

Please note Council meeting highlights are not a substitute for the City's comprehensive Council meeting minutes, found on the City website at: www.campbellriver.ca. Council meeting agendas, minutes and webcasts are available from the link on the homepage.

Funding for Campbell River Food Bank

Council will support a request for a one-time \$20,000 grant for the purchase of refrigeration equipment for the Food Bank, to be funded from Council's contingency account.

Debbie Willis and Jana Watt of the Campbell River and District Food Bank Society presented to Council on the Society's history and current work and described plans for upgrades to expand refrigeration capacity for perishable items, doubling storage and reducing energy consumption by about 30 per cent.

The City's Community Partnership Committee was unable to recommend approval of the Campbell River Food Bank Society's request for grant-in-aid because the request fell outside the existing eligibility criteria for arts and culture. Council has established a new \$25,000 social development fund, and eligibility criteria has yet to be developed or approved. Council requested a report from staff on potential social development applications criteria.

Rental fees waived for Campbell River Syrian Refugee Committee fundraiser

The Community Partnership rental subsidy has been used to waive 50 per cent of the rental and service fees at the Community Centre for the February 27th Syrian Refugee fundraising event. Council will use its contingency fund to cover the remaining \$457 fee.

10-year financial plan adopted – a first in British Columbia

The City's 2016 financial plan focused on long-term financial stability, and a 10-year budget was approved, a first in British Columbia.

Council conducted its annual financial plan deliberations from Dec. 7 to 9, 2015, and the plan adoption at the Feb. 22 meeting marks the earliest budget completion ever by Campbell River Council.

The budget includes a total property tax increase of 2.45 per cent, which includes newly-established ongoing capital funding of approximately 0.75 per cent tax increase or \$190,000 per year.

The City of Campbell River's 2016 financial plan bylaw incorporates:

- Base operating budget approval
- One-time projects and ongoing service level change approvals
- Capital plan approval
- Approval of \$125,000 from financial stabilization to reduce the tax increase for 2016

2016 tourism budget approved

In the 2016 budget, Council allocated \$576,000 for economic development initiatives. With the economic development function integrating into City operations and with Council evaluating the best model for future tourism services delivery, the budget has been allocated as follows:

- economic development, \$181,000
- tourism, \$330,000
- economic development grants \$65,000
- \$5,000 for one-time Visitor Information Center improvements (from Tourism accumulated surplus)

The Campbell River Economic Development Corporation, a wholly-owned company of the City, has been given a one-year contract to manage the tourism function.

Interim 2015 fourth quarter operating and capital report

As of December 31, 2015, the financial results of the City, for both operating and capital, are within expectation. Operating revenues are at 106 per cent of the total budget, on trend with 2014. Operating expenses are under budget (95 per cent of the total budget at the end of December, compared to 98 per cent at the end of the fourth quarter in 2014). Capital spending was at 43 per cent of the budget by the end of December, due in large part to approved funds carried forward as planned for major, multi-year projects (such as Robron Artificial Turf Field) to be completed.

This is not a final report as year-end adjustments continue while staff finalize the reconciliation of 2015 balances. Final 2015 financial information will be available in May, following the annual external audit.

Expansion and upgrades for Elk Falls Cemetery

Council approved the Elk Falls Cemetery Master Plan, developed in consultation with local funeral homes, and supported the first phase of expansion and upgrades valued at \$175,000, to occur this spring and summer.

Proposed development for 2016 will offer more traditional lots and increase options for cremation interment and memorialization, including:

- 60 new in-ground (casket) burial lots with upright markers (seven years' capacity)
- new columbaria above-ground cremation niches (five to seven years' capacity)
- new green burial area with a communal marker (up to 10 years capacity)
- new main entry drive, entry signage and gate
- improvements to the cemetery gatehouse including controlled access to washrooms during cemetery services
- new benches, and a setting for a future art installation
- new native tree and shrub plantings to integrate cemetery with the surrounding forest

Campbell River's population is expected to grow by 16 per cent over the next 15 years.

Public Nuisance Bylaw amended to address graffiti on waste receptacles

Council adopted a bylaw amendment to require waste companies to remove graffiti from their waste receptacles within 12 working days or be subject to a fine of \$250.

Traffic and Highways Regulation amended to permit additional towing and to clarify Airport parking fees

Council approved a regulation to authorize towing of trailers (utility, boat or travel trailers) which are illegally parked, impeding snow removal or have five unpaid parking tickets. In 2015, the City received 178 parking related complaints of which 37 were concerning utility, boat or travel trailers.

The amended regulation also clarifies parking fees and enforcement at the Campbell River Airport.

New bylaw for Board of Variance adopted

The new bylaw is designed to give greater clarity and direction to the public, staff and the Board itself. A bylaw is mandatory for all municipalities and sets out the constitution of the Board of Variance along with administrative provisions for an appeal to the Board. A guidance document for board members has also been produced.

In Campbell River, the Board of Variance is composed of five members of the public appointed by Council, and principally determines minor zoning variances.

City closer to waiving licensing fees for service dogs

Council gave third reading to a bylaw amendment that would waive dog licence fees for Guide and Service Dogs, RCMP Dogs and Search and Rescue Dogs. The bylaw would also be amended to allow such dogs access to otherwise restricted public or park areas, as long as the

dog is under effective control of a competent person and is performing its function as a Guide and Service dog, RCMP dog or Search and Rescue dog.

Proposed ticketing for open burning and fireworks offenses

Council gave third reading to a proposed bylaw amendment that would provide fire department captains with ticketing capability for violations to the Clean Air, Fire Services and Fireworks Regulation Bylaws. Currently, the fire chief, deputy fire chief, assistant fire chief and fire Inspectors are the only officials with the authority to issue tickets for these violations.

City to Register Section 57 Notice

City Council has instructed staff to file a bylaw contravention notice with the Land Title Office on 191 South Island Highway. Under Section 57 of the Community Charter, a municipality may register a notice on title for contravention of municipal bylaw or provincial building regulation with respect to building safety. In September 2015, staff inspected the property at 191 S. Island Hwy and found that significant structural upgrades had been undertaken in the dwelling without appropriate permits. The property owner has taken no further action to apply for a building permit. The City is responsible to ensure that all buildings are constructed or altered in compliance with municipal bylaws and the BC Building code.

Vancouver Island Economic Alliance (VIEA) thank-you

Council will send a letter thanking the Alliance for hosting its recent board meeting in Campbell River. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore future regional economic development. Council appreciates that Campbell River's voice is heard when setting priorities for economic development on Vancouver Island.

Future 15 congratulations

Council will send a letter be sent to each of the Future 15 award recipients congratulating them on their award and thanking them for their commitment and vision for Campbell River. Two recipients, Myriah Foort and Amber Zirnhelt, are City of Campbell River employees. The Future 15 Awards celebrates the diversity and breadth of young professional talent contributing to the future of our community.

Campbell River to be promoted with Vancouver Island Top 20 under 40 Business & Community Achievement Awards

Council agreed to purchase a half-page advertisement associated with these awards (\$295 paid from Council Contingency) congratulating the nine nominees from Campbell River in the finalist commemorative book. The fourth annual gala dinner will be held April 2 in Nanaimo at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. Top 20 under 40 serves to recognize individuals under 40 years of age from the Vancouver Island Region, who have made outstanding contributions in business and community service.