

Police and License Committee Minutes
March 4, 2010
Council Chambers

Present

Councillor J. MacPherson, Chair
Councillor W. Cormier
Sgt. B. Rehill, RCMP
Cpl. R. Bouchard, RCMP
S/Cst. S Smith
K. Publicover, St. F.X. University Representative

D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Regrets

Councillor S. Cameron

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

Agenda

Moved by Cpl. R. Bouchard
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier
"That the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

Minutes

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Cpl. R. Bouchard
"That the Minutes of the meeting held on February 4, 2010, be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Noise By-law

CAO D. Kampen updated the Committee on her findings with respect to the use of decibel levels within the Noise By-law, with 92 decibels at the soundboard being a recommended level by Music Nova Scotia.

Following brief discussion, K. Publicover suggested leaving the existing decibel level in place and require an exemption be necessary for activities expecting to exceed the existing decibel level between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM. Various scenarios in which the noise level would likely exceed 92 decibels were discussed with S/Cst. S. Smith noting that at an event on St. F.X. Campus, the needle on the noise meter registered as high as it could.

Councillor W. Cormier noted that he would like to hear how loud 92 decibels is prior to agreeing to it being an acceptable level. Cpl. B. Rehill noted that sound is subjective and how sound is affected by environments such as wind, and indoor versus outdoor venues, etc. S/Cst. S. Smith agreed to accompany Councillor W. Cormier outside a local bar in the near future to see the decibel level the noise meter reads from outside the building.

Moved by K. Publicover

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“To recommend to Council to give First Reading to amending the Noise By-law to include within the exemption form, a permitted sound decibel level to a maximum of 92 dba, at the mixing board, or at the discretion of a Peace Officer.” Motion carried.

CAO D. Kampen advised that in speaking with Music Nova Scotia, the matter of profanity cannot be controlled; however, it can be included as part of the contract between a band and contractor.

CAO D. Kampen advised on the levels of penalties in Halifax Regional Municipality with respect to violations of their Noise By-law and it was generally agreed that the Town’s current penalty is appropriate.

- Animal Control By-law

CAO D. Kampen reviewed Section 10 of the Town’s Animal Control By-law and noted that each by-law she reviewed appears to have a similar clause regarding fierce and/or dangerous dogs; however, the Town does not define fierce or dangerous. She then made reference to the Municipality of the District of Guysborough regarding the apprehension of an animal.

Moved by Cpl. R. Bouchard

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“To recommend to Council to amend Clause 8.4 of the Animal Control By-law to include the term ‘animal’ and to include definitions for ‘fierce’ and ‘dangerous’.” Motion carried.

- Public Complaints

CAO D. Kampen advised that she did not receive any responses or suggestions to the information distributed at the last meeting regarding a public complaints process.

Sgt. B. Rehill questioned the intent of having the information distributed to residents with Councillor W. Cormier noting he just wants to ensure residents are aware of the actions they can take if they are being bothered by noise or other activities and that, it is an education issue.

Cpl. R. Bouchard advised that if a complaint ends up going to court, the complainant is so advised and that this is part of their service delivery. Brief discussion took place on how best to educate residents and the need for some discretion for the RCMP with respect to how they respond to complaints.

With respect to the section ‘What can be expected from the RCMP’, part of the previously distributed information by Councillor W. Cormier, the RCMP noted that they will investigate a complaint at the Officer’s discretion, address the complaint with a verbal/written warning, and/or issue a Summary Offense Ticket.

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Cpl. R. Bouchard

“To recommend that Council that discuss the matter of educating residents with respect to enforcement of the Noise By-law.” Motion carried.

- Entryway near Burke House

K. Publicover reported that he had discussed this matter with Mr. L. MacLellan and that it will be looked at and perhaps a stop sign put in place. He noted further investigation will take place to

determine whether it should be closed, finished or expanded. S/Cst. S. Smith agreed to follow up with Mr. B. Doiron on this matter as it is a safety concern.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Reports

- St. F.X. University Representative

K. Publicover reported that with this being 'Reading Week', things are relatively quiet on campus with a few issues being addressed inside residences. He noted that Ms. C. Fitzpatrick is getting up to speed on her position and will be working on a Good Neighbours Campaign to be implemented in September 2010, as well as working on Orientation and Frosh Week activities.

