

ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

May 2018

Issue #36

Message from Mayor Kathy:

City Hall now has settled into our new, temporary home located at 2196 LeRoi Ave (across the highway from Mook Thai). You can drop in to pay bills and ask a quick question, but to sit down with any City Hall staff, please call 362-7396 and follow the menu prompts to make an appointment. We apologize for the inconvenience. **Council meetings will continue to be held in the Miners Hall.**

Along with Councillor Morel, I recently attended the **Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG)** annual convention in Fernie. It was a well-organized and informative event. The focus was on emergency preparedness. It reminded me that we should all take emergency precautions and be prepared in our own homes. That is the key to both surviving a catastrophe and protecting your property- whether it means participating in a Firesmart neighbourhood program, or making sure you have supplies on hand in case of an emergency evacuation, it pays to be ready for disaster. There are informative brochures at City Hall or on the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary's (RDKB) website. Please check them out.

<https://rdkb.com/Services/RDKBProtectiveServices/Preparedness.aspx>

I enjoyed the grand opening of the **Youth Action Network** dedicated youth space. The volunteers and stakeholders did a fantastic job with this building. The **skate park** next door was also getting lots of use, even before it officially opened.

There has been a lot of talk about **banning plastic bags** and how we really could live without them. The easiest way to rid ourselves of this problem is just to remember to take a reusable bag with you to the shops. It's a simple habit to adopt. The City of Victoria is trying to ban them completely. It will be interesting to see if they are successful. If so, perhaps Rossland can be next! There is an informal group of residents working on this topic. We made a great effort 10 years ago but many people have slid back into the old trashy habits.

Council News:

Council heard presentations from, and made recommendations for, **Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives Program** grants. Once again there were far more worthy projects than funds to support them. We had requests for over \$115k worth of projects but only \$52k to allocate. We tried to support those groups that have the biggest impact on Rossland, helped the most people or supported the region as a whole. It's always a challenging, but rewarding evening.

Council held a public consultation on our **2018-2022 Five Year Financial Plan**. Four hardy members of the public showed up with a few questions. They left the meeting more informed about municipal expenditures and plans. For 2018, from all sources of revenue; taxation, grants, user fees etc we expect

to collect \$9m while the budget anticipates spending \$8m. We continue to improve our fiscal management of the city and our investment in capital projects. The plan is required to be filed with the Province on May 15th and was adopted by Council on May 7th. **Various other tax bylaws have also been adopted.** Some general information regarding the City's past revenue sources and tax rates compositions is provided at the bottom of the next page.

Delegations: Council heard from the **Regional District of Kootenay Boundary**. The presentation addressed the work plans and budgets for some of the many services provided by the Regional District as well as an update on significant staffing changes. We also heard from a resident concerned with potential harmful environmental impacts as a result of the proposal for up to **10 cabins near Paradise Lodge**. An environmental impact report, undertaken by a licensed professional, will be reviewed before a development permit will be issued and before any construction will be started.

A development permit was granted for a high density, **residential and commercial project on Spokane street in the alley near 1st**. This will help meet our housing shortage but this 3 story, metal-clad building is a very different concept for Rossland. The proponents worked extensively with the City's heritage consultant but it surprises some residents.

With Mike Kent's promotion to YAN Regional Manager, the City will take the management of the **Youth Action Network** contract in house. Our recreation staff will be handling the program and a new program delivery coordinator will be hired. This program is funded by Columbia Basin Trust.

Rezoning the old Block Motel site is complete. This proposal will allow additional uses on the site to include the potential development of a single family home, a duplex, a hostel, a campground and RV area. None of these uses are confirmed but they are allowed at the owner's discretion. These uses are compatible with Rossland's efforts to become a year-round tourism destination. The property will be screened from the highway for privacy and to improve the entrance to town.

The **Red Mountain Hostel** project received a development permit which includes the requirement that the project comply with all environmental safeguards, such as erosion and sedimentation control, habitat management and stormwater control. The permit also requires an onsite environmental monitor. Since this re-development is taking place on land that has already been disturbed, the environmental risks appear to be quite low. The Hostel project also received a variance allowing parking to be above ground instead of under the building. The intent is to build an affordable accommodation, underground parking adds significantly to the costs. Most of the hostel parking will be accommodated on the site but Red Mountain is building an additional 150 spaces to accommodate day skiers. (Still, the best way to get to the hill, is to take the shuttle, if you can).

Council reviewed and re-confirmed several plans, policies and bylaws – We reiterated our support for the City's **Pesticide and Herbicide policy**. The intent of this policy is to encourage residents to use alternatives to chemical pesticides

and herbicides, just as we do on city lands. There are other less invasive alternatives. We revised the application form for **Financial Assistance for Use of Facilities, Pools and Parks**

Council remuneration Compensation for your mayor and council has not be reviewed for 20 years. Based on a comparison of 38 BC communities with populations ranging from 1500 people to 5200 residents, Rossland ranked 3rd from the bottom. The average salary in this group of communities for mayor was \$21k (Rossland= \$12k) The average for a councillor was \$12k, (ours make \$6k). A motion passed to increase the next council's salaries by 40%, The increase will not benefit the people currently in office (unless they decide to run again). It will put our council a bit below the average for communities our size. (Mayor will make \$17k and Councillors will make \$8k) In addition, a new policy was adopted that sets some parameters about salary review to ensure it is done every few years, not every few decades, and that it is tied to the norm for similar communities. Remember, there is a municipal **election coming up in October**. Consider running: It's your chance to contribute to your community, have some fun and now the pay is better too!

Council was pleased to see the **Management Work Plan First Quarter Report**. This useful report gives us a snapshot of the progress being made on all the projects identified in our strategic plan for this year. It doesn't include all of the day-to-day work done by the City, but it captures the goals and objectives identified by Council. Council was also pleased to see the **First Quarter Budget Update Report** and to see that our spending is in line with the plan.

Be in touch! City Hall 362-7396. Contact Council through www.rossland.ca Next Council meeting: **TUESDAY** May 22nd at 6pm. Come join us! All are welcome! Public input starts at 6pm where you can briefly share your thoughts, concerns and ideas, For longer topics, get on the agenda as a delegation. Contact City Hall to learn how. **Meetings will be held at the Miner's Hall until further notice.**

