

**HIGHLIGHTS of MAR. 22, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING**

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**MAYOR'S OPENING COMMENTS**

Mayor Andy Adams expressed concern about recent race-related violence at the Mercroft Tim Hortons. On behalf of Council, he extended best wishes to Tim Hortons staff and management and appreciation for how they handled the situation. He also expressed hope that “cooler heads will prevail as we move forward and move past” this incident.

Mayor Adams also noted public interest in this meeting agenda, and that Council had received a significant number of emails. He extended thanks to everyone for providing input, and assured community members that Council will read all messages and appreciates all comments given.

**DELEGATION – INFilm Commission overview of plans and activities for 2021**

Film commissioner Joan Miller provided a comprehensive overview of the growing success of the film industry and its economic impact in our region, changes and recovery related to the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing training and film tourism opportunities. Watch the entire presentation online in the meeting recording archives at [campbellriver.ca/webcasts](http://campbellriver.ca/webcasts).

**FINANCE UPDATE – Council amends credit card and miscellaneous fee recovery**

As a result of the increased volume and a renegotiation of merchant service provider rates, the City's credit card recovery fee will be reduced from 2.5 to 2 per cent. Council also confirmed changes to the miscellaneous fees and charges bylaw. To ensure consistency between the Council Finance Policy and the Community Charter, a 2 per cent fee will be added each month to outstanding accounts receivable balances for a number of miscellaneous goods and services offered by the City of Campbell River.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

- **Heritage designation for Haig-Brown and Sybil Andrews properties moving forward** – Council gave third reading to a bylaw that would protect two publicly-owned properties that support local artists as well as tourism and economic development. Heritage designation is the highest level of recognition the City can provide and is supported by both the Campbell River Arts Council and the Museum at Campbell River. This item will be on the next Council agenda (April 12) for adoption.
- **Rezoning considered for duplex at 840 Nicholls Rd.** – Council gave first two readings to an application to allow for duplex development at this location. Council waived the requirement for a public hearing.
- **Rezoning application denied for townhouse development at 292 Island Highway** – Council denied an application for rezoning that would permit a 15-unit townhouse development on this property. The application was a revision of an earlier multi-family development proposal for this location. Council denied the application based on public concerns about view corridors and the impact of this type of development in the existing single-family neighbourhood.

**COVID-19**

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- **Rezoning considered for 130 Strathcona Way** – Council gave first two readings to an application for minor setback changes and to permit a single family dwelling, containing a community care and/or social care facility at this location. The intent is to expand the number of existing care home residents from six to eight, which would include a double occupancy room for couples. A public hearing will be scheduled.
- **Major development permit for two apartment buildings on Dogwood Street South** – Council approved the development application for the final phase of Seymour Village construction at 505 South Dogwood. Two additional six-storey apartment buildings will offer a total of 106 rental units.
- **Bylaw contravention notice for construction at 140 Taylor Way** – Council approved a bylaw contravention notice to be registered on the land title following construction of an addition to the second storey of this dwelling without a building permit. The addition had been framed and roofed, with some siding installed. Two stop work orders have been posted previously, and the property owner will be notified of bylaw contravention.
- **Council declines comment on landfill expansion at 4405 Island Highway** – Council will decline to comment on an Agricultural Land Commission application for non-farm use in the Agricultural Land Reserve to allow continued operation and expansion of the existing landfill at 4405 Island Highway. The proposal includes accepting waste from off-site sources and is aligned with the land use designation of this portion of the property in the City's *Official Community Plan*.
- **Campbellton River Route wayfinding signs** – Coming this spring, the new loop for cycling and walking will cover approximately 7.5 kilometres and connect already-established trails, including Raven Channel and Canyon View. The signs along the loop feature a unique and recognizable image of a bear participating in various outdoor activities, and highlight the important connection with nature as well as the industrial past. In response to a request from Wei Wai Kum First Nation, the Myrt Thompson trail will be removed from the River Route sign plan, and acknowledgment of the River Route area as the traditional territory of the Laichwiltach people will be included on the main sign. Ongoing sign maintenance costs will be considered during financial planning later this year. The Campbellton Neighbourhood Association initiated this project.
- **Airport lands revitalization tax exemption to be considered** – Council received a report from the Airport Advisory Committee proposing a revitalization tax exemption program for airport lands. This topic will be referred to a future Committee of the Whole meeting for Council discussion.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH and SAFETY

- **Strengthening Communities' Services funding application update** – The Strathcona Regional District is providing primary support for a community working group to discuss, plan, and develop a grant application that aims to help protect public safety and health, and encourage safe reopening of the economy post pandemic. The Province's Strengthening Communities' Services program funding is for services to help people experiencing homelessness and to address related community impacts. The collaborative group was initiated by the Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness. The working group has discussed current community needs and service gaps, and how to enhance existing services or deliver new projects or programs. The funding application deadline is April 16. Application details will be presented to City of Campbell River and the Strathcona Regional District prior to the deadline.

