



Highlights of July 20, 2020 Council Meeting – July 21 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Mayor's opening remarks

At the beginning of this week's Council meeting, Mayor Andy Adams suggested the racoon should be the mascot for 2020. Why? Re-arranged, the letters that spell racoon also spell corona. Plus, racoons repeatedly wash their hands and always wear a mask.

CITY RESTART UPDATE

Ken Forde Boat Ramp

Council confirmed that the Ken Forde Boat Ramp will be cleared and opened for boats on trailers for the remainder of the 2020 season.

The ramp was open again as of July 21 after crews removed about twice as much gravel as usually accumulates in this area each year.

Council meetings to continue electronically – some in-person attendance possible for late August

To help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, Council has been holding meetings electronically using video conferencing and webcasting for public viewing.

The City will introduce modified attendance, with some members of Council returning in-person to meetings starting Aug. 31. Given the limited space in Council Chambers and physical distancing requirements, some members of Council and staff will continue to attend electronically.

With a focus on safety first, the City is also developing a plan that will accommodate in-person delegations for people unable to make presentations electronically.

Limited in-person public attendance will resume in September or October, depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. New safety protocols will be in place to help reduce the potential to spread the virus. Advisory committee meetings will also resume, at first electronically.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Special meeting in early August about downtown issues

In response to several letters received about inappropriate behavior and the continuing need for social support services downtown, Council decided to hold a special meeting to discuss these issues further. The meeting is scheduled for Aug. 13 and will bring together groups with a shared interest in enhancing safety, the re-opening of downtown businesses and ensuring we have a welcoming atmosphere in the heart of our community.

RCMP Auxiliary Program

The City will confirm to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Campbell River's support for an interim RCMP auxiliary program and to urge the Province to move forward with a permanent solution, which is anticipated to enhance Campbell River safety particularly downtown.

The status of the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program changed in 2016 following the fatal shooting of an RCMP officer and the injury of an RCMP auxiliary constable in Alberta. The national program was reduced pending a safety review. The new program includes three tiers of services with the intent that provinces and territories may choose one or a combination of tiers based on local needs and circumstances. The Province of British Columbia has expressed concerns with the proposed auxiliary uniform.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Housing Growth Review

As part of the City's Housing Growth Review, Council is considering changes to the Official Community Plan that would remove the estate designation from Quinsam Heights. The option for agricultural land use in the area would be retained. The next step will be online engagement with both developers and community members. As part of the Housing Growth Review, Council has also received a number of related reports such as market assessments and status of roads and infrastructure in different neighbourhoods. Additional reports on community water, sewer and storm drain systems will be reviewed at upcoming Council meetings. Proposed changes also include removing requirements for minor development applications and permits. The changes are based on preliminary feedback from development representatives and do not apply to development smaller than three units. At a previous meeting, Council gave first and second reading to these proposed updates and requested additional consultation with the development community prior to a public hearing. The City will undertake online consultation with industrial land developers and the Community Planning Advisory Committee.

Council endorses increased seating for existing liquor licence on 11th Avenue

Council confirmed that the City supports the application for increased seating for Beach Fire Brewing and Nosh House at 594 11th Ave. The current licence covers 110 seats (90 interior and 20 exterior at the front of the building). The restaurant wishes to include the seasonal patio addition at the side/rear of the building for an increase in 40 seats – and to extend patio use beyond Oct. 31, 2020. As part of the application, an on-street parking stall will be designated for the exclusive use for people with a disability.

Proposed secondary suites denied for Nicholls Road

Council denied an application to allow a total of eight units, including secondary suites or secondary residences on the proposed three lots at 781 Nicholls Rd. The application received first and second reading at the May 25 Council meeting, and a public hearing was held on June 30.

Rezoning approved for triplex on 16th Avenue

Council approved rezoning to allow for a triplex at 1830 16th Avenue. This project includes a \$1000 contribution for improvements at Campbellton Park. First and second reading was received and the public hearing was waived on June 29, 2020.

Lumber yard approved for Campbell River Road

Council approved a site-specific text amendment to permit a lumber yard at 2175 Campbell River Road. A statutory right of way is in place for storm drainage and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has endorsed the proposal. Any development on the property would require a minor development permit, which would review environmental conditions of the site, including riparian area protection.

