



## **Highlights of June 15, 2020 City of Campbell River Council Meeting**

### **Recognition for 2020 graduates**

Mayor Andy Adams opened the Council meeting with a message for this year's graduating classes, acknowledging the significant disruption caused by COVID-19 and praising their resilience and perseverance in learning from home. Recognizing the efforts of students, parents, families, teachers, principals and graduation committees to find alternative ways to honour and celebrate the accomplishments of graduating students, the Mayor proclaimed June 20 to be Class of 2020 Graduate Day in Campbell River.

### **Council takes pledge condemning racism**

Campbell River City Council has joined a number of communities and organizations in taking a pledge that condemns racism.

The #DifferentTogether Pledge reads:

*Our B.C. is inclusive and respects people of all ethnicities, cultures and faiths and their contributions to our collective well-being.*

*Our B.C. holds diversity as a fundamental value at the heart of the success, strength and resilience of our communities, workplaces, schools, public and private institutions.*

*I pledge to uphold and promote these values and I commit to speaking up to oppose racism and hate in all its forms.*

See Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin's website for more information about this pledge.

<https://ltgov.bc.ca/blog/equality-and-inclusion/differenttogether-join-me-in-opposing-racism/>

### **Credit card recovery fee confirmed**

For the first time, the City of Campbell River is offering taxpayers the ability to pay property taxes by credit card. Council endorsed a fee to recover costs associated with credit card use.

The *Community Charter* provides authorization for charging fees, which supersedes the credit card company's merchant rules.

### **City's blasting and ticketing bylaw updated**

Council gave first three readings to updates that authorize enforcement of blasting regulations through ticketing. The amendment bylaw will provide RCMP officers, bylaw enforcement officers, building inspectors, the fire chief and deputy fire chief with the authority to issue \$500 fines if needed. This will be considered for adoption at the next Council meeting on June 29.

### **Council considers rezoning on Arizona Drive**

Council gave first two readings to an application to rezone a portion of the property at 351 Arizona Dr. to allow for a multi-family development, which could include a combination of single-family dwellings, duplexes, triplexes, apartments, townhouses or a care facility. The majority of the property is currently zoned for multi-family development, with the remainder zoned for single family development. Rezoning would result in the entire property having the same zoning.

Council waived the requirement for a public hearing because the majority of the block is already zoned for this purpose and the application aligns with the Official Community Plan.

The proposed zoning change will be advertised in the *City Currents* section of the newspaper, and neighbouring properties will receive a letter explaining the proposal and advising how people can provide comments or ask questions.

Council will consider adoption at a future meeting.

### **New equipment purchase**

Westerra Equipment was awarded a contract valued at \$106,881.23 to supply and deliver one utility vehicle to replace the City's existing Bobcat Toolcat 5600. The new utility vehicle is able to use the City's existing attachments for both the old machine and its skid steer.

### **CRadvantage extending to Dogwood Street downtown**

Council approved the extension of CRadvantage, the City's broadband network, to Dogwood Street. The highspeed fibre for internet access will be installed through micro-trenching rather than large-scale excavation. Using a large-diameter saw blade to create a four-inch wide trench substantially reduces the cost of installation and asphalt repair. This project will be funded as part of the \$100,000 Council approved in 2018 to expand the City's municipal broadband network extension in this area.

### **2019 bylaw enforcement statistics reflect concerns about housing and homelessness**

The 2019 bylaw enforcement statistics reflect growing concerns around housing and homelessness in Campbell River. Up until 2018, the most frequent complaint had been unsightly properties. In 2019, homeless camps surpassed unsightly properties as the City's primary bylaw complaint. The primary zoning bylaw complaint related to residing in recreational vehicles where not permitted.

The report indicates that:

- 44 per cent of illegal camps were identified during proactive downtown security foot patrols by bylaw enforcement officers
- remaining files about illegal camps were from calls from members of the public, RCMP and other City staff
- 82 per cent of files related to illegal consumption of liquor were from proactive foot patrols
- files that resulted in barring people from a City facility or park were related to:
  - persistent consumption of liquor (50 per cent)
  - illegal camping (32 per cent)
  - other inappropriate conduct or behavior (18 per cent)

The report was referred to the next Council meeting, when it will be discussed with additional information to answer questions about the number of fines and level of compliance resulting from enforcement efforts.

### **Drive-in movie event a possibility for Campbell River**

Council received correspondence from Rick Nelson of Mussio Sports & Entertainment offering a family-friendly, drive-in movie night in Campbell River as part of the events series Vancouver Island. They have received approval from Island Health, and have several shows booked to take place in both Nanaimo and Port Alberni. The movie would be shown so it can be heard through car stereos. The City's Recreation and Culture Department is working with Mussio Group to host the event.

### **Council to send letter in support of local forest industry**

In response to correspondence from Teal-Jones Group and from San Group, Council will send a letter to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources emphasizing the importance of the local forest industry, including shared access to wood fibre for local manufacturing. The concerns arose following an agreement between Mosaic Forest Management and the United Steelworkers to pursue federal legislation to relax rules on raw log exports.

## **From the June 16 Committee of the Whole meeting**

### **Council considering downtown location for new public washroom**

Council considered the benefits of replacing the downtown washrooms near Spirit Square with a new washroom.

A Portland Loo has been recently purchased by the City. It has a sleek design with a focus on safety, durability and accessibility. Visibility slats around the bottom and the top of the washroom allow people to see if this washroom is occupied while also providing an acceptable level of privacy. The enhanced durability and visibility of the unit deters negative activities and vandalism, which increases maintenance costs. Also important, passersby can see and hear if someone is in need of help.

Various locations for the new washroom installation were analyzed considering land availability and ownership, proximity to other washrooms, and feasibility of providing water, sewer and electricity services. Pedestrian traffic and natural surveillance to prevent crime were also considered.

Council will discuss and confirm plans to replace the existing washrooms near Spirit Square at the next meeting on June 29. The existing washrooms can be used elsewhere in the community.

### **Food security and supply**

After receiving a report on a range of potential considerations and actions to increase local food security and supply in Campbell River, Council directed staff to:

- Help establish a 2020 farmers' market in the downtown core to replace the Pier Street Market, which is cancelled for 2020
- Update the City's online local food map – which identifies retailers, restaurants and farms selling local, regional and Vancouver Island sourced agricultural products, as well as public land that has potential as community garden space in Campbell River.  
[www.foodmap.campbellriver.ca](http://www.foodmap.campbellriver.ca)
- Provide a report on costs and considerations for updating the agriculture plan component of the City's Official Community Plan

### **City Restart Plan**

Council received a report on changes to City services and plans for gradually increasing service levels in light of COVID-19.

The report confirmed that actions taken to limit or resume public access to facilities and services will be based on Provincial orders and guidelines and BC's Restart Plan.

Council affirmed the intention to continue to hold meetings electronically until at least the end of summer.

Council will consider options for additional recreation programming at an upcoming meeting, in line with BC's Restart Plan transitioning from phase two to phase three.

For a complete list of services available, facility access, and where to direct questions, see the City's website ([campbellriver.ca](http://campbellriver.ca)), email [info@campbellriver.ca](mailto:info@campbellriver.ca) or call 250-286-5700.

### **Support for Curling Club grant application**

Council will send a letter of support for the Campbell River Curling Club's application to BC Community Gaming Grant program. The program provides 50 per cent grant funding for not-for-profit organizations, and the club is seeking \$53,000 in grant funding for roof replacement and ice upgrades.

### **Curbside organics**

The City will write a letter confirming Campbell River's commitment to the program and requesting continued refined cost projections from Comox Strathcona Waste Management.