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- **Community Health and Public Safety Committee recommendations endorsed** – The City will:
  - pursue the development of a community court in Campbell River
  - invite Dr. Charmaine Enns, Island Health Chief Medical Officer to provide an annual update to Council and
  - invite Adrienne Venturini, Crown Counsel, to provide an annual update to Council.
- **Hilchey Road Cycling Infrastructure reconsidered** – Council rescinded an earlier motion on this topic and directed that staff complete buffered painted cycling lanes as part of the Hilchey Road infrastructure project in 2021. At a future meeting, Council will consider a report on project timing and costs as well as design details. Council also directed that staff develop a cycling infrastructure plan in consultation with the cycling community and advocacy groups before a future Master Transportation Plan review.
- **RESPECT Forum (for veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and emergency responders)** – Council confirmed plans to send a representation to the next session of this forum, in April.
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline**– In response to correspondence from the Township of Spallumcheen and Village of Belcarra, Council endorsed a letter of support requesting a National Suicide Prevention Hotline, especially to enhance men’s mental health.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMITTEE of the WHOLE MEETING, MARCH 23

#### **Housing Growth Review recommendations**

Following a presentation, Council endorsed recommendations to:

- prepare an OCP amendment bylaw for consideration for first reading, containing a policy to retain the urban containment boundary largely in its current position until 2030, with the potential for expansion in the northern area prior to that time.
- review potential options to amend the Official Community Plan at the next Committee of the Whole meeting
- consider a report on options for updating the Nunns Creek storm water management plan and
- present the proposed policy directions arising from the Housing Growth Review and future draft OCP amendment bylaw to the Community Planning and Environmental Advisory Committees for comment

Initial findings on infrastructure costs related to housing growth were presented to Council in February. The results suggest that the most cost-effective approach is to contemplate urban containment boundary expansions in the northern area, while focusing on effective infill development, specifically within Quinsam Heights, and more generally throughout the remainder of the urban area of Campbell River. This approach will allow the City to accommodate projected housing demand through to 2030, with a variety of housing types, including single family development as well as an increasing share of smaller-lot dwellings such as duplexes or row houses.

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**Downtown Safety Select Committee recommendations**

Members of the select committee met 14 times during their four-month term. In addition to sharing feedback from local businesses, residents, not-for-profits and social service agencies, the select committee interviewed several stakeholders and subject matter experts.

While recognizing that virtually all of the downtown problems are rooted in poverty, addiction, and mental health, the committee noted that, *“Without adequate funding and a winning strategy at the provincial government level, municipalities will continue to struggle with endlessly (and expensively) treating the symptoms.*

*Our most important recommendation is for our municipality to join with other municipalities in lobbying the provincial government to allocate sufficient resources to fully address the need for housing the chronically homeless and providing mental health and addiction treatment/complex care.*

*It is the goal of the committee to assist staff and Council in balancing the public’s need for a clean, safe, and usable downtown, without losing sight of the need for patience and compassion for the city’s vulnerable population.”*

Council endorsed the committee’s recommendations to encourage new downtown investment and development by:

- improving safety and cleanliness in the downtown core through ongoing, annual capital investment in the Downtown Refresh program
- joining other municipalities in actively lobbying the provincial and federal government to open / fund mental health and addictions facilities in the province, and specifically in Campbell River and
- establishing a Downtown Safety Select Committee in September 2021 to review progress and make recommendations to Council. (Council requested an action tracking report to assist with progress review.)

Council also endorsed the committee recommendations to allocate funds for:

- Immediate removal of the permanent glass cover over the Spirit Square stage, up to \$5,000 (estimated cost)
- Expansion of the CPTED Grant Program, up to \$40,000
- Improvements to the BC Hydro box at 13th Avenue and Shoppers Row, up to \$10,000 (estimated cost)
- Installation of garbage cans, up to a maximum of \$25,000
- Security camera program expansion, up to a maximum of \$25,000
- Continued funding of the *Get the Point* Program, up to \$30,000
- Expansion of the infill street-light program in the downtown core, up to a maximum of \$15,000

Costs will be covered from the \$225,000 downtown safety fund Council established during financial planning in December 2020.

The committee supports actions currently underway, including establishing:

- a local situation table program
- a community / problem solving court
- a stakeholder group for the Strengthening Communities funding program

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The select committee agreed that the main problem areas affecting local businesses and residents are related to cleanliness and lawlessness. During the term of the select committee, a supportive housing facility opened at 580 Dogwood, and although early, there are indications that this may be having a positive impact on the downtown.

For improved safety and cleanliness downtown and to reduce loitering, public intoxication and littering, the committee recommended that Council direct staff to report back on policy options for:

- Social service relocation incentives, up to \$75,000
- Potential bylaw amendments to limit / restrict shopping carts in specific geographic areas
- Zoning bylaw amendments to prescribe location / spacing of social services in the downtown core
- Prohibiting beach fires between 1st Avenue and Roberts Reach
- Assessing alignment and timing of existing resources (security, bylaw, etc)
- Earlier hours for bylaw enforcement to deal with encampment removals before regular business hours
- Creating a downtown investment strategy that would align City investment with private interests / timelines
- Speeding up approval of residential land development projects to improve affordability of housing
- Streamlining development permit requirements / processes for improvements to existing buildings downtown
- Investigating mechanism to charge businesses/operators for disproportionate use of emergency services

On behalf of Council, Mayor Adams expressed appreciation for the committee's contribution and commitment to making our community and downtown a better place to be.

Downtown Safety Selection Community representatives are:

- Ben Lanyon (chair)
- Rodney Semkiw (vice-chair)
- Brett Giese
- Dan Samson
- Heather Gordon Murphy
- Jonathan Shead
- Patti Webster

### **Forestry stakeholder meeting**

As part of its commitment to recommendations by the volunteer Business Recovery Task Force, Council welcomed another update from forest industry representatives.

Stuart Glen and Brad McRae spoke on behalf of Western Forest Products, citing a bright future and opportunities to support forestry together by focusing on support for First Nations reconciliation, conservation and climate change initiatives.

Bob Brash of the Truck Loggers Association was joined by Bill Nelson and Dorian Uzzell, highlighting the strong lumber markets anticipated for the next couple years. Also attending the meeting were mayors Dennis Dugas (Port Hardy), Brad Unger (Gold River), Mark Baker (Sayward) and Gaby Wickstrom (Port McNeill).

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