



NEWS RELEASE

City of Abbotsford to hire 6 new firefighters, 4 planners

ABBOTSFORD, March 5, 2018 – Abbotsford City Council gave approval this afternoon for the City to hire an additional 6 full-time firefighters and 4 full-time planning staff to improve services to the community and address additional demands on the departments, announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

“Last year the Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service attended more than 9,000 incidents which represents an increase of almost 50 per cent over the past 5 years,” said Braun. “With this level of increased service demand, Council felt it was vital that our emergency services remain appropriately staffed to ensure our community safety is maintained.”

The additional demands on the Abbotsford Fire Rescue Services are due in part to the ongoing growth of the community, as well as to additional calls for service related to the opioid crisis. The 6 new positions will be career firefighter positions and recruitment process will have them hired by June 2018.

Council approved the firefighter positions alongside 4 additional Planning and Development staff positions in order to address the high volume of development permit requests the City is experiencing. In 2017 the City issued over 1,500 building permits with a record breaking value of \$480 million.

“I’m pleased to announce that funding for these positions will be encompassed within our existing budget, and will not impact our approved 2018/2019 municipal taxes,” said Braun. “Council remains committed to providing the best value in service delivery to our community, while continuing to build our vibrant economy and complete community.”

The additional 10 positions will cost the City \$510,000 for the 2018 year, funding for which will be derived from assessment (new) growth as well as fees and charges revenue from the increase in development activity.

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