

Police & License Committee Minutes
October 6, 2009
Town Council Chambers

Present

Councillor J. MacPherson, Chair
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
S/Sgt. T. Perry, RCMP
K. Publicover, St. F.X. University Representative
S. MacIntosh, St. F.X. Student Union Representative
Mayor C. Chisholm
S. Smith, S/Cst.
D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Absent

Sgt. R. Bouchard, RCMP
Cpl. B. Rehill, RCMP

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron
"That the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier
"That the Minutes of the September 10, 2009, meeting be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Police Advisory Board

The Chair noted the need to arrange a meeting of this Board. CAO D. Kampen advised that she has been trying to determine who the Provincial representative on the Board is and a training date for Board Members. The Chair will be advised once the information has been received from the Provincial Department of Justice.

- Myers Update re Noise

S/Cst. S. Smith, advised that, further to Ms. Myers's presentation, he had followed up with her and she is satisfied with how he had addressed the issue. He noted that the complaints, in this instance, were not the result of student activity.

- Nomination of Vice-Chair

Councillor W. Cormier nominated K. Publicover as Vice-Chair of the Police and License Committee. The Chair called three times for additional nominations. With there being no additional nominations, K. Publicover responded to the Chair that he would accept the nomination and position of Vice-Chair.

The remainder of Business from Minutes items were Tabled to later in the meeting.

Correspondence

There was no Correspondence.

Reports

- RCMP

S/Sgt. T. Perry circulated copies of his report. He noted that St. F.X. Homecoming was relatively quiet and did not garner the activity expected. He noted tickets issued under the Liquor Control Act are up (down slightly from last year) but not necessarily due to Homecoming.

S. Smith, S/Cst., questioned whether charges were laid in relation to activity taking place on Braemore Avenue. S/Sgt. T. Perry responded he was not sure.

S/Sgt. T. Perry advised the Committee that the Tim Hortons® at the East end of Main Street is a traffic issue, and traffic has been backed up as far as the traffic lights at St. Andrew's Street. Upon his suggestion of having a Traffic Analyst review the site and bring the issue to the owner, it was noted that discussions had taken place with the owner in the past, and that Head Office appears to have an issue with changes which were suggested. S. Smith, S/Cst., noted that an analysis is expected to be carried out in that area regarding a request for a crosswalk, and that perhaps the two could be done at the same time. He further noted that the matter is presently with Ken Proctor, Town Engineer.

- Special Constable Report

The Special Constable's Report was accepted for information.

- St. F.X. Dean of Students Report

K. Publicover, St. F.X. Representative, reported that September had been a positive month, quieter than expected, with improved student behavior, given the transition of 25% of the student population to the University. He reported a successful Frosh Week with a decline in situations from the past.

The Committee was advised by K. Publicover that Homecoming was successful with 5,300 in attendance for the Homecoming Game. He further reported that he will be contacting students monthly by e-mail and that positive messaging seems to be helping. It was suggested that an event including students might be appropriate during Homecoming, to which K. Publicover noted that the matter is being looked at. Councillor S. Cameron suggested perhaps students could provide tours to the alumni during Homecoming. S. MacIntosh, St. F.X. Student Union Representative, advised he would provide a report for the next meeting.

At 2:22 PM S/Sgt. T. Perry left the meeting.

Business from Minutes (Continued)

- Public Complaints

S. Smith, Special Constable, wondered how the Town might advise tenants of the procedures regarding complaints and garbage issues. Councillor W. Cormier noted that each Monday, S. Smith, S/Cst., receives a copy of complaints lodged with the RCMP and follows up with landlords. He further noted that the Noise By-law is on the Town's Website.

K. Publicover advised that he recently sent out an e-mail to off-campus students advising them with information regarding students living in the Town, Residential Tenancy Act information, etc.

S. Smith, S/Cst., suggested perhaps an insert in the electric utility bills (no cost) could be utilized. Councillor W. Cormier noted he would put together a draft of information that could be provided to off-campus tenants. A fridge magnet with contact information was suggested, and S. Smith, S/Cst., noted the information was not necessarily for students and made a reference to 'jake brakes'.

- Noise Exemption – St. F.X. University

Councillor W. Cormier noted that, over a number of years the University has received an exemption from the Noise By-law during 'Frosh Week'. K. Publicover noted that the students abided by what they were required to, and noted the exemption should be related to the decibel reading on the noise meter. S. Smith, Special Constable, advised that there is a concern with allowing the exemption during mid-week, as it was the same week elementary students returned to school. K. Publicover spoke on efforts that were made during Frosh Week, and noted that the matter is taken seriously by the University. Councillor S. Cameron made reference to vulgar language used by the DJ during the 'dancing in the street' event. K. Publicover suggested that the issue of noise may not be an issue only of the University, but also other activities, such as the Highland Games, and that the parameters of the exemption are not clear enough.

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by K. Publicover

"To recommend Council seek out a decibel level that would be appropriate for a noise exemption and to amend the Noise By-law accordingly." Motion carried.

- Animal Control By-law

Brief discussion took place on what amendments are required to the Animal Control By-law, which would include amending Scheduled 'B' (Fee Structure) to \$25.00 fee per dog, for the life of the dog. S. Smith, S/Cst., noted that he currently has dated dog tags, the next batch would not be dated.

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

"To recommend amendments to the Animal Control By-law be given First Reading by Council." Motion carried.

- Trade and Licensing By-law

Mayor C. Chisholm raised concern with a recent auction that was held in Town, and the need to have the By-law amended. He further relayed his dismay with staff providing what he felt was unwarranted assistance with the auctioneer obtaining the license. S. Smith, S/Cst., suggested that information on the amended By-law should be forwarded to auctioneers who have previously held a license to auction in the Town.

Other Business

At 3:15 PM, S. Smith declared a Conflict of Interest and left the meeting.

- BURMAC Cup

K. Publicover noted that the BURMAC Cup is a very hot issue, (although significant improvements were made last year) and that some of the activity is not sanctioned by the University. He suggested discussion take place between the University and the Town to determine expectations when the activity takes place in the Antigonish Arena which is owned in part by the Town. He noted that planning for the event will probably begin in the next few weeks but that it will probably take a few years to get the event to what it should be. Brief discussion took place on last years' Cup, discussions between the University and Arena Manager, and further improvements that could be made. It was agreed to keep this matter on the Police & License Committee Agenda. CAO D. Kampen noted discussions on this matter should be at the Antigonish Arena Commission level.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.