

HIGHLIGHTS of MAY 31, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, meetings use online video conferencing technology. Watch City Council meetings live or view recordings at campbellriver.ca/webcasts.

Mayor's opening statement

Mayor Andy Adams pointed out that a number of Council members were wearing orange at the meeting. He explained that the City of Campbell River has lowered Canada flags at its facilities in honour of the 215 children discovered buried at the Kamloops Residential School.

The Mayor said flags will remain at half mast for 215 hours, until 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 8, *"to mark this tragic loss and the legacy of harm the residential school system has and continues to have – certainly a dark blight on the history of our province and country."*

He added, *"In lowering the flags, we recognize the devastation that the residential school system wreaked on families and communities, and we send support to the survivors and their loved ones. We also acknowledge the systemic racism that continues to erode our society, and we renew our pledge to work for more inclusive, understanding community connections."*

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- **Green light for 20-unit Habitat for Humanity townhouse development on Hilchey** – Council approved rezoning to allow a maximum of 20 affordable townhouse units for families in need on a one-acre property at 461 Hilchey Rd. Maximum height for the development will be 10 metres. An online public hearing was held May 10.
- **70 rental units to be built at 854 South Island Highway** – Council approved an amended rezoning application to allow for increased density in a five-storey building at this location. The proposed building height is well below the maximum allowable at this location. An expanded underground parkade allows for all parking to be accommodated on the site, which is a little more than one acre. An online public hearing was held May 10.
- **Proposal for 60-unit apartment building considered for Dalton Road** – Council gave first two readings and directed a public hearing be scheduled for proposed rezoning to permit a market rental apartment building at 2221 Dalton Rd. If approved, the amendment would permit a density increase from 33 to 60 dwelling units.
- **Two-storey commercial building approved for 3795 Island Highway** – This application is to construct a two-storey, commercial building. The permit is subject to improvements to the existing fence, signs and landscaping on this property.
- **Hilchey Road watermain renewal contract awarded** – Wacor Holdings will replace approximately 760 metres of watermain on Hilchey Road from Galerno to Highway 19A and northward on Galerno from Hilchey to Simms. The work is valued at \$624,461. During construction, the contractor is required to maintain vehicle traffic on the roads and through affected intersections at all times, along with access to all properties located within the project limits.
- **Cycling lanes for Hilchey Road** – Bike lanes will be painted along on Hilchey Road this summer at a cost of \$150,000. The City will provide neighbourhood updates prior to work beginning.

COVID-19

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For the most recent information on City services, please see our website campbellriver.ca/COVID-19
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- **Funding from Transport Canada for Campbell River Airport (YBL)** – The federal Airport Capital Assistance Program will provide \$4,329,847 for upgrades planned for 2022 to airport lighting, visual aids, and taxiway and apron rehabilitation. This grant covers 95 per cent of the project cost. The remainder will be funded by the City. Improvements to airport lighting and navigational aids will allow aircraft to land under more challenging weather conditions. Taxiway and apron area upgrades will improve aircraft access to the terminal building for scheduled flights and for fueling and large aircraft parking. The City has received several grants over the past number of years that have enhanced the airport.
- **Economic development 2021 strategic plan progress report** – Council received the Economic Development Officer's 2021 Strategic Plan Progress report for information. Economic Development has completed the public-consultation phase of strategic planning. Due to pandemic safety protocols, Campbell River residents were offered several options to participate, including paper surveys, online surveys and virtual open house sessions. From the consultation process and other information, the economic development team has developed seven strategic goals aimed at strengthening Campbell River's business climate. A draft 2021-2026 Economic Development Strategic Plan will be presented to Council June 15. In the draft strategic plan, each goal will be accompanied by action items, required resources and a list of key performance indicators.

Results of March 2021 Citizen Satisfaction Survey

Results of this spring's citizen satisfaction survey indicate that the majority of residents continue to be satisfied with most City services. Community members gave high marks to the City's pandemic response and overall programs and services. Service provided by City staff received excellent satisfaction rating (87 per cent overall). While 98 per cent of respondents were satisfied with quality of life in Campbell River, the survey indicates homelessness and addiction are the most important issues facing the community.

Research was conducted by a professional firm that specializes in community surveys. Statistically-valid responses were generated by mailing 1,300 surveys to randomly-selected households, with an online survey available for people who wished to complete the survey and did not receive a survey in the mail.

