



The Council Highlights provide a snapshot of the progress made in Council decision-making. For more information on each topic, please visit the accompanying link where noted.

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JUNE 2023

Flood, Creek and Catch Basin Inspection Policy Established

It was determined that a formal policy and procedure should be established to regulate the inspections of creeks, culverts, and catch basins carried out by Public Works personnel. These inspections and the resulting policy are specifically designed for city-owned property and infrastructure, excluding inspections on private property.

The necessity for this policy was recognized by the Steep Creek working group, which consists of representatives from various City departments. Steep Creek poses risks such as floods, debris floods, and debris flows, which can cause varying degrees of damage downstream. These hazards are commonly observed in mountain communities. Numerous steep creeks have been identified in and around the City of Nelson, prompting the need for further studies to comprehensively assess the risks posed to residents, property, and infrastructure.

Moreover, these studies will play a crucial role in shaping future development and emergency planning, aligning with the goals and aspirations of Nelson Next.

Liquid Waste Management Plan - Update and Stage 1 Approval

Council was provided with an update regarding the initiation of the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) project. Formal direction was requested from Council to proceed with Stage 1 of the LWMP.

This follows a successful bid by the City in obtaining a grant of \$395K from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Strategic Priorities Fund through the Government of Canada's Community-Building Fund for the purpose of producing an LWMP. An LWMP is a process by which all the issues related to liquid waste for a community are identified and used to develop a community-specific solution. Once complete, this plan will provide the basis for upgrading our aging wastewater infrastructure, which includes the wastewater treatment plant.

Variance for Rear Setback at 520 Wasson Street

Council approved a variance for the rear setback at 520 Wasson Street to be varied from 4.5m to 2.1m. This will allow the construction of an attached carport with a deck above. The structure will be located to the rear of an existing single-dwelling unit.

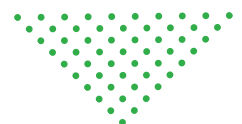
Grant Funding for City's Emergency Management Program

City of Nelson Emergency Management team asked for Council's approval to apply for grant funding through UBCM Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning Grant funding for the 2023 intake. Nelson's grant application outlines the project to further support the development of the City's Evacuation Plan through additional training for response personnel and communications staff. Additionally, the proposal is to conduct a structure density study.

The training will build on the City's evacuation plan exercise conducted in 2022 and allow the City of Nelson to be better prepared in the event of an emergency evacuation. The grant application is for \$23,000.00, and the City will provide a \$5,000 in-kind contribution. With the approval of this grant, Nelson's EM team will be able to: contract an external party to facilitate a table-top exercise focused on evacuation operations and strategies, fund communications personnel to participate in plain language training to assist in developing clear and concise emergency notification templates through Voyent Alert, and partially fund a structure density study that will inform evacuation route selection.

EcoSave Loan Program - Bylaw Update

City residents who own their own homes can take advantage of the City's low-interest loan offer to purchase an E-Bike for commuting and/or complete energy upgrades to their homes. The loans are repaid through Nelson Hydro's on-bill financing. The E-Bike and Energy Retrofits On-bill Financing Programs have been popular among city residents resulting in the need to increase the cap that the Bylaw sets. The Bylaw sets a cap for the aggregate of such loans issued by the City at an amount of \$500,000, and due to the uptake, that amount has been reached. Staff recommended that Council amend the Bylaw to raise the cap to \$1,000,000. Raising this amount means that these programs can continue to be offered.



Civic Centre Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3573 & Fire Equipment Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3574

CFO, Chris Jury, introduced two borrowing bylaws to Council: the Civic Centre Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3573, 2023 and the Fire Equipment Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3574, 2023. The Five-year Financial Plan (2023-2027) includes borrowing for the Civic Centre and Fire Equipment in the General Fund in the amount of \$7,020,760. The Civic Centre Loan Authorization Bylaw is to allow for borrowing required for upgrades to the Civic Centre in 2024.

The proposed bylaw would allow for borrowing up to \$4,200,000. Meanwhile, the Fire Equipment Loan Authorization Bylaw is to allow for borrowing to support the purchase of fire ladder truck and tanker truck in 2026 and 2027. The proposed bylaw would allow for borrowing up to \$2,820,000. Given the amount of time required between passing a loan authorization bylaw and the receipt of funds, staff have recommended that the borrowing process be initiated now in order to ensure funds are available if and when needed.

Transit Fare Policy Change

Later this year, BC Transit will enter the next phase of its Electronic Fare Collection System project by introducing the Umo fare technology platform. With Umo, customers will be able to pay for their fare using a mobile app, with a reloadable smart card that can be managed through a customer website or topped up at retail vendor locations. On the bus, new fare validators will be installed, and riders will present their mobile app or reloadable smart card for fare verification. In the near future, riders will also be able to tap their credit or debit card onboard to pay their fare when boarding. The mobile app comes with additional features like trip planning and real-time bus location updates. By implementing Umo, BC Transit is proposing changes to some of its policies. Staff requested that Council pass a resolution directing staff to make the proposed changes to the West Kootenay Transit Transfer Policy and the West Kootenay Transit Schedule of Fares in the 2024/25 Annual Operating Agreement with BC Transit.

Watch the Council Meeting from June 6, 2023



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