



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



July 2023

*Highlights from the Regular Meeting of Council held on Monday, July 24, 2023*

## Public Acknowledgments

### SWATMAPS GRAND OPENING

Mayor Behiel acknowledged and congratulated "SWATMaps" on their grand opening held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. Mayor Behiel attended the event, brought greetings on behalf of the City, and participated in the ribbon cutting. He mentioned that the company is already talking about expanding. Welcome to Humboldt!

### 2023 SOFTBALL SASKATCHEWAN U11 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Councillor Korte acknowledged the Provincial U11 Softball Tournament that took place the weekend of July 7. With 18 teams participating, he commended the organizers, the volunteers, the athletes and their coaches for making the event a success.

### BILL BRECHT PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Councillor Jorgenson acknowledged the fundraising and accomplishments that the Bill Brecht Playground Committee has achieved. He wanted to show appreciation to that group as they are building amenities that will attract residents to that area of the City.

## Bylaws

### BYLAW NO. 05/2023 - RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION INCENTIVE

Council passed the proposed Bylaw 05/2023 – a bylaw to provide a property tax incentive for the development of residential housing units intended to "kick-start" residential construction by offering a 3 year tax exemption on new builds.

The exemption in property taxes is from the date of completion of construction onward to include three full calendar years.

Additionally, to simplify the program and to ensure housing at all price points are incentivized for new construction, the program has no maximum exemption dollar amount per unit.

## Bylaws (cont.)

The incentive program is meant to apply to all new residential construction permits issued from January 1, 2023 to September 1, 2026. This period of time aligns both with the anticipated population growth in Humboldt as well as the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund ("HAF"). (See the section below for more information about the HAF.)

## New Business

### HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND ("HAF")

Council has authorized Administration to apply for the HAF, an initiative by the Federal Government and is administered through CHMC to get more housing built across Canada.

This grant program is different from other grant programs insofar as the funding to municipalities appears to be entirely based upon the number of residential building permits issued from late 2023, 2024, 2025 and up to approximately September 2026. The calculation of funding is based upon the "growth" in approved residential construction for new builds over and above past actuals..

Due to the fact that the City anticipates a significant local demand for housing over the next few years, the City of Humboldt is well positioned to benefit from the parameters of this program.

More information about this program will follow should the City's application be successful.



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## New Business (cont.)

### DISCOVERY FORD SALES PBR RODEO

Council congratulated Discovery Ford Sales on their Pro Bull Riding event held on Friday, June 16, 2023. It was a huge success!

The Discovery Ford parking lot served as the host to a stop in the PBR Canada Touring Pro Division titled "Battle of the Bulls" on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The event saw a tremendous response from the community and the region, selling out all 1200 tickets well in advance. The Community & Leisure Services Department was very impressed with the planning and execution of this event put together by the Discovery Ford Sales team. The City's contribution to this event was in the form of a \$7,500 sponsorship.

Following the event, Discovery Ford Sales donated seven, five-tiered bleachers they had purchased for the event to the City to use where most suitable. Administration is currently reviewing options for the bleachers within our parks and are leaning towards locating a significant portion of the bleachers at the Glenn Hall Park track and sports fields. Council expressed their gratitude to Discovery Ford for their generosity and hope to see the return of this event in 2024.

### LIVING SKIES MUSIC FESTIVAL PROPOSAL

Council approved the proposal to enter into a partnership with Pro:Fit Consulting to host an inaugural Living Skies Music Festival in 2024, including a \$30,000 cash sponsorship and additional in-kind support.

All funding and support required for this event would be funded through existing operating accounts and reserves or be generated through grants and on-site revenues. As such, the event is not expected to increase the 2024 Community and Leisure Services Department's budget.

The renewed focus on event tourism within the community and the anticipated growth of the region over the next few years make the timing for an event of this type a good investment. If deemed a success by both parties in year one, the expectation is that it could become an annual event for the region.

**"Council Highlights" are published once a month following each City Council Meeting.**

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<https://humboldt.ca/council-highlights/>

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<https://humboldt.ca/city-council-meetings/>

**Next City Council Meeting:**  
Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.



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