



March 26, 2020

Update on March 23 City of Campbell River Council Meeting

Mayor's opening remarks

Mayor Andy Adams opened the council meeting with an address to the community.

He issued an urgent reminder about our shared responsibility in the face of the coronavirus.

He acknowledged that people viewing the webcast of the meeting would see far fewer faces in Campbell River City Council Chambers due to the necessity to close facilities and practice social distancing to slow and limit the spread of COVID-19.

He said: "Plain and simple, this is an urgent situation – and we must ALL act on the precautionary measures as directed by the federal and provincial government.

To stay as healthy as possible.

To stay home as much as possible.

To support each other – and stay connected – as safely as possible."

On behalf of Council, the Mayor extended "praise and gratitude to the people who have acted quickly to follow these public health directives.

And we certainly appreciate the efforts of everyone who is trying to help get the word out about the importance of take protective action now, for the future benefit of our loved ones and the entire community.

We recognize that the public health directives to limit in-person contact cause distress and greatly affect community life.

This disrupts people's connections with family, friends and neighbours.

It puts a huge strain on local businesses.

And, we must all recognize the impact of our actions on our healthcare workers and the ability of local medical services to meet the demand for care.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone working on the front lines. So many people are working and volunteering to help us cope and stay strong during this outbreak.

To those of you actively helping this way – for the greater good – we applaud you all."

The Mayor added that Council members and City employees have been receiving messages from people who are very concerned about the outbreak.

"We share your concern," he emphasized. "We must ALL assume that COVID-19 is in our community. And we must all take all possible precautions."

The Mayor added: "To help keep our community healthy and strong, City services are changing as required. This is an evolving situation. We've made a lot of changes already, and are still working our way through others."



The Mayor said that the meeting would deal only with urgent business in response to COVID-19, including a bylaw amendment to permit electronic attendance for all members of Council at future meetings.

“We are also actively lobbying the provincial government, and, daily, we receive updates about how they’re working to help support communities in British Columbia,” he said.

“In closing, I remind you that this is a time for everyone to pull in the same direction.

We must ALL do our best to help.

We must ALL be responsible.

And be kind. Be respectful. Be safe. And be well.”

The link to the Mayor’s message is available at www.campbellriver.ca/COVID-19.

Purchasing policy amended

To maintain timely payment of invoices during the evolving COVID-19 situation, Council has approved temporary increased payment approval for employees holding key emergency operations centre positions.

Council considers changes to bylaw governing meeting procedures

Council approved first three readings to a bylaw amendment that would enable up to all members of Council to participate electronically in meetings if so required as a response to the COVID-19 virus. This supports protective public health measures requiring people to stay home as much as possible.