

Council Meeting Highlights January 25, 2016

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.

Greenways Land Trust presented 2015 review of partnership projects

Representatives Sandra Milligan, president, and Richard Hamilton, treasurer, shared highlights of last year's projects and volunteer events that were conducted in partnership with the City.

- Invasive plant management (chemical treatment of 58 patches of knotweed as well as reduction of yellow flag iris infestation, which threatens salmon habitat and erodes banks in the estuary, to one-third of its peak coverage area.)
- Urban forest management plan
- Stewardship agreements (Laughing Willow Community Garden, Kingfisher Creek/Haig-Brown Property, Beaver Lodge Forest Lands)
- Adopt-a-Trail program (708 volunteer hours were donated to maintain 12 of 14 trails in Beaver Lodge Forest Lands)
- School groups donated 2,500 hours to restore environmentally sensitive areas and work on invasive plant management, the urban forest management plan, local stewardship agreements and community outreach programs.

Success By 6 update on development of Children's Charter

Joyce McMann, Family Place coordinator and Cheryl Jordan made a presentation to Council about the development of a Children's Charter to support child safety, health and happiness. They have spoken with 283 children in Campbell River, approximately 7.5 per cent of the 3,800 children aged 3 to 12 years. This work is part of a vision wherein *"Our community embraces a culture that works collaboratively to coordinate and optimize resources, imagination, and commitment toward the healthy development of all our children. A final draft of the Children's Charter will be presented to Council for endorsement."*

Campbell River food bank funding sought

Council agreed with the Community Partnership Committee's recommendation against a grant-in-aid for construction of a refrigerated storage area for the Campbell River food bank because the application did not meet several requirements for this form of financial support. Grants-in-aid are for arts and culture organizations that are not already in receipt of an annual permissive tax exemption and can demonstrate that they have made every effort to earn or acquire the desired funding from other sources. Since the Food Bank is a social service group with funds available for capital purposes, Council will consider other methods of support in a future meeting.

Permissive tax exemption policy amended

Council approved recommendations by Campbell River's Community Partnership Committee to amend the City's grant policy to provide better clarity on eligibility and evaluation criteria. Recommended amendments include changing the maximum duration of permissive exemptions from four years to five; requiring benefitting organizations to enter into an agreement with the City to repay exempted taxes in instances where the benefitting organization transfers the property to other ownership; and placing a maximum threshold on the total value of annual permissive exemptions.

Council will not increase fees for police information checks

Louise Howes, executive director of Volunteer Campbell River told Council that a fee for volunteer checks would be a barrier to volunteering, and that many local organizations whose volunteers work with youth, seniors and people with disabilities have registered to use the free program through the provincial Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (accessible online), which should reduce the number of volunteer requests going to the RCMP detachment. The last increase to police support service fees was in 2001. The fees set at that time remain in effect: volunteers checks continue to be offered free of charge, and employment-related police information checks are \$40.

Council approves zoning for craft brewery at 594-11th Ave.

Beachfire Brewing now have their property at this address zoned to carry out craft brewing and are able to move onto the next phases of their project, which will involve applying for a liquor licence and development/building permits. Council also gave third reading to the bylaw to allow craft brewing within the City's downtown commercial one zones.

129 Westgate Road rezoned for Habitat for Humanity duplex

Habitat for Humanity can now begin the process to construct a duplex at this address. North Island Habitat for Humanity representatives Pat McKenna, executive director, and Tom Beshr provided an update to Council on the organization's affordable housing initiatives. Within the City of Campbell River, the organization has provided four families with an opportunity for home ownership since the Vancouver Island North affiliate was formed in 2004. The City of Campbell River donated the first property and this Westgate Road property, and also covers associated land development fees. Habitat for Humanity urged Council to continue such support to allow for a multi-year expansion of the program that would accommodate six known families in need at this time.

Temporary use permit for fitness centre at 1661 – 15th Ave.

A three-year temporary use permit has been granted for a proposed gym. Although fitness centres are not a permitted use for the current zoning at this address, a gym within the existing building is consistent with the general intent of the Official Community Plan and the business and industrial land use designation in this area. A fitness centre is also likely to have much less impact on the surrounding neighbourhood than some of the uses currently permitted in the industrial zone.

Secondary suite approved for 891 Kalmar Road

No comments were received at the public hearing for this proposed rezoning, held on Dec. 14, 2015. Third reading of the bylaw occurred on Jan. 11, 2016. The proposal is supported by the Official Community Plan, and consistent with the residential 1A zoning requirements and the general form and character of the neighbourhood.

Amendments considered for Board of Variance bylaw

Council gave first two reading to proposed amendments to the City's Board of Variance Bylaw that would more accurately reflects current administrative practices and gives greater certainty on the administration of applications to the board. This bylaw covers the constitution of the board, the process for applying to the board for a decision, details on how meetings should be conducted and provisions to exclude defamatory material. The most significant proposed change is to introduce a limit of two consecutive three-year terms that a board member can serve. Robert's Rules recommend a term limit for appointed positions, and this would provide ongoing opportunities for other citizens to involve themselves in civic life. Some flexibility has also been incorporated into these provisions to ensure an overlap of terms such that the board can maintain a good mixture of newcomers to members with experience.

