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YAC summary and Youth Spaces survey

Council received a report from the Youth Action Committee summarizing their 2017-2018 activities, and the results of their survey, which indicate a need for more youth spaces in Campbell River. Council voted to support the establishment of more youth-friendly spaces, and directed staff to provide more information on partnerships and opportunities for recognition of youth-friendly businesses.

Agricultural Land Commission update

Frank Leonard, chair of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) provided an overview and update to Council on the ALC, including types of applications related to Agricultural Land Reserve lands in 2016 and 2017.

City auditor confirms no issues for consolidated financial statements

The 2017 consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards, and the City's auditors from MNP LLP have identified no issues with the financial statements. The 2017 year-end results demonstrate the City's financial position continues to increase, with the focus on re-investment in infrastructure and with stable property taxation and user fee increases through the City's Financial Stability and Resiliency Program. Audited financial statements are due to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing by May 15 of each year.

2017 Statement of Financial Information

Council approved the annual Statement of Financial Information for the year ended Dec. 31, 2017. The report was prepared according to the requirements of the Community Charter and outlines remuneration to, and expenses paid on behalf of, City employees for those earning in excess of \$75,000 annually. As per Council policy, the City is in the 50th percentile for exempt salaries as ranked against its comparator municipality group. Remuneration as reported includes taxable benefits, which vary, but may consist of vehicle benefits, BC MSP, Life and Accidental Death insurance coverages. Employee expenses as reported consist primarily of costs related to training and professional development, memberships to professional associations and moving relocation costs for new employees. The statement also details amounts paid to City suppliers in excess of \$25,000. The report is required to be submitted to the Province annually before June 30.

Council adopts 2018 Tax Rates Bylaw

The City of Campbell River's tax rate policy is built on budget parameters defined in the Financial Stability and Resiliency Program. For 2018, a tax rate increase of 2.1% was approved during financial planning deliberations for all tax classes, residential, business, and light and major industry. The increase provides funding for base operating inflationary and contract increases, and incremental enhancements to new services. In 2018, the increase funds an additional RCMP member and capital improvements for ongoing maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure to ensure reliable service delivery. Council gave first three readings of the 2018 Tax Rates Bylaw at the April 23 meeting.

Advisory committee changes

Council adopted the updated Advisory Committee Bylaw after a recent governance review recommended revising the existing advisory committee structure to focus more specifically on Council's strategic priorities and community needs. The three new committees will be:

Community Planning Committee

Environmental Advisory Committee

Healthy Community and Public Safety Committee

Council also approved renaming the Airport Committee. A City news release shared additional details after Council gave the first three readings of the bylaw at the April 23 meeting.

Council approves local service tax for Willow Point Business Improvement Area

In response to a request from the Willow Point Business Improvement Area, Council approved a continued local service tax on businesses in the neighbourhood to support beautification efforts.

The local service tax will generate:

2018 \$24,390

2019 \$25,101

2020 \$25,807

2021 \$26,547

2022 \$27,685

Council gave first three readings of the bylaw at the April 23 meeting and praised seasonal banners, lights and flower baskets in the Willow Point area supported through funds raised by this local service tax on area businesses.

Council approves four-plex for Hilchey Road

Council approved construction of a two-storey townhome complex consisting of four, three-bedroom units at 303 Hilchey Rd. The property is a corner lot located on the southwest side of the intersection of Hilchey and Galerno Road, in Willow Point.

Council gave the zoning amendment bylaw first and second reading on Dec. 11, 2017 and a Public Hearing was held on Jan. 22, 2018. Third reading was given on Feb. 5, 2018.

Prior to adoption, Council required the registration of a covenant to limit the height of the future multiple family building to two storeys. The covenant was registered on the property title on March 27, 2018.

Council considers secondary suite on Strathcona Way

Council gave first and second reading and directed that a public hearing be held for a rezoning application to permit construction of a secondary suite within a single-family dwelling presently under construction at 217 Strathcona Way. The subject property is located within a newer, predominantly single-family neighbourhood with similar sized lots. Allowing a secondary suite in this location would not involve any significant external physical change, and would be consistent with the character of the area.

New equipment for Sportsplex

Weight room equipment that's more than 20 years old and an aging fleet of spin bikes at the Campbell River Sportsplex will be replaced. Council awarded a contract to STAK-Matrix Fitness Canada valued at \$95,757 to prepare an equipment room layout plan and to supply, deliver and install new commercial grade fitness equipment and dispose of the old equipment. The old equipment is no longer under warranty, and because the manufacturer has gone out of business, replacement parts are not available.

The new equipment offers ergonomic improvements, and all current functionality will be replaced with multi-functional units. Accessible equipment will be replaced with updated versions, including an upper body ergometer.

The equipment will arrive in late August. Staff anticipate a three-day closure to clean and replace flooring in the weight room space. The supplier will train all fitness staff on equipment use and will spend several days in the weight room during the second week of September to train equipment users.

Proposed logging in Snowden Demonstration Forest

Council will request a presentation from BC Timber Sales and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development on plans for tree harvesting within the Snowden Demonstration Forest. The Ministry will also be requested to put on hold any further activity until the City has had time to review and make an informed decision.

Council will also request a presentation from Garry Ullstrom on the petition and community feedback he has gathered and his research on the economic impacts and tourism potential of mountain biking in Snowden.

City to apply to join pilot project on planning for new development infrastructure costs

The City of Campbell River will apply to participate in a provincial pilot program that will explore potential infrastructure costs related to future land use development scenarios. The program run between June and November 2018.

If selected to join the Ministry's Community Lifecycle Infrastructure Costing Tool Pilot Program, the City will receive consulting expertise to assist in exploring potential infrastructure costs associated with servicing future development.

City supports ICET funding application for Vancouver Island Community Benefit Hub

As a founding member in a Vancouver Island effort to develop best practices, policies and resources that support social benefits for communities through goods and services that local governments purchase on a regular basis, the City will provide up to \$3,305 per year for two years for a Community Benefit Hub, provided that at least six other local governments from the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities region and the Island Coast Economic Development Trust also help fund this initiative, which seeks to develop an Island-wide model for social procurement and a menu of social value options that can be incorporated into public infrastructure projects.

Economic Development Week May 7 to 12

Campbell River's economic development department is running a social media campaign in celebration of Economic Development Week.

Mayor Andy Adams read a proclamation to emphasize that the City of Campbell River is committed to advancing the economic, social and environmental well-being of our citizens by improving community quality of life through job creation, retention and expansion. Campbell River's economic development efforts are based on business retention and expansion, capitalizing on opportunities, collaborating to maximize prospects, communication and investor readiness.

Local Government Awareness Week May 20 to 26

Mayor Andy Adams read a proclamation to emphasize the impact of vital decisions made by elected representatives, and that community participation in local elections and voter turnouts are essential to a healthy democratic system. The proclamation also focused on the importance of community understanding of local government operations and services for meaningful participation at the local level.