

# Council News

The latest news from Pitt Meadows City Council

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FEB 2019 EDITION | Regular Council Meetings - Feb 26, Mar 5, 19 at 7pm | Committee Meeting - Mar 12 at 7pm



## New Committee Structure Adopted

**Council has adopted a new committee structure following nine months of robust review and public consultation.**

The new structure provides an opportunity for Council to have a direct connection with their committees on a regular basis and to hear their recommendations on priority issues. "The new structure means that Committees will have frequent opportunities to bring priority items before Council in a more fulsome way and in a less formal and rigid Council setting," says Mayor Dingwall. "The new structure will also promote two-way dialogue and will enable us to explore topics in more detail with both the community and committees." The first committee meeting is planned for March 12, 2019.

## Council Adopts a 5.58 Percent Increase

**Pitt Meadows Council concluded 2019 budget deliberations with a 5.58 percent increase or \$170 for the average single family home (\$98 for a multi-family home).** 55 percent of the increase is outside of the City's control and is attributed to contracted services. "Council and staff have worked diligently to find revenue improvements of \$543,000 and expenditure savings. The City was also able to include two additional Fire Service Technician (FSTs) positions while maintaining a lower tax increase than the Finance Department originally envisioned," says Mayor Bill Dingwall. "The additional FSTs allows us to address community safety by ensuring extended seven day per week coverage from 6am to 6pm. This covers commuting hours which is typically harder to staff and allows for response to chest pain calls and ambulance delays, exceeding 10 minutes," says Mayor Dingwall.

## Council Renews Discovery Playhouse Lease

**In December, Council voted unanimously to renew the Discovery Playhouse Children's Society lease at the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre.** "Council has listened to the community," said Mayor Bill Dingwall. "Council recognizes that Discovery Playhouse provides an important service for over one hundred families and has been operating for over 45 years in Pitt Meadows."

## Council Adopts a Code of Conduct Policy

**Council adopted a Code of Conduct Policy and transitioned the existing staff Respectful Workplace Policy to a Council policy.** The Code of Conduct Policy and the Respectful Workplace Policy endeavours to instill a sense of public confidence and trust. It also serves to articulate key principles for Council to live by and establishes guidelines for the path forward should things go wrong.

**In January, Council approved updates to their strategic priorities for January to March 2019. To see the latest priorities Council is focused on, visit [pittmeadows.ca/corporatestrategicplan](http://pittmeadows.ca/corporatestrategicplan).**

### Council Priorities This Quarter

1. Business Planning
2. Committee Governance/Structure Review
3. Transportation Infrastructure Projects
4. Official Community Plan
5. Airport Board Governance
6. Council Strategic Plan