



Council Meeting Highlights October 10, 2017

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\$15,000 grant for Campbellton Neighbourhood Association's Rescue the River project

Mayor Andy Adams announced that the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association has received \$15,000 from Fortis BC. The funding will support the first phase of the association's Rescue the River project to develop a public viewing platform and small park at the Spruce Street road end.

Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North Society

Pat McKenna and Tom Beshr, executive director and development manager of Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North Society, provided an update on Hilchey Road affordable housing. They also requested that the City consider donating suitable surplus land for future projects. The local branch was honoured with a diversity and leadership award at the recent Chamber of Commerce awards event.

Council supports regional affordable housing affordability and availability plan

Council approved a request from the Strathcona Regional District for a \$20,000 contribution to support the development of a regional housing affordability and availability plan.

Support for Campbell River's *Home away from Home* project

Council will send a letter of support in principle for a *Home away from Home* project to provide safe and culturally welcoming accommodation near the Campbell River hospital for North Island patients and families receiving health-care services.

North Island families often face travel times that exceed four hours and can require boat and/or plane travel to access hospital-based care. Significant travel time and a search for appropriate accommodation near the hospital can contribute to increased emotional and economic stress for both patients and families.

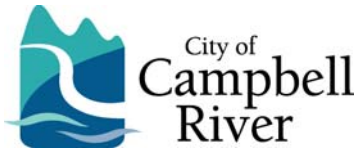
Comments regarding new bus routes

Council discussed the community's first-month reactions to changes in transit service that place a higher emphasis on increasing the frequency of buses along Campbell River's major corridors. Residents are encouraged to send any concerns and suggestions about route changes to City staff or BC Transit staff directly. All comments will be reviewed and considered as BC Transit continues to assess the new service. BC Transit is expected to report to Council in early 2018 on how the system is working, along with any recommendations for further adjustments or changes to the service.

Permissive tax exemptions considered with new information on golf course exemptions

Council gave third reading to the annual Permissive Tax Rate Exemption Bylaw after receiving additional information on the Storey Creek Golf and Recreation Society's application for a property tax exemption. Research indicates that many municipalities in British Columbia exempt not-for-profit golf courses, including municipalities with both not-for-profit and for-profit golf courses, which are not eligible for permissive tax exemptions. In British Columbia, 37 golf courses located within municipalities receive permissive tax exemptions – and 73 non-exempt golf courses located within a 30-kilometre radius of an exempt golf course.

Councils may use permissive tax exemptions to reduce the burden of property taxation for community groups that enrich local quality of life by delivering economic, social, recreation and cultural programs.



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The recommended 2018 permissive tax exemptions would grant a total of 87 community groups and 120 properties either full or partial exemptions, saving these organizations approximately \$476,000 in City taxes and \$387,000 in other government taxes annually.

Council supports Vancouver Island Regional Library 2018-2022 Financial Plan

Council noted that the cost for library services to local residents will be reduced by 0.35 per cent this year, one of the few cost reductions across the regional system. According to VIRL's budget document, based on Ministry of Education population figures and BC Assessment information, Campbell River had a slightly lower population growth and assessment value increase compared with other communities on Vancouver Island. For those reasons, a lower portion of the overall budget was allocated to our community for 2018.

Storm Water Utility Fund

Council directed staff to establish a self-balancing storm water utility fund as part of the City's *Financial Stability & Resiliency Program*, with any operating and maintenance budget unused at the end of the year transferred to the Storm Water Capital Reserve fund starting in 2018. The storm water system serves the entire community and is currently underfunded. The new utility fund will provide incremental increases for improvements to the storm water system across the community, with a focus on improvements in areas that experience localized flooding such as downtown and 16th Avenue.

2017-2026 Financial Plan to be updated to reflect this year's changes

Council gave first three readings to amendments to the 2017-2026 Financial Plan, to incorporate approved changes made by Council throughout 2017. The amendments include changing projects and funding sources such as the \$903,750 grant received for the airport fueling facility project. Amendments include:

- Airport fueling facility and airside doors
- Zoning bylaw update
- Larwood/Erickson sewer project
- Legal settlements
- Property management
- Cypress Street improvements

Advertisements will be published in the local newspaper on Oct. 18 and 20 informing the community of the amendment bylaw and the opportunity to provide input until noon on Oct. 27. Feedback received will be on the Nov. 6 Council agenda, with final approval of the Financial Plan bylaw amendment considered during the same Council meeting.

Ticketing considered for parks control bylaw offences

Following adoption of an amended parks control bylaw in September, Council gave first, second and third reading to related amendments for ticketing offenses. The amendment includes an option for issuing fines for non-compliance when enforcement officers are unable to obtain voluntary compliance.

Council requests information on managing storage containers on residential property

Following a petition from local residents recommending that large metal storage and shipping containers be prohibited on residential property, Council directed staff to report on how other communities manage use of these containers.

Council seeks information on disposal of creosoted timbers

In response to concerns raised about disposal of creosoted timbers at the Upland Excavating landfill, Council has asked City staff to investigate and report back on this issue. Council also



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directed that a letter be sent to the provincial ministry regarding compliance practices associated with existing permits.

Additional units approved for townhouses on 4th Avenue

Council approved a major development permit to add two residential townhouse units to an existing four-unit residential building at 360 4th Ave. Reasonable residential and visitor parking as well as yard space and access to local school and park space were considered as part of this variance. Variance approval is subject to the receipt of a performance security at 125 per cent of the estimated landscaping cost (\$13,661.25).

Maryland strata homes considered

Council gave first and second reading to a zoning amendment application to allow for a patio home development to be constructed at proposed lot 23 at 600 Maryland Rd. This zoning amendment is consistent with the applicable Sustainable Official Community Plan policies and guidelines. A restrictive covenant would limit construction to single-family development. A public hearing will be held at an upcoming Council meeting.