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### **2017 Annual Report**

The City works to achieve best practice in providing a clear picture of its operations, and financial reporting in both the annual report and financial plan continues to improve to enhance transparency and value for the community.

The 2017 Annual Report identifies that Council and staff have made significant progress on Council strategic priorities in the past year, and those priorities continue to be a focus moving into the coming year. It also confirms that the City's financial position continues to improve with a 10-year financial plan and strategic decision-making on the use of available resources, with incremental and predictable tax and user fee increases through the City's *Financial Stability & Resiliency Program* – to provide reliable service delivery both today and in the future. (See news release dated June 7, 2018 for additional details.)

### **Campbell River Coalition to End Homelessness**

Pat McKenna and Natalie Meredith, members of the Campbell River Coalition to End Homelessness, provided Council with an update about the group's purpose and intention to collaborate on funding requests. They also asked Council to endorse a City representative to attend regular meetings.

### **2018 community beautification grants approved**

Council approved the proposed 2018 beautification partnering agreements with the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association, Pier Street Association, Downtown Heart of the City Business Improvement Association and Willow Point Business Improvement Area Society and have directed staff to support the applicants with the implementation of beautification projects on public land. The 2018 financial plan has a total budget of \$40,000 for this program, to be allocated at a maximum of \$10,000 for each group.

### **City considers partnership with Downtown BIA for façade improvement, signage program**

Council has approved in principle a partnership agreement with the Heart of the City Business Improvement Association (BIA), and has directed staff to provide notification of the proposed partnering agreement as prescribed by the Community Charter. Council will consider final approval of the proposed partnering agreements once statutory notification requirements have been completed. The proposed agreement would make grant funding available to businesses through the BIA for up to 50 per cent of the cost of eligible façade improvements to a maximum grant of \$10,000, and for up to 80 per cent of the cost of eligible signage improvements, to a maximum grant of \$5,000. Funds will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis, with any unused funds each year being returned to Council reserve.

### **Mutual aid agreement between Campbell River and Comox Valley continues**

Council agreed to extend the term of the mutual aid agreement between the City of Campbell River and the Comox Valley Regional District for a further five years, commencing May 11, 2018 and ending May 10, 2023. The agreement will update emergency resource reimbursement rates in accordance with provincial standards.

#### **City to request long-range plan for logging in Snowden Demonstration Forest**

Council will write to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, requesting that the Province put a moratorium on road building and logging in the Snowden Demonstration Forest until such time that the Ministry develops a long-range management plan.

The City will also request that the Province consult with local governments, First Nations and recreational user groups and stakeholders and develop a long-range management plan for the Snowden Demonstration Forest that integrates recreation, tourism, ecological, watershed and harvesting considerations and thoroughly evaluates the impacts of harvesting and includes a full economic assessment, including direct and indirect impacts.

#### **Council seeks information regarding Upland Excavating landfill application**

An email from Leona Adams, president of the Campbell River Environmental Committee, attached correspondence from the Ministry of Mines, providing Council with an update regarding the Upland Excavating landfill application. Council directed City staff to follow-up regarding control of zoning and to send a letter requesting a map or document showing the area excluded from the landfill application.

#### **Council wants to share information about Area D water rate increase**

Council discussed the June 14, 2018 Strathcona Regional District's news release regarding rate increase for northern Area D water system that advises that Area D residents will experience an increase in their water rates to restore the system to cost neutral operations, as required under the Local Government Act. The regional district is hiring a water conservation educator to share information on how reducing the amount of water used in the Area D system will help reduce future costs for Area D residents.

Council requested that the City post comparable information on its website – including the City's role in supplying water to Area D and the rationale for cost increases, along with a comparison of water use by residents within City boundaries and in Area D, and provincial and national water use averages.

#### **Council writes off ICBC accounts receivable**

Council approved the accounts receivable ICBC write off for \$11,776.41, which has been deemed uncollectible. Bad debts are inevitable as part of doing business, however the City has minimal write-offs on an annual basis.

#### **City budget not affected by new employer health tax**

The City's chief financial officer reported that the stability program and long-term budgeting focus has mitigated the impact of the new employer health tax on the City's Financial Plan. If the Province follows through with the elimination of the remaining 50 per cent Medical Services Plan premiums in 2020 as intended, the City will only see inflationary cost increases to provincial health premiums for wage and benefit cost increases. The recommendation from City staff is that the City supports the move to the employer health tax, as long as the remaining 50 per cent MSP is eliminated, because the employer health tax is more efficient to administer as it's based on gross payroll.

#### **Council considers adjustments to compensation to take effect Jan. 1/2019**

Council gave first three readings to recommendations presented by Doug Lang, chair of the Council Remuneration Review Task Force. The review of Council remuneration, benefits and expenses recommended that:

- the annual salary for the Mayor be adjusted to \$73,611 effective the first pay period of January 2019, which includes an adjustment for the loss of the one-third non-taxable allowance for elected officials starting in 2019, CPI adjustment (estimated), and an adjustment to bring the Mayor's salary in line with that of the Mayors of B.C. comparator communities of a similar size;
- the rate of pay for the Councillors be set at 38 per cent of the Mayor's salary, which includes consideration for payment as Acting Mayor;
- an annual Canadian consumer price index adjustment continued to be applied in future years
- benefits (Medical Service Plan, extended health and dental, accidental death and disability and life insurance of \$50,000 maximum), be available to all members of Council with the City paying 100 per cent of the premium costs during Council's term;
- the next independent review of Council Remuneration will occur in 2022;

Lang emphasized that the task force had undertaken a comprehensive review, and that the recommendations are considered fair, competitive and fiscally responsible, with the aim of ensuring that Campbell River can attract and retain invested and experienced Council members, who are key decision-makers for our community.

For the review, comparator communities of a similar population size in BC were Courtenay, North Cowichan, West Kelowna, Port Moody, Penticton, Mission and Vernon.

In response to questions from Council, Lang confirmed that:

- Any net compensation increase for both Mayor and Council members is effectively negated by removal of the one-third expense allowance tax exemption.
- No members of Council currently receive benefits from City
- The changes would take effect in January 2019, and apply only to the new Council elected this fall.

#### **Council says farewell to two senior staff members**

It was the last City Council meeting for retiring fire chief Ian Baikie and for chief financial officer and finance manager Myriah Foort, who is leaving the City in early July to lead the finance department at the Strathcona Regional District.

Mayor Andy Adams extended sincere appreciation for Foort's *"dedication and great work,"* adding *"We look forward to continuing to work with you at Strathcona Regional District."*

The Mayor also noted Baikie's retirement, commenting on his work to develop *"an outstanding team."* He added *"We are indebted for service to the City and greater community. We know you'll continue to be active and busy throughout community. There are not enough words to extend appreciation for all work you've done."*

#### **Community news of note**

Mayor Andy Adams highlighted the success of Council's lobbying at the annual Union of BC Municipalities conference with the recent announcement of new funding for one and two-year pilot forestry programs at North Island College. The Mayor emphasized that Council will encourage permanent funding for such programs.

The Mayor also thanked Wei Wai Kum First Nation for hosting National Indigenous Day ceremonies at their Big House and for the great celebration at Spirit Square on June 21.

Council also congratulated the Museum's on an outstanding 60th anniversary celebration.