

HIGHLIGHTS OF AUG. 31, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

All members of Council, the City Manager and Corporate Officer attended this meeting in Council chambers at City Hall, with new safety requirements to help prevent spreading the coronavirus. Presentations to Council by City staff and community members used online video conferencing technology. City Council meetings are recorded and available live online at campbellriver.ca.

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Andy Adams emphasized that Council remains very concerned about COVID-19 coming close to home. He reminded people to continue to be vigilant, with handwashing, wearing masks if necessary and keeping physical distance.

With the return of fall and back to school time, Mayor Adams noted the angst and concerns of parents and challenges of after-school care. He extended compliments and best wishes to School District 72 *"for arrangements they've made to keep everyone as safe as possible."*

New director of finance, chief financial officer – Council congratulations promotion of Alaina Maher

"The City of Campbell River is proud of the ability to grow its own, and Alaina Maher's succession into the director of finance/CFO position is a positive example of this commitment," said Mayor Andy Adams.

He noted that the City employs a number of rising stars and praised the determination that leads to advancement.

Maher was promoted to this position on July 20.

She joined the City in fall 2014 as financial reporting supervisor.

Since then, she has earned her Chartered Professional Account designation and transitioned through the positions of financial accounting supervisor, finance manager and deputy director of finance / CFO.



DELEGATION: Proposal for a local BMX track

Jason Kerluck and Corby Johnson of the Campbell River BMX Association provided Council with a presentation and requested that the City consider a location for a BMX facility in Campbell River. They propose building a groomed dirt track for weekly racing events from April to October. The facility requires up to five acres (includes parking space) and the track would be open for public use outside race times. They said a central area, near other recreation facilities such as the Sportsplex would be ideal. The Mayor noted that he had attended a ribbon cutting to open phase two of the bike skills park at the Sportsplex and that *"cycling is in the forefront today."*

The presentation was recorded as part of the Council meeting and can be seen on the City's website.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

- **Vicious dogs and dog licensing requirements**

Council adopted amendments to the City's Animal Control Bylaw to permit partial-year purchase of dog licences and require vicious dogs to be muzzled while in public spaces.

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- **Remedial action for 20 Adams Road**

Council directed the owner of 20 Adams Road be required to trim back a hedge bordering the sidewalk to bring the property into compliance with the City's public nuisance bylaw.

City contractors will be authorized to enter onto the property to perform the work required to achieve compliance in the event that the property owner does not comply with the remedial action notice. Sandra Karason, a property representative, spoke before Council's consideration of this item.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

- **Financial compensation for Council** – Council adopted amendments to the Remuneration Bylaw to make retroactive adjustments to Council compensation. This change corrects a minor calculation error and maintains the guiding principles and intended changes to compensation recommended by an independent 2018 Council Remuneration Task Force. The task force reviewed the compensation of Mayor and Council in advance of the 2018 municipal election in light of a change in federal income tax policy, regular annual Community Price Index adjustments, and the amount comparator communities pay Council members. Compensation for Campbell River's City Council is based on the average paid by comparator communities.
- **Permissive tax exemptions considered** – Council moved forward with the Community Partnership Committee's recommendation to grant 79 community organizations with City property tax relief estimated at \$521,770. This program assists 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. Council's Community Partnership Committee reviews permissive tax exemption applications and makes recommendations to Council for consideration. Council thanked Community Partnership Committee representatives Dennis Fitzgerald and Tanya Oliva for the committee's review of applications and their recommendations.
- **Wei Wai Kum servicing agreement: Approval for delay in annual payment** – Council extended the deadline for the 2020 Wei Wai Kum annual servicing agreement payment of \$963,069.89 to Oct. 9, 2020. The agreement outlines the services provided to Wei Wai Kum First Nation, lands. With the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments have extended deadlines for property tax payments. Due to the property tax deadline extension under the Wei Wai Kum First Nation self-taxation bylaw, they would have difficulty paying the 2020 contract amount until early in October.
- **Project to remove equipment, close City's former water quality treatment centre** – Council awarded a contract to IWC Excavation Ltd. valued at \$409,406 to remove or close infrastructure at the City's former Elk Falls Water Quality Treatment Centre. Infrastructure within the remaining building and sections of the existing underground transmission pipelines will be removed. Other pipeline sections will be filled with concrete. Final grading of disturbed areas is also part of the project. Work is to begin this month and take up to three months to complete. This facility treated municipal drinking water until the new water supply centre opened.
- **Fall protection equipment for City buildings** – Council awarded a contract to Turn-Key Fall Protection valued at \$111,364.49 to construct and install fall protection systems that will enhance safety during maintenance of multiple City facilities.

