



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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APRIL 2024

Amendments to Address Provincial Residential Density Requirements

The City of Nelson is adapting to new provincial mandates by amending its Zoning and Off-Street Parking and Landscape Bylaws to increase residential densities and streamline parking requirements. This action complies with Bill 44, which was adopted by the provincial legislature to foster "small-scale multi-unit housing" by increasing minimum residential densities. This legislative change requires municipalities to accommodate increased housing capacities by June 30, 2024, to address the ongoing housing shortage and promote sustainable urban growth.

The specific amendments include adjusting zoning in R1, R3, R6, and CD6 zones to allow up to four dwelling units on lots over 280 square metres and three units on smaller lots, thereby aligning with provincial directives. Additionally, a citywide standard of one parking stall per dwelling unit is being established to simplify regulations and enhance design flexibility, supporting Nelson's commitment to creating a more accessible and livable city. These changes aim to facilitate a diverse range of housing options that accommodate Nelson's growing needs while ensuring developments are in harmony with the City's long-term urban and environmental goals.

Short-Term Rental Bylaw Amendments

The City of Nelson amended its Zoning Bylaw and Business License Bylaw to align its regulations with new provincial short-term rentals (STRs) standards. Significant changes include the removal of exemptions that allowed non-primary residents to hold STR licenses and adjusting definitions to ensure consistency across zoning and licensing. Moreover, the amendments will address the zoning challenges faced by properties within the C1 downtown zone, specifically allowing previously commercial-used residences to revert to residential use if they were built as homes.

This measure aims to preserve the residential housing stock while accommodating provincial guidelines. A public hearing was held to discuss these amendments, reflecting the City's commitment to transparent governance and community involvement in shaping local policies.



April 2024

Amendments to Sidewalk Café Bylaw and Fees and Charges Bylaw

Council discussed proposed amendments to the Sidewalk Café Bylaw and the Fees and Charges Bylaw to support the continuing success of downtown businesses, especially food and beverage establishments. The proposed amendments include allowing sidewalk cafés to expand into adjacent business frontages with the neighbouring business's written consent and adjusting spatial requirements to ensure pedestrian accessibility. Additionally, adjustments to the Fees and Charges Bylaw will align parking stall fees with recent changes to parking meter rates, ensuring fair compensation for the use of public spaces. These changes highlight the city's commitment to fostering a lively and economically robust downtown, supporting business interests and community enjoyment.

In addition, Council has directed staff to inform the businesses operating a sidewalk café that gas heaters will not be allowed as of 2025

Progress and Plans for Records and Information Management (RIM) Implementation

The City of Nelson's Records Management Coordinator conducted an educational workshop to inform the Council and community about the current advancements and status of Records Management within the City.

In June 2022, the City of Nelson established the Records and Information Management (RIM) Department, initiating a strategic digitization plan to transform how the City of Nelson manages its documents and records. Development Services led the pilot phase, scanning thousands of property files and plans. This initiative underscores our commitment to becoming more efficient and reducing paper dependency by embracing digital solutions. City Council will be provided with a package of comprehensive documents for adoption next month that includes several policies and a Records Management bylaw. This is aimed to standardize and secure our digital records management processes.



April 2024

Decision on 655 Highway 3A Rezoning Application

Council denied the rezoning request for the Villa Motel, which had proposed an "RV Campground" in addition to the motel use. Key concerns included the visual impact on a prominent entry point into Nelson, practical challenges in the campground's layout, and the potential risk of the sites evolving into long-term housing. The recommendation comes after considering both the proposal's benefits to visitors and potential long-term impacts on the community.



Watch the Council Meeting from April 9, 2024



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