



## Highlights of April 6, 2020 City of Campbell River Council Meeting

*This was the first meeting with all Council members attending online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

### **Highlights of Mayor Andy Adams' opening remarks**

*These are indeed extraordinarily difficult times. So much has changed, so quickly. And so much of what is asked of us requires sacrifice, and ongoing uncertainty.*

*We miss spending time together. We're frustrated by plans that have been cancelled. We worry about our financial security, our health and the health of our family, friends and neighbours. For some of us, there has been deep, personal loss. Our hearts go out to you.*

*As we collectively wonder how long this will last, and how different things will be, I want to acknowledge the exceptional work of so many who are keeping our community running. Teachers still connecting with students. People who've adjusted how they work to safely ensure that we still have services that keep us connected such as public transit, telephone, internet, TV and radio, and those finding ways to keep us current with the news. People who've adjusted their businesses, so we can safely enjoy some familiar comforts in these unprecedented times. People keeping us in the supplies we rely on, from gas and electricity, to groceries and medicine. And medical professionals, who keep on caring for us when we're sick, or injured, or bringing new lives into the world.*

*We are in regular contact with Island Health and are heartened by the preparations in our hospital and the dedication to provide acute and critical care for people in need. Doctors and nurses have also adjusted to provide medical care using technology. And they've made adjustments in long-term care practices to control the movement of staff across facilities to keep our elders and seniors as healthy as possible.-We appreciate our partnerships with Island Health and BC Housing, who continue to work with communities to find best ways to provide services with required physical distancing for the most vulnerable in our community.*

*To help our amazing selfless medical professionals, do all you can to stay healthy and reduce the risk of spreading this virus. Staying connected while being physically distant is how we protect each other, whether that be by phone, email or video communication. As a local government, the City of Campbell River must follow the direction provided by the Province of British Columbia. Only a few weeks into this crisis, things continue to evolve, and we're now looking ahead, at the potential long-term impacts, including how the City's might be affected financially, and how that could affect funding for services and what changes might be required.*

*Which brings me to another important acknowledgment: the hard work of City employees. They've had to quickly adjust how they work, to safely provide the many services we all rely on to keep our community running – everything from water, sewer, roads and sidewalks, parks, trails and cemeteries maintenance, garbage and recycling collection, development and protective services and emergency response. And there are many employees working in the background, to ensure we have the staff available to provide these services, and to keep our technology and communications channels up and running.*



*Being, mindful of our health and wellbeing, our ever-creative recreation department has been busy preparing to bring online fitness and recreation programs to you at home. If you missed this morning's debut of the 30-minute workouts that will be available at no charge on our YouTube channel, check it out. There will be a new video three days a week, and they remain available online so you can go back and join the class at your convenience in the comforts of your home.*

*We're all coping as best we can, and that's why, on behalf of City Council, I want to thank you for all you're doing to keep yourselves and each other healthy and safe. We know it's hard to do what's asked of us right now. But there is no choice in this. The public health orders we must all follow are the law. And by everyone doing their part, we stand the best chance of minimizing the impact of this virus.*

*Thank you for doing your part, for washing your hands more often, for avoiding public places and group gatherings, for staying home as much as possible, for shopping in moderation, for supporting the food bank if you have the means.*

*When times are tough, we show our true colours. And, at this time, when we need everyone to adapt and support each other.*

*Thank you, Campbell River. We will get through this.*

### **Changes to permit electronic meetings**

Council approved a bylaw amendment that would enable 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. The bylaw received first three readings at the March 23 meeting.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATES and FACILITIES INVESTMENT**

- **Emergency Operations Center expenses** – Council received a financial update on the emergency operations centre (EOC) established to support activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. EOC-related expenses and cumulative labour as of the end of March 28 are:
  - Total Costs \$48,236
  - Ineligible \$21,953
  - Pending \$25,447
  - Eligible \$836

The City is tracking costs and seeking pre-authorization from Emergency Management BC to help reduce the financial burden of the COVID-19 response on the City. Periodic cost summaries will to be presented to Council as long as the EOC is operational. A future report will be brought forward to Council at a special meeting that will identify the scope and implications of any financial relief the City may be able to offer the community.

- **Parks Parcel Tax adopted** – Council approved an amendment bylaw that will continue the \$37 annual tax on each parcel of land. This fee was established in 2015 and is included in the 10-year financial plan to pay for new park space and capital projects. The bylaw received first two readings on February 24 and third reading at the March 9 meeting.

- **Heart of the City business improvement funding** – Council approved a bylaw to continue collecting approximately \$50,000 a year from member businesses on behalf of the Heart of the City Business Improvement Area Society. The money will support strategic projects identified by the society for an additional five-year term. Any property tax deadline changes would also affect timing to collect these funds.
- **Sportsplex gym floor and movable wall replacement to maintain service** – W J Murphy Contracting Ltd. was awarded a contract valued at up to \$235,000 to replace the movable wall that has reached the end of useful service. Centaur Products Inc. was awarded a contract valued at up to \$211,880 to replace the floor. Work will occur while the facility is shut down due to COVID-19 and will be performed according to all public health orders to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.
- **Letter of support and funding for Campbell River Community Foundation** – Council approved a letter of support and funding for the Campbell River Community Foundation COVID Relief Task Force. The Campbell River Community Foundation has set aside \$30,000 and will fundraise an additional \$70,000 to support local societies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Council approved a total of \$20,000 to support this relief effort: \$10,000 from Council Contingency and re-allocation of \$10,000 that had been previously provided for the foundation’s Vital Signs report, which will be postponed until 2021 or 2022.
- **Support for local youth** – Council allocated \$1,500 to support up to three Youth Action Committee members to attend the BC Youth Parliament Session later this year. The British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is a non-profit, non-partisan parliamentary education and community service organization for youth aged 16 to 21. Every year in December, members gather from across BC in the Provincial Legislative Chambers to hold a five-day session. Attendees use the parliamentary style of debate to plan for future educational and service projects, establish BCYP’s financial commitments, and amend BCYP’s governing legislation. Nearly 100 youth are “elected” to BCYP as representatives of their communities. Each applicant must be nominated by an organization committed to youth (for example, Campbell River Youth Action Committee).

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- **Development application process changes** – Council gave first, second and third reading for the planning procedures bylaw, which will see amendments to support development application processes during the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to meet public health orders prohibiting gatherings, the in-person neighbourhood public meeting process will be suspended for all development applications. The bylaw amendments also include changes that require pre-application meetings using online technology, and various minor housekeeping amendments. The bylaw amendments will be brought to the next meeting for Council to consider adoption.
- **Multi-family development approved for Salal Street Approved** – Council approved a three-storey, 10-unit townhome development constructed in two buildings at major development at 703 Salal Street, subject to \$96,120 in security funding for landscaping.



- **Multi- family development approved for McDonald Road** – Council approved an 18-unit townhome development at 1755 McDonald Road, subject to \$282,603 in security funding for landscaping.
- **No public hearing required for proposed Perth Road rezoning** – Based on results of a neighbourhood public meeting, Council waived the requirement for a public hearing for rezoning 1500 Perth Road. Seven community members attended the neighbourhood meeting on Feb. 11, all in support of the proposed rezoning. The City is able to waive the public hearing when applications comply with the Official Community Plan. Council also requested a report on options for public hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Community Wildfire Protection Plan** – Council received the City of Campbell River Community Wildfire Protection Plan for information and endorsed the 18 recommendations. The plan identifies wildfire risks within and surrounding the community, describes the potential consequences of wildfire, and examines possible ways to reduce wildfire risk.