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## **Highlights of June 29, 2020 Council Meeting – June 30 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

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### **MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

In light of upcoming Canada Day, Mayor Andy Adams explained the reason Logger Mike was no longer wearing the Canada Flag. After receiving a complaint about flag etiquette, the City reviewed flag protocol and guidelines provided by the Government of Canada. The fire department installed the flag on top of the spar pole to meet government guidelines.

Mayor Adams emphasized that while Logger Mike has worn the Canada Flag for years, this was always meant as a celebration of pride and love for our country.

He wished everyone well as we mark Canada Day with a virtual celebration this year, and urged residents to *“wear your red and white, get out where you can and have some fun.”*

Mayor Adams also noted the RCMP uniform is an iconic Canadian symbol and reflected on comments about police behavior and appropriateness, both “south of the border” and in Canada. He recognized Campbell River’s local RCMP detachment, under the leadership and direction of Inspector Jeff Preston *“for the outstanding work that they do for our community, and that’s for all people in our community.”*

The Mayor added, *“Thank you for what you do to keep our community safe. Continue to do so, and know that you have Council’s support.”*

### **CONTINUING RE-START of CITY SERVICES**

#### **Campbell River Restart Plan**

Council endorsed the gradual increase of community service levels during COVID-19 pandemic recovery, as recommended in the City’s Restart Plan. City action to limit or resume public access to facilities and services will be based on Provincial orders and guidelines and BC’s Restart Plan. For a complete list of services available, facility access, and where to direct questions, see the City’s website ([campbellriver.ca](http://campbellriver.ca)), email [info@campbellriver.ca](mailto:info@campbellriver.ca) or call 250-286-5700.

Council confirmed the next meeting (July 20) will be held electronically. At that meeting, and in line with recent provincial guidelines for local governments on accommodating in-person meetings, staff will provide a report on safety procedures and options to receive delegations as early as August. The report will provide options for electronic and in-person participation, with suggested safety procedures for hand washing, wearing masks, and physical distancing as well as access to City Hall washrooms and Council Chambers. Any changes will be communicated in advance of in-person meeting participation to ensure people know what to expect. Along with posting meeting agendas and minutes, the City broadcasts Council meetings through its website and distributes Council meeting highlights following each meeting.

Council approved additional funding from the City’s financial stabilization reserve for enhanced communications and economic development services during phase three of the restart process, as well as funding for limited recreation services and field bookings, outlined below.

#### **Limited recreation services and funding for sport field booking approved**

Following BC’s Restart Plan, the City will gradually resume and expand in-person recreation programming. Each renewed service will be tested before public registration is offered.

Expanded recreation services will include outdoor fitness programs (based on demand) and expanded weight room hours (adding early morning hours in July and evenings in August).

The department intends to run trials of indoor programming (for adults and children in July, increasing in September; for 50-plus programs in September) as well as trials of room rentals (limited daytime rentals available in July and August).

Online fitness programs will decrease as regular programming restarts.

Following guidelines from viaSport and the BC Recreation and Parks Association, City sports fields are currently available for casual use (small group, interclub play with minimal spectators). viaSport guidelines currently recommend this until at least September. As access expands, any field bookings would require groups to have a safety plan in place.

City facilities and sport fields were closed on March 16 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recreation and community face-to-face programming immediately ceased and the City provided online programs and outreach services. Recreation and culture service levels were also reduced as cost-saving measures to offset lost revenue.

### **Increased access to Ken Forde boat ramp**

Council reconsidered the decision to provide only limited (non-trailer) access at the Ken Forde boat ramp, and the City will remove gravel washed up on the ramp to have the facility operational for the remainder of the summer.

Gravel that collects on the Ken Forde boat ramp is used for shoreline restoration elsewhere in the community, and work will comply with the City's agreement with the federal government.

Following assessment by a qualified environmental professional, the ramp will be cleared at the next available sufficiently low tide (anticipated to be July 19-21).

The earlier decision to remove only logs and wood debris (providing access for smaller vessels that don't require a trailer, such as canoes and kayaks) was among cost-saving measures endorsed this spring.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **Council confirmed Spirit Square location for new public washroom**

The two existing public washrooms located adjacent to Spirit Square and the Centennial Building at 1235 Shoppers Row will be replaced with the state-of-the-art Portland Loo washroom.

The washroom offers enhanced safety, durability, accessibility, privacy and visibility – through slats around the top and bottom. The durability and visibility deter negative activities and vandalism, and reduce maintenance costs. Also important, passersby can see and hear if someone needs help.

Various locations for the new washroom installation were analyzed considering land availability and ownership, proximity to other washrooms, and feasibility of providing water, sewer and electricity services. Pedestrian traffic and natural surveillance to prevent crime were also considered.

The existing washrooms will be relocated and used elsewhere in the community.

### **Elk Falls campground activity**

Council is aware of inappropriate activity that took place over the last weekend in June at the Elk Falls campground involving members of the vulnerable population and potentially criminal activity.

The RCMP attended to calls, and the City will write a letter to the BC Parks branch asking them to enforce campground regulations to ensure a family-friendly atmosphere is maintained at this provincial campground within City limits. Staff confirmed that the local John Howard Society and BC Housing are not paying for people experiencing homelessness to camp there.

### **Changes to ticketing enable Blasting Bylaw enforcement**

Council adopted updates that authorize enforcement of blasting regulations through ticketing. The amendment authorizes RCMP officers, bylaw enforcement officers, building inspectors, the fire chief and deputy fire chief to issue \$500 fines if needed.

