

Police & License Committee Meeting
April 18, 2017
Town Council Chambers

Present

Chair, Councillor D. Roberts
S/Cst. J. Pellerin
S/Cst. S. Smith
RCMP Sgt. W. McBeath

Also Present

S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator
Delegate, Ms. C. MacDougall

Police and Licensing Committee – Discussion Notes

The meeting of the Police and Licensing Committee was scheduled for April 18th, 2017; however, the Committee lacked quorum to hold the meeting, therefore, an informal discussion took place.

Presentations

Ms. C. MacDougall, Re. Taxi Fees

There was a follow up discussion from previous meetings. The basic request coming from Ms. MacDougall is that she believes it would be nice to have a standard fee in Town for Taxis. She is requesting a flat rate, of \$7 or more. She noted that some cab companies are interested in keeping the old rate, but her company operates on a larger scale and has more expenses than other companies. Shaun Smith noted that the Town changes the fees when approached by taxi companies. The last time the fees were changed, the only change was placing a cap on the fees to allow companies to charge anything below that level that they see fit. There was some discussion around consulting with taxi companies to see if there is any interest in a change, possibly through correspondence asking for a reply on their thoughts on changing fees. Chair noted that they can come back to the June meeting to discuss further.

Ongoing Business

Update; Traffic Study, St. Ninian St./West St./Highland Drive

S/Cst. S. Smith had nothing to report regarding the traffic study. The Director of Public Works has met with the consultants, but nothing has been finalized. With the changes anticipated on campus, this issue may become more challenging. It was noted that the university is working with the Town's planning department to address these concerns. S/Cst. S. Smith will report with more details when they are available.

Signage to Alert Traffic of Turn; Brookland St.

This has been completed. Can be removed from the agenda.

Pub Activity

S/Cst. J. Pellerin reported that there has been some complaints from residents of Hillcrest St., that he has been monitoring the situation, and noted that there is audible music and thumping coming from the pub, and the customers leaving can also create noise. The Chair noted that it has been brought to her attention that the volume can increase as the night goes on. S/Cst. S. Smith noted that the concerns come primarily from a single resident. The RCMP has investigated and noted that the sound is not enough to charge the public a violation. S/Cst. S. Smith believes part of the resident's concern stems from a perceived change in the nature of the street, with the inclusion of rental housing. Sgt. McBeath noted that the sound issue may increase as the summer goes on, as the doors will be opening to the deck. There was discussion on holding a meeting with the concerned residents, the CAO, and the owner of the pub.

Citizen Patrol

Sgt. W. McBeath reported that a citizen patrol has an impact on the RCMP, as they must oversee their activities. He also noted that no great success has come from citizen patrols in his experience. Overall, he noted that the RCMP would not be in favor of setting up a citizen patrol. However, if the resident is interested in addressing the concern to contact the RCMP and volunteer through existing organizations (e.g. crime prevention). The chair noted that she will follow up with the resident.

New Business

Budget for Crosswalk flags (\$2,500)

C/Cst. S. Smith noted that, overall, the program has received good feedback and that there is interest from businesses to sponsor additional flags at select crosswalks. There was also discussion on the potential to develop a listing of potential crosswalks where the flags could be effective. Further pilots can be undertaken once the additional money is approved. It was noted that, without a quorum, the flags budget cannot be approved and sent to Council. The chair noted that it was not a big budget item, and suggested that she will bring it up at Council.

Reports

RCMP

Sgt. W. McBeath noted he did not have a new report to share, but would send it over when it is completed. He noted that the detachment has been busy given university closing, fiscal year ending, and a few transfers/staff change-overs. Sgt. McBeath asked about potential problem areas. S/Cst. S. Smith noted that a portable sign will be going up, and can be relocated to problem areas. The Chair noted that the problem areas she heard about in her campaigning were Hawthorne St., Braemore Ave., and Highland Dr. Sgt. McBeath also noted that after-market mufflers will be on their radar, given the complaints received. RCMP will also be doing another check on taxi licenses with the Town to make the fleets are up to code.

By-law Enforcement

S/Cst. S. Smith noted that so far the year has gone well, and shared the details of his report. He discussed the fact that they are over on meter expenditures, and that is due to a decrease in the budget for meters. However, he noted, the meters are old and in need of replacement and that the amount for meters will have to be increased for the upcoming budget. S.Cst. S. Smith also discussed signage, and noted that the turn sign at Tim Hortons will be addressed. At this stage, the Town will also begin to target clean ups. He shared information on bulky waste collection and noted an email was sent to all landlords informing them of this event.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.