

HIGHLIGHTS of MAY 10, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, meetings use online video conferencing technology.

Watch City Council meetings live or view recordings at campbellriver.ca/webcasts.

Note: The next Council meeting will be May 31, and the next Committee of the Whole meeting will be June 1.

DELEGATION – Greenways Land Trust 2019/2020 annual report

Greenways doubled its annual income thanks to additional grant funding during the pandemic. With the funding, Greenways has launched two new projects:

- Good Food Box incubator (produce box delivery program)
- Campbell River urban watershed restoration
(since March planted 1,000 trees, managing litter and invasive species)

Highlights of City partnerships include:

- Baikie Island Nature Reserve maintenance
- Invasive species management (Scotch broom and Japanese knotweed)
- School programs and community outreach (funded by City community partnership grant)

Looking forward, Greenways aims to develop a tree planting program to advance the City's urban forest plan.

See the report online at <https://www.greenwaystrust.ca/reports-and-resources/>

FINANCIAL UPDATES

- **2020 Statement of Financial Information** – Council approved the report that includes audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020, as well as details of payments made to suppliers and employee remuneration. The City's auditors, Meyers Norris Penny, confirmed that the City's financial statements are free from material misstatement and conform with public sector accounting standards. The audited financial statements highlight the impacts of COVID-19 on the City's operations – and that, despite lost revenue and reductions in spending, the City was able to make quick, effective decisions to preserve a strong financial position while still delivering a high level of service. The City also received significant senior government grant funding to assist with pandemic service delivery and economic recovery. Each year, Council must approve the statement before the June 30, 2021 deadline.
- **2021 Tax Rates Bylaw adopted** – Council adopted the 2021 tax rates bylaw. Using the revised assessment values released by BC Assessment in late March, the 1.95 per cent tax increase equates to:
 - \$33 annual increase for an average home (valued at \$464,000)
 - \$279 for a typical business (valued at \$714,100)

The tax rates bylaw is based on the 2021-2030 Financial Stability and Resiliency Plan Council adopted in December 2020. (See the December 2020 news release for highlights.)

Starting this year, Home Owner Grants will be administered by the Province through online applications.

The City of Campbell River, like all other BC municipalities, will no longer accept HOG applications. Home owners must refer to the Province's website gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or toll-free phone line 1-888-355-2700 for assistance. Property tax payments are due July 2.

COVID-19

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DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- **Duplex approved for 840 Nicholls Road** – Council approved rezoning to permit a duplex, and, if the lot were subdivided, up to six units on the site. Protection for the environmentally sensitive area along this property include re-establishing a ditch and installing a culvert and fence, relocating the driveway, and establishing a storm water management plan to address drainage concerns.
- **Duplex considered for 2257 Dalton Road** – Council gave first two readings to allow for a duplex at this location. An online public hearing will be scheduled.
- **Apartment building approved for Petersen Road** – Council approved a major development permit for a 49-unit, four-storey apartment building at 775 Petersen Rd. This will provide additional rental units, a type of housing that's currently in short supply in Campbell River.
- **Ripple Rock Estates rezoning approved** – The City will enter into a parkland agreement for development at 6805 Island Highway as a condition of rezoning the property to permit a new, low density, residential strata development with 200 lots with water views and public access to the waterfront. The plan also includes construction of a hotel and commercial use within walking distance of houses, with private water, sewer and road maintenance services. The area is adjacent to rural and industrial zones. Minimum lot size is 900 square metres. Access would be via Race Point Road.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- **State of Campbell River Report** – In advance of a June 15 presentation by the City's economic development department and Meyers Norris Penny (MNP), Council received a report prepared as part of the City's strategic planning for economic development. The report contains an economic review and outlook, statistical information and analysis of key sectors, as well as population trends and overall economic conditions and affordability.
- **Community Beautification Grant Program 2021** – Council approved three grants for beautification initiatives, public art and public amenities in commercial areas. This year, the program will provide up to \$7,500 in matching funds for partnering agreements in-principle for the Downtown Business Improvement Association, the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association and the Willow Point Business Improvement Association. Improvements will include ornamental lighting, holiday decorations and flowers throughout the community, as well as artistic additions to Spirit Square and Shoppers Row.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

- **Banners at Spirit Square** – The City will install banners on the poles at Spirit Square in celebration of the Art+Earth Festival, which will be ongoing for six months in 2021. The Campbell River Arts Council is producing the banners that will feature the work of First Nations artist Will Henderson and photographer Eiko Jones.