Petition regarding upgrades to Petersen Road

Council referred a petition from Campbell River residents requesting upgrades to Petersen Road to this fall's budget discussion. Upgrades for this route are not currently in the City's 10-year financial plan.

Public Hearing on proposed apartments at Dogwood and 8th Avenue

The City's third electronic public hearing was held to gather feedback on a proposed five-storey, 79-unit apartment building on the corner of Dogwood and 8th Avenue.

The property is just under one acre, directly across from Phoenix Middle School, and next to the lot where there was a recent apartment fire. The project would be in partnership with BC Housing and would provide stable rents for 10 years to allow for affordable, middle income housing.

Council will consider the proposal, and public hearing feedback, at the Aug. 17 meeting.

See the entire public hearing as part of the webcast on the City's website.

FINANCIAL NEWS

“Clean” financial audit confirmed

Council received a number of financial reports, including the audited financial statements for 2019. The auditor described the statements as “clean” – meaning they found no issues to bring to Council’s attention.

The audit confirmed that the City has a strong process for budgeting, with close alignment between the financial plan and actual results. This positions the City well to address the financial challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic while providing services for the community.

2019 Statement of Financial Information

Council also approved the 2019 Statement of Financial Information. The *Community Charter* legislation requires the reporting and Council approval of specific financial information by June 30 each year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the reporting deadline was extended to Aug. 31.

2020 property tax sale

Council directed staff to proceed with the annual municipal property tax sale on Sept. 28. Following direction in the *Local Government Act*, on this date, the City will offer for sale by public auction, each parcel of real property on which taxes are delinquent.

Normally, the annual tax sale is not discretionary. The City is legally required to offer for sale any piece of property on which there are delinquent taxes (three years unpaid). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City had the option in 2020 to delay tax sales to 2021.

In recent years, the City has had great success in working with property owners who were subject to the annual tax sale in the months leading up to the tax sale. In both 2018 and 2019, the City did not have any tax sale because all the properties who started the year off with delinquent taxes were able to pay the delinquent taxes off before the sale occurred. In 2017, only one property was offered for sale.

City staff will continue to work with people who may be running into financial difficulties, to try to prevent their property being offered for sale.

Quarterly Financial Report for Q1

Council received the City’s Quarterly Financial Report, which indicates the City’s departmental operating budgets are within expectation for the first three months of 2020. Due to COVID-19, steps were taken to identify cost-saving measures in response to lost revenue. These measures have reduced the number of planned operating and capital projects for 2020. Those going ahead are well underway, with the majority of projects well into the planning or construction phase. The second and third quarters are typically the busiest for the City, with capital project works and operations crews completing a majority of their work during these months.

COMMUNITY NEWS, CORRESPONDENCE and LETTERS OF SUPPORT

North Island College president's retirement

In response to an email message announcing president John Bowman's plans to retirement in April of 2021, Council endorsed a letter from the Mayor congratulating and thanking him for his efforts in the successful expansion of the campuses and programming that will have a positive impact on entire north island.

Union of BC Municipalities call for convention resolutions and nominations

In response to an email from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) regarding call for convention resolutions and nominations for UBCM executive board, Councillor Claire Moglove advised Council that she will run for the position of third vice president. Councillor Moglove is currently a UBCM director at large. She notes that many issues faced in Campbell River are experienced in other communities, and that participating on the executive is an opportunity to learn how other communities are dealing with these issues. Board membership is also an opportunity to interact with provincial ministry and UBCM staff and bring back solutions to our community.

Fortis BC funding application to build a compressed natural gas station in Campbell River

Council will provide a letter of support to Fortis BC for their NRCan funding application. The funding would support a compressed natural gas station in Campbell River. The facility would potentially reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supplying fuel to vehicles run by the City, transit and school district.

Proposed amendments to the Clean Energy Act

In response to an email from Clean Energy BC regarding proposed amendments to the Clean Energy Act, the City will send a letter to the Province encouraging amendments that support energy self-sufficiency on Vancouver Island by working with private sector sustainable energy concepts.