10-year Financial Plan given first two readings

Council conducted annual financial plan deliberations Dec. 7 to 9, 2015. The 2016 financial planning focused on long-term strategic planning, and 10-year budgets were approved to reflect a total tax increase of 2.45%, which includes newly-established ongoing capital funding of approximately 0.75% tax increase or \$190,000 per year.

The financial plan bylaw must be adopted prior to the adoption of the annual property tax bylaw, and meet the “no deficit rule” that applies to local governments.

The City of Campbell River’s 2016 financial plan bylaw reflects:

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

2015 year-end audit update

Finance staff are in the process of reconciling the City’s year-end balances in preparation for the annual year-end audit and presentation of the financial statements to Council. For the 2015 fiscal year, a new public sector accounting standard is in effect, requiring the City to recognize a liability for any properties owned by the City where they are known to be contaminated. This liability prepares the City financially for the costs of any necessary remediation at the time the property is to be sold or otherwise disposed of; staff are currently gathering data about the potential impact to the City for this new standard. The audited financial statements will be presented at the regular Council meeting to be held May 9.

2015 bylaw enforcement statistics

Staff reviewed bylaw enforcement statistics for 2015 to determine areas of demand and develop a work plan for 2016. Data available between 2007 and 2015 show that bylaw complaints have been steadily increasing for the past four years.

Number of bylaw complaint files opened per year:

<i>2007 – 264 files opened</i>	<i>2012 – 291 files opened</i>
<i>2008 – 251 files opened</i>	<i>2013 – 372 files opened</i>
<i>2009 – 246 files opened</i>	<i>2014 – 414 files opened</i>
<i>2010 – 191 files opened</i>	<i>2015 – 555 files opened</i>
<i>2011 – 161 files opened</i>	

The most frequent complaints in 2015 were for public nuisance (216), traffic and highways (173) and zoning (53).

Coastal Animal Control of BC provides animal control and pound services in Campbell River. Downtown parking enforcement is provided by Robbins Parking Service Ltd., issuing 683 tickets from June through December 2014, and 1,251 tickets in 2015.

Recycling to be required in multi-family buildings by end of year

Council directed staff to draft a bylaw amendment and engagement strategy to ensure that all multi-family buildings implement recycling services within their buildings by Dec. 31, 2016. In 2014, the City of Campbell River signed an agreement, to accept funding from Multi Materials BC for the curbside recycling program and passed a resolution to require recycling services in multi-family buildings. MMBC is now prepared to offer financial incentives to recycling collectors of multi-family buildings and as such the City is considering requiring multi-family buildings to have recycling programs. The MMBC incentive enables multi-family buildings to receive recycling services from qualified collectors at a low rate and in many cases free of charge. The City would provide multi-family building owners with information on the MMBC recycling program and the bylaw changes, as well as educational material to share with residents.

Clean air bylaw remains in effect within City boundaries only

After considering a smoke control complaint from a regional district resident, Council opted to leave the City's clean air bylaw unchanged. Without regulations providing similar open burning restrictions in Area D of the Strathcona Regional District, no substantial improvements could be anticipated related to smoke control and air quality immediately south of Jubilee Parkway, east of the inland highway. Council encouraged staff to discuss with the Strathcona Regional District the possibility of enacting stricter regulations than those currently in effect. In Area D the provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation applies, permitting year-round burning of leaves and foliage for domestic purposes, unless prohibited by a provincial burn ban.

City asks for extension to provide feedback on provincial emergency preparedness

Council directed staff to request more time for the regional district emergency coordinator and fire chief to provide feedback on *Prepared and Resilient: A Discussion Paper on the Legislative Framework for Emergency Management in British Columbia* to Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness Naomi Yamamoto.

Request for Local Government Input – Climate Action and Climate Leadership Plan

The Province is focusing on two climate-related priorities in 2016: completing the new BC Climate Leadership Plan and participating in the federal process to develop a pan-Canadian framework for combatting climate change. As part of BC's preparation for engagement in the federal process, input is being sought related to climate activities in the areas such as: transportation, electricity, buildings, forests, agriculture, government operations, clean energy technology innovation, green infrastructure, adaptation and resilience and public education and engagement.

Staff will review and provide feedback for Council consideration on the Province's process to develop a new Climate Leadership Plan, which will build on accomplishments of BC's 2008 Climate Action Plan to provide next steps toward a low-carbon future

16th Annual Business Excellence Awards (Vancouver Island)

The B.E. Awards were held on Jan. 21 in Nanaimo, with the following five Campbell River businesses nominated: Associated Tire & Auto in the Automotive Category; Eagle Eye Adventures in the Entrepreneur Category; She Works She Plays Active Ware in the Entrepreneur Category; Industry Hair & Body Care in the Small Business Category; York Portable Machine Tools in the Trades Category.

Associated Tire, Industry Hair & Body Care and York Portable Machine Tools won in their categories.

2016 call for nominations – Order of British Columbia

Nominations are open for the highest honour the Province can bestow on citizens for excellence and outstanding achievement. Anyone is welcome to nominate a deserving individual as a candidate for appointment. Since 1990, 386 distinguished British Columbians have been honoured. Nomination forms are available online or by emailing the Honours and Awards Secretariat in Victoria at bchonoursandawards@gov.bc.ca. Completed nominations must be received by the Secretariat by Mar. 4, 2016 to be considered this year. Nominations received after this will automatically be forwarded for consideration in 2017.