on how best to consult with the forestry and aquaculture industries following recommendations from a volunteer Business Recovery Task Force. Council will consider options including establishing two new advisory committees with membership consisting of industry experts.

The City's Economic Development Strategic Plan work includes focus groups with industry and will be considered for 2021 during Council's financial plan deliberations later this month. This work was originally scheduled for 2020, but postponed to allow the economic development team to help local businesses adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**Pre-budget discussions confirm plans to cut costs, reduce services in 2021**

Council confirmed a number of guiding principles that will help draft the budget to be discussed Oct. 26 through 28.

- Base budget increases (to accommodate rising labour, contract and supply costs) would remain at 2 per cent, and that staff introduce modest service reductions to balance the budget.
- A review of user fees and charges is planned for 2022.
- In consultation with the Community Partnership Committee, grants will be marginally reduced.
- Infrastructure renewal funding will be set at .5 rather than .66 per cent.
- The Centennial Pool will remain closed in 2021.
- Airport services will be temporarily reduced to offset revenue loss. Timing for the Airport Master Plan update will also be confirmed during financial plan deliberations.
- Travel and training funding will be reduced and redirected to cover the costs of enhanced cleaning during the pandemic.
- The City's contractor will continue to pursue a suitable location for a yard waste drop-off site. In the meantime, the City will request that the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board waive the landfill access fee for yard waste drop off at that location.
- To prepare for the construction of a new library, Council confirmed demolition of the current facility should be budgeted for as soon as third quarter in 2021.
- **Council also noted that with revenue losses and so many financial pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 will not be a year to fund new projects. The City expects to reduce services by at least \$325,000, and encourages any interested in community organizations to use next year as a time to work with City staff to plan projects and funding for future years.**

**Continuing discussion on downtown issues**

Building on the special meeting Council held in August and follow-up discussion in September regarding negative activity in the downtown core, Council set priorities for a future report to explore costs and options related to:

- collaborating with existing social service partners for a drop-in centre
- extended hours for bylaw enforcement and increased security patrols
- early morning cleanup of encampments
- incentives for downtown businesses to modify building design to discourage negative activity
- a work partnership program connecting businesses with individuals in vulnerable situations
- additional funding to for the Get the Point program
- a downtown safety taskforce

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