

HIGHLIGHTS of FEBRUARY 14, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING

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DELEGATIONS

Discovery Passage Aquarium Society—Discovery Passage Aquarium Society representatives Naomi Tabata, president, and Monica Stewardson, board member, presented Council with a 2022 update and information about future planning. The society is exploring the feasibility of a new aquarium. They expressed interest in incorporating ideas and recommendations from City staff and Council; requested that a City representative participate on the Aquarium Expansion Task Force; requested that the City consider a potential, City-owned waterfront property that may be a suitable location for a future aquarium; and asked that the aquarium be considered when existing infrastructure or developments are reviewed. The presentation was recorded as part of the Council meeting and can be viewed on the City's website (campbellriver.ca/webcasts).

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SUPPORT

Community emergency preparedness funding opportunity—Council authorized a regional application, in partnership with the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) and First Nations, to the Union of BC Municipalities' Community Emergency Preparedness Program. Grant funding would be used to procure six additional mobile Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) function kits, establish emergency communications during tsunami notifications and chairs for City staff at the EOC. If the application is successful, SRD would provide overall grant management on behalf of the City of Campbell River.

Canada Day Committee requests permission to host fireworks—In response to correspondence received Jan. 25 from Carol Chapman, chair of the Campbell River Canada Day Committee, Council approved the committee's request to host fireworks from a barge positioned off Robert V. Ostler Park on Jul. 1, subject to COVID-19 health and safety considerations.

Mar. 26 proclaimed Purple Day in Campbell River to raise awareness about epilepsy—In response to correspondence from Deirdre Syms, interim executive director of the BC Epilepsy Society, Council approved proclaiming Saturday, Mar. 26, Purple Day in Campbell River to raise awareness about epilepsy. Mar. 26 is international Purple Day.

Correspondence from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions—Council received correspondence, dated Jan. 21, from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, regarding community mental health and substance use supports. Council will request a follow-up meeting to discuss addictions treatment and beds on the North Island.

RECREATION AND CULTURE UPDATE

Sportsplex renovation project—Subsequent to the Jan. 24 Regular Council meeting, staff cancelled Tender 21-62 and negotiated a revised proposal from the lowest compliant tenderer in an effort to reduce the overall cost of the project. The results of these negotiations were presented to Council for further direction. Council approved the option that identified \$1.86 million in savings, and directed staff to execute a contract with Ketz Pacific Contracting Ltd., in the revised amount of \$3,899,519, for renovations to the Sportsplex. Council also directed staff to allocate additional funds from the community works reserve, gaming reserve and COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant to address a budget shortfall of approximately \$973,505.

FINANCE UPDATE

Quarterly Financial Report—Staff presented Council with the Quarterly Financial Report for the fourth quarter of 2021. This report helps Council monitor the progress of the work plan approved during financial planning and also ensures that results are in alignment with approved budgets. The report includes the three core components of the budget, which are the operating departmental budgets, one-time operating projects and capital projects. The report will be posted on the City's website.

Key highlights include: City revenues and expenses reached 98 per cent and 84 per cent of budget respectively. Development Services revenues exceeded budget by \$605,000, which is a reflection of the increased development in Campbell River over the past years (\$230,000 over budget in 2020). Staffing vacancies, supply chain issues and availability of contractors have had a significant impact on reduced expenditures in 2021.

Of the 54 approved operating projects, 33 have been completed and there was a total spend of \$1.43 million (56 per cent of budget). There were 114 capital projects approved, with 57 completed and \$14.7 million expensed (40 per cent of budget). The most significant capital projects in 2021 were the Norm Woods Environmental Centre upgrades; Highway 19A upgrades; and airside concrete parking, taxi widening, approach lighting and sign replacement at the airport.

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Update on proposed amendments to the Official Community Plan (OCP)—Staff provided Council with an update summarizing preliminary results of public and stakeholder consultation for proposed amendments to OCP Development Permit Areas to include Great Blue Heron nest trees with Bald Eagle nest trees and improve Hazard Conditions (Steep Slopes). The proposed amendments concerning herons were endorsed by the Community Planning Advisory Committee and the Environmental Advisory Committee in October 2020. The proposed amendments concerning steep slopes, which focus on human safety, were endorsed by the committees in November 2020. Based on community feedback received during engagement activities in November 2021, staff have planned additional engagement activities for March. Feedback gathered during these engagement activities will inform the proposed changes that will be submitted for consideration at a Regular Council meeting later in the year. Council will consider the proposed amendments further at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Request to rezone 179 Hilchey Road approved—Council gave third reading and approval to a request to rezone the property at 179 Hilchey Road to permit a four-unit townhouse.

Request to rezone 2955 Quinsam Road considered—Council gave first and second readings to a request to rezone 2955 Quinsam Road to accommodate a legalized suite and secondary residence. The proposed suites are within the Urban Containment Boundary. A public hearing will be scheduled for a later date.

Request to rezone 1940 Nunns Road considered—Council gave first and second readings to a request to rezone 1940 Nunns Road from Residential One Zone to Residential Multiple One Zone to permit up to 20 units. A public hearing will be scheduled for a later date.

HIGHLIGHT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15

Community Safety Update—Council received a report and presentation on the latest statistical information on police, fire and bylaw enforcement calls for service. Statistics from 2021 indicate that homelessness, mental health and addictions continue to generate the most calls for service in our community. The City's downtown area is impacted the most because the majority of social services, such as food programs, shelters and overdose prevention, are located there. 2021 was the busiest year on record for the RCMP and Bylaw Enforcement. RCMP responded to 17,588 calls, Fire Rescue to 2,828 and Bylaw to 1,533. The RCMP and Fire Department's highest call volume occurs between 4 and 5 p.m. Seventy per cent of calls the Fire Department responded to in the downtown area were for medical reasons. Illegal camping remains Bylaw Enforcement's number one complaint.