

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OCT. 19, 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).*

**Rising Seas project receives CAMA environmental award**

Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) President Jake Rudolph, CAMA Board representative for BC, presented the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators national recognition award for the City's CR Rising Seas project, to the City. (See news release dated Oct. 1, 2020 for more details.) A short video summary of the project award is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4lqyAo2u0E>

**DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

- **Secondary residence approved for 7050 Gold River Highway** – 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.
- **Two minor variances approved for supportive housing located at 580 Dogwood St.** – Permitted changes include removing one off-street parking stall and allowing the entryway of the building to project four metres into the front setback. Council noted that good neighbour and tenant agreements will complement the work of a volunteer community advisory committee that will consider any operational or safety concerns related to this facility.
- **Development permit approved for affordable housing at 850 Dogwood Street** – This allow a 79-unit affordable housing apartment development at 850 Dogwood Street. This project includes the a 10-year affordable housing covenant.
- **Highlights of Housing Growth Review Wastewater Analysis**
  - Plentiful sewer capacity exists within Quinsam Heights
  - Sewer capacity is extremely constrained through the Kingfisher area.
  - New development within the We Wai Kai reserve area would likely need a non-City-owned pump station.
  - Reasonable degree of capacity for development south of Jubilee, but this location places the greatest stress on the entire system, requiring three lifts stations.
  - Residual capacity for up to approximately 800 dwellings or 40 hectares of commercial use in the airport vicinity. Beyond this, a significant system upgrade would be required.
  - Reasonable capacity in north Campbell River, but some further study required. Localized upgrades likely needed.
  - The findings of this sewer report will be combined with the other components of the overall Housing Growth Review project to provide a comprehensive recommendation to Council regarding the City's housing growth strategy for the next 10 years.

**COVID-19**

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### Next steps on Campbell River Business Recovery Task Force's report and recommendations

Council received information from the Economic Development Officer regarding the Campbell River Business Recovery Task Force's report. This report will be further discussed by Council at a November Committee of the Whole meeting.

## FINANCIAL UPDATES

- **Permissive Tax Exemptions adopted** – Council endorsed the Community Partnership Committee's recommendation to grant 79 community organizations with City property tax relief estimated at \$521,770. The only new exemption for this year is for the Campbell River Head Injury Support Society. Permissive tax exemptions assist 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.
- **User fees and charges bylaw to include Robron Fieldhouse – In acknowledgment of the role of the Campbell River Youth Soccer Association (CRYSA) in construction of the field house located at Robron Park, CRYSA will receive a credit toward future costs associated with renting the City facility. Construction completion is anticipated this fall.**
- **Council requested reports on requests to purchase property from the City:**
  - adjacent to 669 Holm Road
  - at 844 South Island Highway from the City of Campbell River
- **Council confirms draft 2021-2030 Financial Plan principles and parameters**
  - Maintain overall tax rate increase of 2 to 3.5% (draft budget proposes 3.15%)
  - Base budget increase maximum of 2% (draft budget proposes 1.99%)
    - \$386,800 from new property taxation, \$341,000 in service level reductions\* to meet 2% maximum increase per policy parameter
  - 0.5% for modest new services to be offered in 2021
  - Investment in capital infrastructure at 0.66% of property tax increase
  - Temporary service reductions anticipated for 2021:
    - Continued closure of Centennial Pool
    - Airport services to offset revenue loss as a result of COVID-19 pandemic
    - Community Partnership Committee Community Grant policy budget from 1.6% to 1.4% of general revenues

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- Council also directed that:
  - Up to \$186,000 from reduction in Council and staff training and travel budgets allocated to enhanced cleaning of City facilities for 2021.
  - a recommendation be made to the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Centre to waive the \$10 fee at the landfill site for yard waste drop-off
  - staff investigate a temporary replacement yard waste depot
  - demolition of the existing library will occur no sooner than July 2021
  - approximately \$145,000 of Downtown Revitalization Tax funds be used to offset ongoing lost lease revenue from the existing library, beginning in 2022
  - A review of the Financial Stability and Resiliency Policy taxation parameters, along with user fees and parcel taxes, will take place in preparation for 2022 Financial Planning.
  - A review of the Community Partnership Committee funding allocation will occur in advance of 2022 Financial Planning.

**\*Service level reductions**

As Campbell River grows, the City strives to continue to provide a high level of existing services and to meet community demand for new services. City staff have reviewed the base operating budget to reduce service levels that will have the least impact on Council's strategic priorities, community service expectations and on City operations and employees. Eighteen different components make up service reductions to help minimize property tax increases. These reductions are in addition to the various temporary services reductions to offset City revenue losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. View the draft 2021-2030 Financial Plan at [www.campbellriver.ca/financial-plans](http://www.campbellriver.ca/financial-plans)

**The Committee of the Whole meeting on Oct. 20, 2020 included a financial planning overview.** The overview summarized the results of decisions made at past meetings (see details above) in preparation for budget discussions scheduled for Oct. 26 to 28. The City's budget will be finalized Dec. 9.

**Development services fees increases to be considered**

Following a building services presentation, Council requested a draft amendment to fees for consideration at a future meeting. The presentation focused on the potential to increase fees in Campbell River so that they more closely match the average of the City's comparator communities and other Vancouver Island communities. A fee increase would help offset costs of additional building inspection resources previously approved by Council.

The presentation noted that it's been 17 years since fees were last increased, and that local contractors generally support increased fees for increased service.

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