



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

District of Summerland – November 7, 2023

Domestic Second Services – Council evaluated billing options for 242 residential properties under two acres that have a previously unmetered second water connection and determined that those properties should be charged the same rates as the other 3720 of the same size and type in the community. However, the base rate and environmental levies on the surplus connection will only apply in the 6 months of the year (April – Sept) that these Seasonal Water Services are used.

2024 Council Meeting Schedule – Council decided to maintain a 3-week rotation for Council meetings during 2024. The 3-week Council meeting offers additional customer service for developers in that public hearings would otherwise have to wait an additional week on the former twice-a-month rotation. It also supports staff efforts to manage report writing and research requirements for Council meetings. Since the adoption of the 3-week Council meeting schedule, other communities in the Okanagan Valley have expressed interest in the idea and some have adopted it.

Dog Park at Peach Orchard Beach Park – Council directed staff to bring forward costing and options during the budget process to continue a dog park at its current location at Peach Orchard Beach Park, and in the interim to maintain the current temporary fencing and amenities on site. Council had previously asked St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church if it would be willing to host a temporary dog park on its property but the church responded it was unable to do so due to logistical reasons.

Cash-in-Lieu of Parking – Council reviewed its “cash-in-lieu of parking” policy, which allows developers in the downtown area to provide compensation to the District when parking requirements cannot be met. Seeking guidance for the work, staff brought back two options: 1) maintain the current approach while updating the fee schedule or 2) remove the provision entirely. Council directed that option 1 be pursued, along with a review of minimum parking requirements.

Invasive mussels – At the request of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, Council agreed to write to the federal and provincial governments to call for immediate action to prevent the introduction of invasive mussels into B.C. In September, the State of Idaho announced that invasive quagga mussels had been found in the Snake River, which along with the Okanagan River is a tributary to the Columbia. If senior governments fail to act, local governments will bear the brunt of managing and paying for the costs of invasive mussel mitigation.

Alkaline Hydrolysis – Following a notice of motion from Councillor Betts, Council agreed to support calls to amend The Cremation, Interment, and Funeral Services Act to allow for alkaline hydrolysis to be included as a permitted form of disposition of deceased persons in British Columbia. Council also discussed the concept of green burials but agreed not to pursue it at this time.

Bylaws for Adoption - Growing Communities Reserve Establishment Bylaw – In accordance with provincial requirements, a special reserve was established by Council to hold the \$4.53 million allocation from the Growing Communities Fund. To date Council has earmarked \$797,400 for a basic replacement of the pier and \$2,610,000 towards the Deer Ridge Sewer project. Allocation of the remaining \$1,384,888 will be discussed during the 2024 budget deliberations.

Note: These highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council proceedings. The summary is not inclusive of all agenda items. For a detailed account of the full agenda, including staff reports, other supporting documents and official meeting minutes, please consult the District of Summerland website at <https://www.summerland.ca> or contact Corporate Services at 250-404-4037.



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