Moved by K. Publicover

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

"That the verbal Report by K. Publicover, St. F.X. University Representative, be accepted for information." Motion carried.

- RCMP Report

Sgt. B. Rehill circulated copies of his monthly report and provided a brief overview.

Sgt. B. Rehill advised that the Street Crime Unit is up to full complement and is operating out of the Antigonish RCMP Office, and noted that they are provincially funded. He noted that the Town sees a benefit from their efforts, such as being in attendance at the recent BurMac Cup, and reported on some of their recent initiatives which resulted in four (4) Criminal Code arrests, two (2) drug and substance arrests, and one (1) crime unit disrupted, among others.

On behalf of S/Sgt. T. Perry, Sgt. B. Rehill brought forth the matter of the intersection at Main, Main and Hawthorne Streets, and indicated that the Yield sign needs to be removed. S/Cst. S. Smith advised that the placement of the Yield sign was under the direction of the Provincial Traffic Authority, and agreed to discuss this matter again with the Provincial Traffic Authority. With respect to yellow Speed denotation signs on Hawthorne Street, S/Cst. S. Smith noted that the placement of these signs were done under the previous Council and advised that they cannot be enforced.

Sgt. B. Rehill reported on a recent Annual Performance Process (APP), and noted that among other meetings open to the public, one was recently held at the Town Hall, and noted most of the direction the public would like to see the RCMP deal with have been identified and include matters such as cross-walks, speeding, noise, drugs, etc. He further noted that some matters are constantly ongoing, such as drugs and speeding, and therefore not necessarily identified annually.

Moved by Sgt. B. Rehill

Seconded by K. Publicover

"That the RCMP Report be accepted for information." Motion carried.

- **Special Constable Report**

The Special Constables Report previously distributed was reviewed. S/Cst. S. Smith advised that most matters are in general order and that an in-house matter will be discussed with CAO D. Kampen. He noted complaints are expected to increase once the snow has gone.

Councillor W. Cormier noted that Council did not vote in favour of a parking kiosk. Brief discussion on parking, particularly with the business sector, took place and S./Cst. S. Smith noted that additional issues with parking are expected as the result of renovations currently being carried out to a downtown business.

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Cpl. R. Bouchard

“That the S/Cst. Report be accepted for information.” Motion carried.

Other Business

- **Possible Crosswalk – Main Street between College Street and Sydney Street**

The Chair advised that this item had been brought up by S/Sgt. T. Perry as a result of a lot of jay-walking being observed between Main Street and Sydney Street. The Chair suggested that perhaps a crosswalk could be put in place in the area of the 5-\$1.00 Store, with S/Cst. S. Smith noting that the installation of a crosswalk would result in a decrease of four (4) parking spaces. Following brief discussion, it was generally agreed to keep the status quo.

- **RCMP Checks – Thank You to those in compliance**

The Chair advised that the subject of a ‘Thank You’ for Those in Compliance during RCMP check-points was discussed at a recent RCMP Advisory Board meeting. As a result, he approached the local Tim Hortons® franchisee who generously provided, at no cost, two hundred (200) gift cards, each to the value of two (2) coffee. Sgt. B. Rehill advised he was unsure if the RCMP members would be permitted to distribute the cards but agreed to discuss the matter further with S/Sgt. T. Perry.

- **Electronic Speed Sign**

S/Cst. S. Smith noted he had been requested by the Chair to look into the cost of an electronic speed sign, a picture of which was displayed. He noted the cost is in the area of \$4,000.00 plus taxes and installation; with a mobile sign costs in the area of \$10,000.00. He further noted he is awaiting the cost of a fluorescent on fluorescent ‘CROSSWALK’ lettering which would be posted on a post standard.

Adjournment

Moved by K. Publicover

Seconded by Cpl. B. Rehill

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.