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- **More facility cleaning supports expanded recreation and culture services** — Council approved an additional \$30,000 for increased facility cleaning to support expanded indoor recreation services and programs at the Community Centre and Sportsplex. Council thanked the department for efforts to provide safe programs during the pandemic. The department is planning more indoor programs in time for fall. Additional cleaning is already provided for employee and public safety at other City facilities.
- **Moving 2020 property tax sale to larger location** – Council designated the Sportsplex gymnasium, located at 1800 Alder Street South, to replace Council Chambers as the location for the 2020 annual municipal tax sale. This location will provide more room for physical distancing during the pandemic. The tax sale will be held Sept. 28.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- **Approval for change in operating hours at Royal Coachman** – Council supported a proposed change of operating hours for the existing liquor licence at 84 Dogwood St. on the condition that the later closing time only applies indoors. The proposed change would allow the pub to operate one hour later Monday through Saturday (extending closing time from 1 to 2 a.m.) and two hours later on Sundays (extending from midnight to 2 a.m.).
Opening time (11 a.m. seven days a week) and patio operating hours would remain unchanged. The Royal Coachman Inn Pub was an established business at this location for 40 years before it closed in July 2018. It is to re-open under new management. Due to COVID-19 public health orders, the pub's seating capacity has been restricted and reduced from 250 to 190 seats.
- **Support for re-opening casinos** – Council endorsed a letter from several mayors to Premier Horgan urging the Province to allow re-opening of casinos. The letter states that nearly 37,000 people are employed through B.C.'s gaming, entertainment, leisure and hospitality sectors, and closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic have affected many people throughout the province.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Feedback on Quinsam Heights Estate designation** – Council received an email from Murray Whelan expressing his concerns regarding the estate designation in the Quinsam Heights neighbourhood. Council noted the opportunity for community members to participate in a public consultation process. Details at campbellriver.ca/quinsam-heights.
- **Ophthalmology services at Campbell River Hospital** – Council received correspondence from Dr. Ben Williams of Island Health, in response to the City requesting ophthalmology services at the Campbell River Hospital. Council referred this to a future Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District board meeting to discuss the importance of balanced services between Campbell River and the Comox Valley and to ensure that each campus is offering maximum service possible.

PROCLAMATIONS – In response to requests, Council confirmed that:

- the week of March 15, 2021 will be "Rotary Club Week" in celebration of their 75th Anniversary
- October will be proclaimed "Rett Syndrome Awareness Month"

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Council support for Councillor Evans' campaign to join AVICC board

Councillor Colleen Evans will run for re-election as a director at large on the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities board.

PUBLIC HEARING

An online public hearing was held for a proposed zoning amendment that would allow construction of a secondary residence at 7050 Gold River Highway and increase the allowable parcel coverage from two to three per cent.

The property is zoned for rural neighbourhood use. It borders crown land and McIvor lake and was subdivided from a larger parcel in 2012. Properties created before 1998 with this land use designation were permitted a secondary residence. The current rural neighbourhood land use designation requires a site-specific amendment to permit a second residence and increase in coverage.

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.

Consistent with public hearing requirements, a development notice sign has been posted, a neighbourhood public meeting was held and newspaper ads were published. No one attended the public meeting, and the City has received three letters in support of the proposal.

Council recessed the public hearing to allow for a discussion about watershed protection and policies to discourage lakeshore densification before considering a final decision on this application. This will include considering a draft amendment to the Official Community Plan to change land use designation of residential properties around McIvor Lake from rural neighbourhood to green and protected areas. The public hearing is scheduled to reconvene at an October Council meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS from SEPT. 1 COMMITTEE of the WHOLE MEETING

Discussion of Aug. 13 Special Council Meeting

Based on a report summarizing suggestions and ideas shared during the Aug. 13 Special Council Meeting, which focused on downtown issues, Council discussed the need for targeted short-term solutions to negative behaviours and issues of concern. These would complement the long-term solution of housing affordability and diversity.

Council is specifically seeking solutions to reduce negative behaviour such as public urination, drinking and drug use.

Solutions discussed included: establishing a drop-in day centre; increasing downtown clean-up; visible law enforcement downtown evenings and weekends; funding for lighting and structural changes to buildings and open areas that will reduce loitering and criminal activity; a tenant agreement outlining good neighbor behavior for people staying at the Harbourside Inn; increased collaboration with downtown businesses, the Coalition to End Homelessness and the Regional Health Network.

Council requested a report on short-term options to target these specific problem behaviours and will hold a special meeting later in September to discuss next steps.

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