Regularly measuring citizen satisfaction levels through a truly random and representative survey helps gather comprehensive community feedback and provides reliable insight into community support and concerns – and helps match City services and service delivery to community priorities and needs.

(See separate news release for additional details.)

Support for organics composting targets – Council will provide a letter of support for the Comox Strathcona Regional Organics Composting Project Solid Waste Management Plan, to meet regional waste diversion goals, preserve regional landfill capacity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

- **Strathcona Community Health Network update** – Councillor Collen Evans provided a highlight of activities related to:
 - food security (establishing short, medium and long-term food security support and applying for a grant to develop a regional food action plan)
 - support for a regional housing needs report
 - support for child and youth wellbeing, with a focus on youth mental health
- **Campbell River courthouse renovations to discourage loitering, litter and camping** – Council received correspondence from the Ministry of Citizens' Services on improvements for the courthouse to be completed this summer. Changes include increased lighting, new landscaping for improved sightlines and enclosing the entryway.
- **Seeking solutions to downtown safety issues** – Council requested a report from the RCMP and City bylaw officers in response to downtown safety concerns outlined in letters from Ambleside Group, E&D Properties and representatives of Dogwood Plaza.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **Funding for Wild Wise Campbell River** – Council approved a \$500 request to support signs and direct action by the Wild Wise Campbell River chapter to reduce wildlife and human conflicts. Wild Wise gathers wildlife reports and sightings from a variety of sources, including social media and government agencies, and responds through direct contact and by posting signs in the area where an animal has been reported. This hands-on approach provides timely information to guide human behaviour. Of particular concern is the risk posed when bears travel through neighbourhoods. Wild Wise promotes limiting access to human food sources to save bears.
- **Community Beautification Grant Program 2021** – Proposals from three neighbourhood associations were approved by Council. Partnering agreements have been finalized with the Downtown Business Improvement Association, the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association, and the Willow Point Business Improvement Association. Each association was granted matching funds of \$7,500 for improvements such as more flowers, splashes of colour and art in public spaces, decorative lighting and holiday ornaments.
- **New paint for Spirit Square poles** – Council approved a request from Campbell River Arts Council to paint the Spirit Square art banner poles at a cost of up to \$30,000. Council directed that ongoing maintenance costs for Spirit Square should be incorporated into the City's draft 2022-2031 financial plan.
- **Council reaffirms support for local resource industry, particularly forestry** – In response to a request from the District of Tofino to support the "expedient and resourced implementation" of the provincial Old-Growth Strategic Review report, Council confirmed support for the expertise of the forest industry to manage the resource. Council will not support the request from Tofino and requested information from staff on the cost of installing three billboards at the entrances to the community illustrating community support for the forest and aquaculture industries.

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PUBLIC HEARING

No community members were in attendance to provide feedback during the public hearing on proposed zoning bylaw text amendments. The proposed changes will allow for increased variety of uses on individual commercial or mixed-use sites. They also support redevelopment of the former Elk Falls mill site and align with Campbell River's Official Community Plan. The proposed changes are considered minor revisions as part of regular updates to the City Zoning Bylaw. Highlights of proposed changes include:

- Prohibiting commercial groundwater bottling;
- Adding Seafood processing and marine research laboratories as a permitted use in the industrial-two zone;
- Adding coffee shop and restaurant as permitted uses in the commercial eight zone;
- Defining and adding community gardens as permitted land use in any location
- Removing the 'or' between permitted uses for the multiple residential seven zone to support a mix of housing typologies (duplex, triplex, fourplex) on one site.

All proposed changes are subject to final approval by Council.

Highlights of June 1 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Investment Policy Update

Representatives from the Municipal Finance Authority provided a short presentation and answered questions from Council about proposed amendments to the City's investment policy. They confirmed that the proposed amendments establish clear accountability and provide greater flexibility to achieve investment objectives. During a Feb. 9 discussion, Council requested that the proposed policy amendments be forwarded to the Municipal Finance Authority for review. The City of Campbell River's current investment policy is nearly 20 years old, and the proposed amendments were approved in principle following this presentation.

Annual development statistics

Council received information on annual development application statistics from the last six years. The report included statistics on the number and type building permits, subdivisions and development applications. Also included was a glossary of terms to describe the various types of applications. This information was compiled to provide details on the type and number of applications managed by the City's development services department.

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