### **Options for new RCMP Auxiliary Program**

Council received correspondence from the Police Services, Policing and Security Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, regarding a new national RCMP Auxiliary Program. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) endorse this approach.

The Campbell River RCMP detachment currently has an active auxiliary program. Council has requested a report on costs. The letter estimates costs for uniform, training and medical tests to be up to \$1,500 per candidate. Training can take up to six months.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

In response to the **Long Range Planning and Sustainability Department's project update**, Council will confirm via survey the priority of items on the department's workplan. Council also directed that staff provide a report to finalize the City's Social Grants policy prior to this fall's application intake and work with the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association to install the entrance feature on Highway 19.

### **New location for Farmers Market**

The Pier Street Farmers Market will run from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sundays, beginning July 5 at a new location on Cedar street across from Community Centre. The new location permits more room for vendors, in keeping with public health guidelines.

### **Funding support for Qwalayu House**

The City has agreed to assist with funding for the Children's Health Foundation's Qwalayu House / Home Away From Home project. The City will cover the building permit fee costs and fund approximately \$65,000 for servicing, plus \$10,000 to cover development cost charges. The funding assistance will help the Children's Health Foundation meet their budget requirements. The project will provide accommodation for children, their families, and expectant parents from the outer region of the health district while accessing health care in our community. The Qwalayu House will be located on Island Health property near Yuculta Lodge.

### **City to discuss traditional territory acknowledgment with First Nations neighbours**

In response to a report on acknowledging Laich-Kwil-Tach Nation traditional territory, Council directed that the Mayor and City Manager discuss this with First Nations neighbours prior to further consideration. Council noted that options for acknowledgment before meetings and official community events as well as expanding reconciliation efforts through City policy development would be considered following this preliminary discussion.

## **BUILDING and DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

- **Rezoning considered for a triplex on 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.** – Council gave first and second reading to a rezoning application to permit a triplex at 1830 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. Council waived the requirement for a public hearing, as the proposal is aligned with the City's Official Community Plan. Council requested that community and social care options be removed from rezoning on this property.
- **Rezoning considered for 79-unit apartment on Dogwood Street** – Council gave first and second reading to a rezoning application to permit an affordable housing complex at 850 Dogwood St. The five-storey building would be constructed in partnership with BC Housing and include 79 affordable-ownership units. An online public hearing will be held.

- **Decision delayed on underground services at Hilchey Road development** – Council requested that staff come back with updated cost information for future undergrounding of services in response to an application to waive the requirement to bury wires underground along the property frontage of a proposed 14-unit townhouse development at 327 Hilchey Rd. Council also requested a report on the policy for underground services for future discussion to ensure the policy is applied consistently.
- **Hilchey Road watermain renewal contract awarded** – Council awarded a contract worth up to \$554, 819.30 to Upland Contracting Ltd. for renewal of approximately 800 metres of watermain on Hilchey Road from Galerno Road to Penfield Road. This work will install new watermain, services, hydrants and isolation valves. Construction will be done in narrow trenches along roadways to limit the impact on traffic and road surfaces. Minor repaving, with no change to road markings, is included in the contract. The contractor will maintain vehicle traffic along Hilchey Road and affected intersections at all times, as well as access to all properties located within the project limits.
- **Minor amendments considered for Official Community Plan** – The proposed amendments would update the City's policies in accordance with the Local Government Act and refine when community energy and emissions reduction are required. Proposed changes include removing requirements for minor development applications and permits. The changes are based on preliminary feedback from development representatives and do not apply to development smaller than three units. Council gave first and second reading to the proposed updates and requested additional consultation with the development community prior to a public hearing. The City will undertake further consultation with industrial land developers and the Community Planning Advisory Committee.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Council received a report on **COVID-19 Financial Guiding Principles** to assist with fiscal management of the recovery phase.
- The Finance Department will apply to the 2020 Union of BC Municipalities' **Community Excellence Awards** for the City's Financial Stability & Resilience Policy.
- **Request to amend lease agreement** – In response to correspondence from Budget Car and Truck Rentals requesting that the City suspend the minimum annual guarantee and allow rental car operators to remit a percentage rate of gross revenues, Council requested a staff report. Council previously supported postponing due dates for lease payments until the end of this year, based on a City report earlier this spring highlighting anticipated difficulties for tourism tenants and federal relief programs due to COVID-19.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

### **Tyee Club concerns with Chinook regulations**

Council received a copy of correspondence from Randy Killoran, Vice President, Tyee Club of British Columbia, to the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, regarding concerns with Area 13 Chinook regulations. Council will send a letter of support requesting Tyee Pool exclusion from the management zone for fish larger than 80 centimetres.

### **Strathcona Regional District grant for water metering study**

Council will send a letter in support of the regional district's application to the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program seeking funding for an Area D Universal Water Metering Study.

## **ELECTRONIC PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **City's first electronic public hearings held**

Community members, including proponents of development projects, were able to participate in Campbell River's first electronic public hearings by Zoom video conferencing. The City held online public hearing in accordance with new Provincial guidelines and published instructions on how to participate through *City Currents* in the Mirror newspaper. The City also sent letters with this information to neighbouring properties of proposed development locations.

The City's first two electronic public hearings considered:

- An application to allow secondary suites or secondary residences on the proposed three lots at 781 Nicholls Rd.
  - A total of eight units could be built, and the existing neighbourhood land use designation encourages diverse housing stocks.
  - The proposal is considered sensitive infill development close to Merecroft Centre and transit.
- Site-specific rezoning to permit a lumber yard at 2175 Campbell River Rd.