

Police & License Committee Minutes
September 10, 2009
Town Council Chambers

Present

Councillor J. MacPherson, Chair
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
S/Sgt. T. Perry, RCMP
Cpl. R. Bouchard, RCMP
S. Smith, Traffic Authority
S. MacIntosh, St. F.X. Student Union Representative
K. Publicover, St. F.X. University Representative

Mayor C. Chisholm
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
B. Anderson, Delegate
H. Myers, Delegate

Absent

Sgt. 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 Mayor C. Chisholm
"That the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by S. MacIntosh
"That the Minutes of the June 4, 2009, meeting be approved with one correction insertion to the RCMP Report as follows: The Committee was advised that a speed check was carried out in an effort to determine the feasibility of a cross-walk **guard** being located near the trailer park at the top of Hawthorne Street." Motion carried.

Delegates

The Chair welcomed delegates, B. Anderson and H. Myers to the meeting. Councillor W. Cormier noted that he requested the delegates attend to voice their concerns with the impact students are having on their neighbourhoods.

Mr. B. Anderson spoke on his efforts and dismay over the past twenty (20) years. He noted that although things appear to be improving in his area, due in most part to the efforts of a local developer, many problems still exist throughout the Town.

Ms. H. Myers noted that she lives in the area of Brookland Street and that many of the older homes in the area are being turned into rentals. She advised of her efforts in the past to welcome students, and try to make them feel part of the neighbourhood but noted her

exasperation on the number of non-stop parties, loud noise, and general interference in enjoying her property.

Following discussion, S/Sgt. T. Perry noted that the RCMP will respond to complaints but they must be lodged. Mr. K. Publicover advised that it is hard for them to pinpoint exactly which off-campus students live where, and noted that recently 650 leaders got together with students during Frosh Week and the Community Code was addressed.

S. Smith noted that on Monday mornings he is now receiving a list of complaints received by the R.C.M.P. over the previous weekend regarding complaints involving off-campus students. He is carrying out follow-up site visits to educate the students.

Mayor C. Chisholm advised that the Town is doing its best to move forward in an effort to get to the bottom of the problems by making changes to by-laws and the way enforcement is handled.

The delegates were thanked for their attendance and left at 2:40 PM.

Business from Minutes

- Police Advisory Board

The Chair advised that the Police Advisory Board is now in place and a meeting will likely be scheduled toward the end of September 2009. S./Sgt. T. Perry noted he expected he would be available.

- Minimum Standards By-law

Councillor W. Cormier provided brief comments on this matter and noted that the Unsightly Premises By-law appears to be the best way to enforce some of the more ongoing issues that appear to be common with rental units.

Comments were provided by Mayor C. Chisholm on the matter of the location and number of crosswalks within the Town. It was noted that a formal report on a recent crosswalk fatality has still not been received.

Correspondence

- Ms. M. Volpe; Scotiabank re Parking

Mayor C. Chisholm advised that J.J. MacKay will be making a presentation on a possible solution for the staff at Scotiabank, and possibly other staff. The presentation is expected to be made before Council at their regular meeting in October or November 2009.

- Mr. L. MacDonald re Taxis

S. Smith provided details on the concerns raised in the correspondence regarding theft of requests for taxi service and lower rates being provided for seniors. He noted this is not a matter for the Town to deal with and will formulate a response letter to be signed by CAO D. Kampen.

Reports

- St. F.X. Dean of Students

The Chair welcomed Mr. K. Publicover, St. F.X. University Vice President of Recruitment and Student Experience. Mr. K. Publicover advised that henceforth he would be replacing Mr. J. MacDonald on this Committee.

Mr. K. Publicover provided a verbal report on recent events including the arrival of approximately 1,000 new students; approximately 4,200 full time students; 1,820-1,840 students in Residence. He noted that Frosh Week this year appeared to be somewhat quieter than in the past and attributed this to the hard work of St. F.X. staff and Leaders.

He noted construction of the new turf field is almost complete; the new Business Centre is expected to be complete in approximately one year; traffic flow around the University seems to be working well; 650 leaders took part in a three (3) hour forum which included the Community Code; a Peer Councillor program is now in place to assist students dealing with issues such as transition; stress, etc.; and that an H1N1 plan is in place.

Mr. K. Publicover was advised that his predecessor was Vice-chair of this Committee. D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk, to clarify where this matter now stands.

Councillor S. Cameron noted that 35% of the calls responded to by the RCMP are related to students, with the cost being borne by the Town.

- **Special Constable**

S. Smith reported noted that he had met with Mr. A. Flynn of the St.F.X. Students Union, and will speak with the sound manager in an effort to have things 'toned down' following very loud music emanating from an outdoor, on-campus event during Frosh Week. The Committee was advised that Shine Day will be taking place this upcoming weekend.

- **RCMP**

S/Sgt. T. Perry reported that things were steady with the return of students and Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition taking place at the same time. Three or four impaired drivers were apprehended, and cell blocks were full. He provided comments on the efforts of drug intelligence gathering both on and off campus.

The Chair noted that community events held in the Town result in much overtime for the RCMP (eighty hours for the Highland Games this year), and wondered whether the organizers of such events should bear the costs. S./Sgt. suggested these costs should be compared to the benefits to the community. The Chair noted he would bring this matter before Council.

Other Business

- **Walking Patrols**

Mayor C. Chisholm enquired as to whether the RCMP would/could conduct walking patrols on the side streets on Friday and Saturday evenings rather than Sundays, and was advised this was not likely.

- **Crosswalks**

The Chair brought up the need for a crosswalk in the vicinity of Main/Bay Streets. S. Smith advised that this matter had been forwarded to Town Engineer, K. Proctor, for consideration.

It was noted that pedestrian counts are being carried out in the vicinity of Brendan's Fairway.

Councillor S. Cameron left the meeting at 3:25 PM.

- **By-law Enforcement Vehicle**

S/Sgt. T. Perry commended the appearance of the Town's By-law Enforcement vehicle.

- Adjournment

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.