

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

DECEMBER 11, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

FIRE SERVICES

Fire Engine / Rescue Purchase

While executing a project to purchase a replacement fire engine/rescue, the City encountered inflated pricing, an overly competitive market, limited inventory, few fixed pricing options and excessively long build times. To overcome these challenges Council approved additional funding and the City released a Notice of Intent (NOI) to purchase, which closed on November 16, 2023. The City received three (3) proposals, all of which fell within budget. Two of the proposals could deliver a build within one (1) year, however, their pricing would be subject to any manufacturer increases. The project was awarded to Commercial Truck Equipment who provided a fixed price and will deliver the engine/rescue within budget in February of 2024.

OPERATION SERVICES

Okanagan Landing Sewer Servicing Update

At their Committee of the Whole meeting of November 27, 2023, Council requested an update on Okanagan Landing Sewer Servicing Strategy. Administration will bring forward an update for the January 8, 2024 meeting.

Spray Irrigation Repair

Engineering design of the proposed repair was recently completed and the project is currently in the request for proposal (RFP) stage for construction services. The RFP closes December 19, and contractor evaluations will take place from late December to early January. Construction is expected to start early 2024, with completion by the end of March 2024, prior to annual startup of the spray irrigation system.

32nd Avenue - Phase 2 Reconstruction – 18th St to 20th St

Engineering design for the 32nd Avenue - Phase 2 Reconstruction project was recently completed and the project is currently in the tender process for construction services. The tender closes December 14, 2023 and tender evaluation will take place December 15, 2023. Construction is expected to start early Spring 2024.

43rd Street Vernon Creek Crossing Upgrade: ([Project 2024-05](#))

Applications are under review by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Ministry of Forests (MoF) for the 43rd Street Crossing project. Required habitat compensation (as part of the DFO permit) for the 43rd Street project is being incorporated into the Polson Park Naturalization Phase 1 project. The multi-use for the 43rd Street crossing pathway will extend from 25th Avenue to Okanagan Avenue, incorporating a fully constructed 3.2m wide asphalt surface. The project also includes a sidewalk on the east side of the 43rd Street from the Vernon Creek crossing (and new multi-use path) up to 25th

Avenue. The project team is currently preparing to post a Request for Proposals to enable construction in summer of 2024. A project page is being prepared on the City's webpage to provide additional updates and information.



Spray Irrigation Reservoir Levels / 2024 Estimates

The 2023 Spray Irrigation season was very successful because of the long, hot and dry summer the Okanagan valley experienced. Mackay reservoir was lowered 17.90 ft, (5.45 M) bringing the end of season elevation to 1,918 ft (584.6 M) above sea level. Administration estimates the Reservoir will be at 1,932ft (588.87 M) above sea at the start of the 2024 irrigation season and a lake discharge is not anticipated under normal operating conditions.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

BC Zero Carbon Step Code and Building Code Proposed Change to Reduce Risk of Overheating

At its Regular Meeting of November 27, 2023 Council inquired about the status of the acceleration of the BC Zero Carbon Step Code and the proposed cooling requirements for the BC Building Code.

At its Regular Meeting of June 26, 2023, Council endorsed the 2023-2026 Council Strategic Plan, which includes seven priority areas from the Climate Action Plan. The priority areas do not include the advancement of the Energy Step Code.

Proposed changes to the BC Building Code 2023 include the addition of the following requirement in the Design Temperatures – Indoor Design Temperatures section: “*At the outside summer design temperature, required cooling facilities shall be capable of maintaining an indoor air temperature of not more than 26 degrees Celsius in at least one living space in each dwelling unit.*” This change to the BC Building Code is expected by the end of 2023.

Two-Stroke Engine Usage Feasibility

At its meeting of August 30, 2023, the Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC) adopted the following resolution:

THAT Council direct Staff to provide a feasibility study on phasing out the use of 2-stroke engines for the corporation and the community.

Two-stroke engines are internal combustion engines that complete a power cycle with two strokes of the piston with one revolution of the crankshaft. They are common in smaller, light-weight equipment that require a high power-to-weight ratio, such as landscaping equipment. Two-stroke engines can generate more exhaust emissions and are louder than four-stroke engines and electric powered equipment. For these reasons, some BC municipalities (e.g., Victoria, Esquimalt, and Vancouver) have considered phasing out two-stroke engines in favour of quiet, electric-powered equipment.

At its November 23, 2022 meeting, the CAAC identified seven priority areas in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the Council’s consideration in the 2023–2026 Strategic Plan. Each priority area outlined in the plan includes a specific goal, main action, and supporting actions. These supporting actions are intended to provide tangible steps toward achieving all CAP goals. Notably, the phase-out of 2-stroke engines has not been identified as one of the specific actions.

Creek Sampling Program

At its meeting of August 30, 2023, the Climate Action Advisory Committee adopted the following resolution:

THAT Council direct Staff to provide Council with information on the design of the Creek Sampling Program related to the Stormwater Management Improvements presented to Council at their regular meeting on August 14, 2023.

The 2024 Infrastructure Program includes a recommendation for budget to “add quantity/quality flow monitoring stations to help support planning and design of environmental/capacity related storm water projects as well as flood response.”

RECREATION SERVICES

Parks Bookings Fee for Service and Greater Vernon Athletic Park Allocation

At their Regular meeting of November 6, 2023, Council requested who was responsible for booking the Greater Vernon Athletic Park in Coldstream. Recreation Services provides centralized booking and collection of user fees for use of parks, sport fields, and outdoor spaces for the City of Vernon, Regional District of the North Okanagan, and District of Coldstream in exchange for 15% of gross revenues.

This fee for service is outlined in the Greater Vernon Sub Regional Parks and Trails Service Agreement active from 2012 through 2017. In 2018, the Greater Vernon Parks: Sports Fields/Beaches Agreement replaced the original agreement and has expired as of October 2023. This agreement is handled through the City of Vernon Parks department.

Having a centralized booking system provides exceptional customer service to all Greater Vernon residents. Though the workload is high for the booking clerks, having one contact for all fields and outdoor spaces makes for a more positive customer experience overall, especially for the sports groups.

The other jurisdictions provide input to the booking clerks on how their spaces are allocated, but have not shared an official policy with us, if they have one. Groups are traditionally booked into the same spaces they had previous years, with the user groups whose season it is taking precedence in appropriate facilities.