



City of Revelstoke

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revelstoke.ca

April 28, 2020

Mayors Address to the Community

Good Morning Everyone,

I am so proud of our community and the good work we have done to date. As the weeks progress with the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to announce that Revelstoke is in a good fiscal position moving forward. We have recently learned that the decisions of this Council and previous Councils with respect to long-term financial planning and the establishment of reserve funds have put the municipality in a financial position that is ahead of many others, so thank you Council and staff for all of your hard work in this regard.

While the dynamic nature of this pandemic has created fear and unease for many residents, please remember Revelstoke, that our efforts to 'hold the line' is paying off to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community and prepare us for the 'new normal.'

Now more than ever, we want to express our wishes for a bright and stress-free financial future. To that end, Council and staff have worked hard to establish and adopt bylaws to provide financial support for businesses and residents.

- Utility Billing Due Date Amendment Bylaw No. 2262 changed the second quarter billing dates for water, sewer and garbage to two equal payments due on July 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020
- Tax Rates Bylaw No. 2268 was adopted with the extended due date of September 2, 2020

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- Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw No. 2269 was created to ensure the seamless continuation of the business of the municipality
- Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 2270 removed the NSF Cheque Fee
- Alternative Tax Collection Scheme Amendment Bylaw No. 2271 allows deferment of monthly tax installments until September 2020

We will continue to explore ways to support the Council priority of **Livability** where we aspire to a high quality of life and desirable and livable city of our citizens and visitors.

At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce Curtis Slingerland, our new Director of Corporate Administration. Welcome Curtis! I would also like to acknowledge and thank Dave Mohn for stepping up as Acting Fire Chief while also acting as the liaison for the City's Emergency Operations Centre during COVID-19. Due to his experience and position as Assistant Chief, Dave will transition well into this new role – thanks ever so much Dave!

On March 26th the Ministry of Health designated Farmers' markets an essential service under the BC state of emergency. As Farmers' markets fall under the Parks, Recreation & Culture umbrella, staff is working with both local market organizers on establishing locations that allow vendors and patrons to comply with hygienic practices and physical distancing to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. I will provide an update as suitable locations are determined. In order to meet the Provincial Health Officer requirements, the Province is recommending limiting the number of people present in an area, practicing safe physical distancing, providing hand-washing facilities, and increasing cleaning and disinfection.

In addition, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth empowered the RCMP and other enforcement officers to actively enforce the *Emergency Program Act* by giving them the ability to issue \$2000 violation tickets for infractions throughout the COVID-

19 state of emergency, focusing on the Province's ban on reselling essential goods and services and price gouging. I am pleased to say that our Bylaw Enforcement Officers have advised that locally, there have been no complaints in this regard. Revelstoke is doing an exceptional job with all other Public Health Orders and recommendations, keep up the good work.

A recent directive of the Emergency Operations Centre was to bring back as many staff members as possible while ensuring the ability to maintain the recommended distancing. The City's management team are creating a staggered approach on the return of employees which means residents will be able to access the full suite of municipal services such as bill payments, land applications and the like.

To ensure the safety of our staff, please remember that all garbage must be in bags and securely tied to avoid potential contamination of our refuse pick up personnel. We have seen several inquiries to purchase additional garbage tags, unfortunately, this is not an available service at this time as we limit public interaction with City employees. The Columbia Shuswap Regional District landfill is in operation and is a great alternative for waste disposal.

Departmental updates will be presented to Council during the Special Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 30th at 2:00 pm. Each of the City's department directors and staff have been working diligently to ensure business continuity for the municipality. View the Council agenda package and staff reports on our website at revelstoke.ca under find Council Documents or watch the meeting live on our YouTube Channel.

Again, I want to express my appreciation to the business community for doing their best to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community by closing your doors and being creative in how you do business in spite of the financial stress it may be creating. Be sure to follow RevylInfo on Facebook to find out service levels offered by local businesses as well as visit the updated website, RevelstokeLife.ca for

reliable information about local health and social services in our community.

“Pulitzer Prize winning historian, David Hackett Fischer wrote that *prevoyant* is also ‘learning to make sound judgements on the basis of imperfect knowledge; taking a broad view in projects of large purpose; and thinking for the long run.’ I am thrilled at how our community has rallied and supported each other during this difficult time and continue to assist us with plans for strong, safe and resilient recovery.

I want to thank my fellow Council, staff, and **each one of you** for putting the health and safety of others first. We truly are a strong *prevoyant* group!