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COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATES

- **Next steps on Downtown Safety Select Committee recommendations** – Council approved a budget of up to \$75,000 to pursue additional opportunities suggested by the committee. Next steps include meeting with a number of community partners to consider the best locations for social services and a permanent location for a community kitchen and warming centre to help people in need. Council is also seeking feedback from the Community Health and Public Safety Advisory Committee, the Strathcona Community Health Network and from the downtown safety staff team to help move forward with these opportunities.
- **Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding current travel restrictions** – Council received correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs with a request to share information about current provincial travel restrictions. Non-essential travel is prohibited between three provincial areas, using health authority boundaries until after the May long weekend. Until the travel restrictions are lifted, people are reminded to stay close to home and visit local beaches, hiking trails or parks, to avoid non-essential travel within the region. Non-essential travel includes vacations, weekend getaways and tourism activities, visiting family and friends for social reasons and recreation activities. Essential travel is allowed, and includes travelling for work, commercial transportation, attending a funeral or classes at a school or post-secondary institution. Police road checks will be set up to curb recreational travel, issuing fines of \$575 if necessary. Additional measures to discourage non-essential travel include changes for accommodation bookings, signs at highways and border crossings, BC Ferries traffic, and campground reservations. The three regional zones covered by the order are:
 - Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley
 - Vancouver Island (Island Health region)
 - Northern/InteriorMore information can be found at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid19/travel/current
- **Defibrillator for overdose prevention site** – Council received correspondence from Dave Howson, Community Paramedic, BCEHS Community Paramedicine, advising of his work to acquire a defibrillator for the overdose prevention site. Council will fund up to \$2,000 for a defibrillator at this location.
- **Safe exchange zone** – Council requested a report on options to formally establish the police detachment as an area that could be used for guardians transferring custody of children.
- **Petition requests speed limit reduction in residential neighbourhoods** – Council received a petition from residents of the 600-block of Birch Street requesting that the speed limit be reduced to 30 km/hr in all residential areas of the community. Council directed that staff provide a report on lowering speed limits in residential areas as part of the Master Transportation Plan.
- **Nodales Drive traffic calming on hold** – Following correspondence on behalf of residents in this neighbourhood, Council requested a report on traffic counts and requests for traffic calming in this area.
- **Town of View Royal regarding hospital security staff** – In response to correspondence from Town of View Royal Mayor David Screech proposing increased authority and training for hospital security staff to reduce the use of police resources in hospital emergency waiting rooms, Council requested information from Campbell River's RCMP inspector about the local situation.

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CORRESPONDENCE

- **Support for Day of Action Against Anti-Asian Racism** – Council endorsed a request from the Stand With Asians Coalition for a proclamation. May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Habitat for Humanity townhouse development proposal for 461 Hilchey Rd.** – An online public hearing was held to gather feedback on a proposed 20-unit affordable townhouse development for families in need on this one-acre site. One person spoke in favour, and one against, citing concerns about parking and demand on the sewer system. In response to advertising about the public hearing, the City received 68 letters, nine in opposition. Council requested additional information about how many letters were received from people living nearby.
- **Increased density considered for 854 South Island Hwy** – An online public hearing was held for feedback on a proposal to build 70 rental units in a five-storey building at this location. The proposed building height is well below the maximum allowable at this location. An expanded underground parkade allows for all parking to be accommodated on the site, which is a little more than one acre. The City has received one letter, and the writer spoke during the hearing, requesting a delay in Council's decision to give the neighbourhood more time to review and respond to the proposal.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 11, 2021 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**Minor baseball moving to Willow Point Sportsplex**

Following a presentation on drug-related and other safety concerns at Nunns Creek Park, Council endorsed a request by Campbell River Minor Baseball to move 2021 practises to fields at the Willow Point Sportsplex. Staff will contact other sports organizations to discuss sharing field use among multiple groups. Council will receive a report with options for field use in 2022, as well as recommendations for safety improvements at Nunns Creek Park, in time for potential consideration during the 2022-2031 financial plan discussions.

Willow Point Park is currently used by multiple sport groups including soccer, rugby, softball, lacrosse, baseball, fitness classes and recreational programs. Demand for field bookings by sports groups are anticipated to increase once pandemic restrictions ease.

Comprehensive analysis required to consider permanently relocating sporting groups that currently use City fields would form a key component of the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. This analysis would include public input and an assessment of assessing operational and capital costs to address community sport and recreational needs.

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Solid waste options considered

Council received a presentation on options to consider as the City introduces organics collection and the current waste collection contract ends. Discussion topics included potentially changing costs, collection frequency, method of collection, volume of waste accepted and yard waste drop off depot services for approximately 11,000 households. Over the past decade, solid waste services for the City have introduced curbside recycling, seasonal yard waste collection and, until the summer of 2020, a year-round yard waste drop off depot. Waste volume has also been reduced as a number of products have been diverted from the landfill and either re-used or re-purposed.

With the availability of curbside programs and the requirement for multi-family residential developments to provide recycling collection for their residents, community recycling bins at Strathcona Gardens were closed in summer 2020.

Comox Strathcona Waste Management will close the bins at the Sportsplex this summer.

Currently the City has a contract with Emterra Environmental for curbside collection of garbage, recycling and yard waste. Council extended the original 2012 contract three times, and it expires at the end of 2021. The new composting facility that will be operated by Comox Strathcona Waste Management is anticipated to be in operation in the fall of 2022.

A 2019 audit indicates that Campbell River currently achieves nearly 45 per cent waste diversion from the landfill, which has extended operation of the local facility. This site is expected to receive waste for up to two more years, after which, waste will be sent to the Comox Valley.

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