

Council Meeting Highlights December 14, 2015

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.

City honoured with third MarCom Gold award

Mayor Adams announced that the City has won a third MarCom Gold award for the eye-catching watering restrictions information boards they installed this summer. The boards were situated at the high-traffic locations of Dogwood Operations Centre and at Rockland and Island Highway to provide a visual reminder about the City's watering restrictions levels. Council extended congratulations to Water Supervisor Nathalie Viau, who worked with Epic Design to create highly noticeable signs with original design, colour and materials – and thanks to Campbell River residents for their gracious cooperation in water conservation during our long, dry summer. MarCom honours are based on an international competition that recognizes exceptional marketing and communication programs.

BC Hydro construction update

View the presentation on hydroelectric operations and capital projects in Campbell River through the archived webcast (link from the homepage) at www.campbellriver.ca.

Work continues for Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission

Council approved the commission's 2015 annual report and 2016 work plan. As of the end of November 2015, the Commission had met 10 times and accomplished an extensive list of projects, with more to come in 2016.

Development permit approved for Hospice Society

The Campbell River Hospice Society will move forward with constructing the first phase of its new facility at 440 Evergreen Rd. to house administration, counselling and pain management services. Council waived the requirement for a security deposit for landscaping, and agreed to contribute \$45,000 from the 2015 Council contingency budget to assist with installation of water and sewer services. The Hospice Society conducts fundraising and receives additional income from a thrift store.

Public hearing coming soon to re-zone property for third Habitat for Humanity building

A public hearing will be held in January regarding a rezoning proposal to permit the construction of a duplex at 129 Westgate Road by Habitat for Humanity, one unit for a family of three, and one for a family of five. The proposal is supported by policy in the Official Community Plan. Starting in March, hundreds of volunteers would help build affordable, quality dwellings that are easy and economical to maintain, with wastewater heat recovery, low-demand heating and lighting and low-water irrigation. This would be the third Habitat for Humanity construction in Campbell River. People can support the project with donations to and purchases from the local ReStore.

Public hearing coming for downtown craft brewery

A proposal to add craft brewing as a permitted use at 594-11th Ave. will go to public hearing in January. Beach Fire Brewing wishes to bring to Campbell River a craft brewing/brewpub and food services. There are two in Courtenay (Gladstone, Forbidden Brewing) and one in Cumberland (Cumberland Brewing).

Graffiti plan proposed for waste receptacles

An increase in graffiti on waste receptacles throughout Campbell River could be addressed in the new year when the City invites waste collection companies to review and provide feedback on a proposal that would require them to remove graffiti from their waste receptacles within 12 days. To support the City's aim to reduce the visibility of graffiti, more prescriptive bylaw regulations requiring removal of graffiti by property owners and utility companies were adopted in March 2014. The bylaw requires graffiti on building to be removed within five days.

Bringing wireless Internet access up to speed in City facilities

Council supported Internet access upgrades at the Maritime Heritage Centre, the Museum, Spirit Square and the Sportsplex in 2016 to support large groups for tourism and other events hosted at these facilities. Upgrades should be complete by summer, and cost of the project will be \$7,300 – to be paid from the 2015 Council contingency fund. Open public WIFI is currently supported by North Island Communications at the Airport and Campbell River Community Centre. SHAW Go-WIFI is also available at most City facilities, although this service is restricted to current SHAW customers.

Official Community Plan review and update to begin in 2016

Council approved a contract not to exceed \$120,000 with Modus Planning, Design & Engagement Inc. to review and revise the Official Community Plan for greater clarity and to update numerous areas in the Zoning Bylaw to reflect the goals, objective and vision of Campbell River's Official Community Plan. A comprehensive community engagement process will be part of this project. The City of Campbell River's Official Community Plan (OCP) underwent a major update in 2012. The last major update to the Zoning Bylaw occurred in 2006.

Improvements coming in commercial areas

Banners and landscaping will be installed by the Willow Point Business Improvement Society with a \$10,000 grant from the City. Also, the Pier Street Association is proposing to improve lighting for three large murals, upgrade landscaping with flower barrels and install recycling containers in Pier Street area, using a \$10,000 grant from the City.

Work ordered for three properties

Council will require the owners of 930 Petersen Road, 1711 Cheviot Road; and 533 Alder Street to bring the properties into compliance with Campbell River's Public Nuisance Bylaw. City contractors will be authorized to enter onto the properties to perform the work in the event that the property owners do not comply with the remedial action notice.

930 Petersen 1711 Cheviot are side by side corner parcels owned by the same person. These properties have a long history of neglect resulting in a number of complaints of unsightliness over the years. Hedge trimming for visibility is required for the property at 533 Alder S.

Campbell River Volunteer Society's sustainability report

The Campbell River Volunteer Society (CRVS) was established in 1990, is a member of Volunteer BC and Volunteer Canada and one of more than 200 offices across the country dedicated to volunteerism. With 121 requests for volunteers last year, the society made 748 referrals. Two main users of volunteer resources are the hospital and the Tidemark Theatre. Many community events such as Canada Day, Chainsaw Carving, Relay for Life, the Banner Project and the Salmon Festival rely on volunteers. The society administers RCMP Police Information Checks, and have offered assistance for Ministry of Justice criminal record reviews for members. Annually the society operates with revenues of just under \$75,000, including the Community Gaming Grant of \$33,000. Roughly \$60,000 is spent on payroll for three staff. Administration and operating expenses are approximately \$14,000.

2015 homeless count results

In September 2015, a survey was conducted to count the number of adults in Campbell River experiencing absolute homelessness and residing in sheltered services. The survey team was contracted by Campbell River Family Services Society and counted the number of people experiencing absolute homelessness, including people sleeping rough, people in emergency overnight accommodations, and people in women's transition houses. Of the 52 people surveyed, 33 (63%) were male; and 44 slept outside or in a vehicle. The predominant age range was 40 to 59 years (52%). Council agreed to consider allocating sufficient funds to conduct a homeless count every two years, beginning in 2017.

Sponsorship of extreme weather shelter

Council agreed to sponsor a room in the extreme weather shelter for \$6,000 using the remaining 2015 Council contingency fund. Campbell River Family Services launched the room sponsorship funding initiative started at the beginning of November, with positive response from the community.

Report requested on social public procurement.

Council requested a staff report on options to adopt and implement a social public procurement policy to outline how City purchases might support additional community benefits.

Extension granted for wetland remedial action requirements for Jubilee property

To address soil deposition and remediation of a wetland south of Jubilee Parkway, the City has extended the deadline for a proposal from the property owner to March 15. The proposal will be reviewed by the Province and City and must include a timeline for remedial action due to be completed no later than the date specified by the property owner's qualified environmental professional. The report will be presented to Council for approval.

Private care at New Horizons

Hospital Employees Union Regional Vice President Barbara Biley and Lois Jarvis of Citizens for Quality Health presented their concerns about the level of health care staffing at New Horizons Care Home. Council will send a letter to Vancouver Island Health Authority and the provincial Minister of Health asking for clarification regarding cuts to staff hours at the care home.