

Approved land disposition policy set to protect community interests

(Penticton BC – February 7, 2018) – In conjunction with the establishment of a forthcoming Land Management Strategy to administer over 500 parcels of City owned properties, Penticton City Council has approved a formal process for the sale or disposal of City owned land.

The *City Land Disposition Policy* establishes a clear, open and competitive process around the sale or disposal of any City owned property that is in excess to current or future needs. Key to the new policy is the inclusion of a procedure providing those with interests in acquiring a piece of available City land with a clear guide as to what steps should be expected to occur when that property becomes available. Major components of the policy include:

- Reviewing lands for current or potential future use and presenting a list of potential non-core lands to Council for consideration
- Via Council, determining what lands will be disposed of
- Undertaking public engagement on identified lands
- Providing the results of public engagement to committees with related interests
- Finalizing a decision via an open meeting of Council

A separate and more stringent process has also been developed to oversee unsolicited requests to sell City property.

“The creation of this policy marks an important step forward for the City regarding how it oversees the sale or disposal of public land”, said Chief Financial Officer, Jim Bauer. “In the past the City has followed the direction established in the Community Charter which provides only a minimum standard. With the comprehensive processes contained in this new policy, attention to community interests are appropriately considered while also ensuring potential purchasers or lessees remain informed of all requirements and expected next steps”.

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Contact:

Jim Bauer
Chief Financial Officer
City of Penticton
250-490-2480