

**MINUTES**  
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
MONDAY, 2019-NOV-25, AT 1:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor Z. Maartman, Chair  
Mayor L. Krog  
Councillor S. D. Armstrong  
Councillor D. Bonner  
Councillor T. Brown (vacated 4:09 p.m.)  
Councillor B. Geselbracht  
Councillor E. Hemmens (vacated 4:17 p.m.)  
Councillor I. W. Thorpe  
Councillor J. Turley

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
R. J. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture (arrived 3:53 p.m.)  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services  
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works (arrived 1:05 p.m.)  
Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP (vacated 3:50 p.m.)  
L. Fletcher, Inspector, RCMP, Nanaimo Detachment (vacated 2:10 p.m.)  
Sgt. N. Armstrong, RCMP, Nanaimo Detachment  
E. Williams, A/Director, Parks and Recreation (arrived 2:54 p.m.)  
K. Fry, Fire Chief  
J. Elliot, Director, Public Works  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning (arrived 1:05 p.m., vacated 4:21 p.m.)  
F. Farrohki, Manager, Communications  
T. Doyle, Deputy Fire Chief, Operations  
J. Le Masurier, Assistant Chief, Education and Training (arrived 1:03 p.m.)  
Capt. E. TenHave (arrived 2:33 p.m., vacated 2:45 p.m.)  
Lieutenant T. Horst (arrived 2:33 p.m., vacated 2:45 p.m.)  
A. Mills, Firefighter (arrived 2:33 p.m., vacated 2:45 p.m.)  
T. Bernadino, Firefighter (arrived 2:33 p.m., vacated 2:45 p.m.)  
D. LaBerge, Manager, Bylaw Services (arrived 1:05 p.m., vacated 4:21 p.m.)  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer, Legislative Services  
K. Gerard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2019-NOV-04, at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

1. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

(a) Public Safety

Introduced by Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, and Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

J. Le Masurier entered the Shaw Auditorium at 1:03 p.m.

L. Bhopalsingh, D. Laberge and B. Sims entered the Shaw Auditorium at 1:05 p.m.

Presentation:

1. Supt. C. Miller, RCMP Nanaimo Detachment, provided Council with a presentation regarding the following:
  - Current RCMP members include 144 regular members funded through the City of Nanaimo (the City), 8 members funded by the Province and 2 federally funded members with 63.1 municipal employees and 1 civilian member, 154 members in total, increasing on April 1, 2020
  - Community policing programs include Project 529, a bike registration program and 133 active Block Watch programs
  - Community Policing Volunteers include speed watch, distracted driving watch, crime watch, Project 529 and community events
  - Volunteer hours from 2017 to 2019 have almost doubled
  - Volunteers with iPads go to various locations to assist people to register their bikes in the Project 529

Committee discussion took place regarding crime watch and volunteers.

Supt. C. Miller, RCMP Nanaimo Detachment continued his presentation regarding

- Reactive vs. proactive policing
- Spike in property crime, which is nationwide
- Crime Reduction Unit

Sgt. Nick Armstong provided Council with a presentation regarding the Crime Reduction unit, which included the following information:

- Original member of the Crime Reduction Unit and has assisted other municipalities in creating their own Crime Reduction Unit
- Two Crime Reduction Unit initiatives this year including April to May and October to November
- Four RCMP members are allocated to the Crime Reduction Unit with a specific focus on one area or one criminal offence that would normally create multiple calls for service
- Crime Reduction Unit works for two months consecutively and focuses on the highest causes of repetitive crime
- Crime Reduction Unit statistics for Spring and Fall 2019, include:
  - 755 files
  - 236 Arrests
  - 120 Arrest warrants executed
  - 58 curfew checks
  - 191 charges recommended
  - 543 non-criminal code offenses cited
- Provided Council with a case example from Fall of 2019 to show the process of investigations, arrests and seizure

Committee discussion regarding the local vs. transient criminals, the potential to make the Crime Reduction Unit permanent and how that could be done.

Supt. C. Miller continued his presentation:

- Crime Reduction Unit must meet certain criteria including a two month commitment from the members
- A criminology student from Vancouver Island University will be writing their thesis on the Crime Reduction Unit and will compile statistics on the long-term and short-term impacts
- Mental health and wellness is a key component of the RCMP officers and the detachment
- Initial time spent on a call includes 30 – 45 minutes to process the call including update the complainant, 45 minutes on multiple days to investigate and 45 – 75 minutes to arrest and process the individual, fatal accidents and homicides could take years until they are convicted and go to Court
- Regular member training includes Firearms Training, Public and Police Safety Training, Online Courses (mandatory) and Investigative and Developmental
- Traffic statistics show that traffic tickets are down 5% from 2015 to 2018 and tickets for electronic devices have decreased 18% during the same time period

- Motor vehicle accidents from 2015 to 2018 show that non-injury accidents have increased 25%, accidents involving injuries have decreased by 18% and fatal accidents have increased 40%
  - Alcohol and Drug roadside suspensions have decreased by 4% from 2015 to 2018
  - Crime statistics for 2015 to 2018 show an increase of 36% in property crime and a 28% increase in violent crime
  - Property crime stats for 2015 to 2018
  - Violent Crime Stats from 2015 to 2018
  - Other Criminal Code Offenses statistics from 2015 to 2018
2. Jessica Patterson, Deputy Regional Crown Counsel, North Island, provided a presentation regarding the BC Prosecution Services, which included the following information:
- Oversea all prosecutions for the North Island
  - Provinces and Territories are responsible for the administration of justice including Provincial Crown regulations and some offenses covered under the Federal Crown
  - BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) is a part of the Ministry of Attorney General, Assistant Deputy Attorney General (ADAG) heads the BC Prosecution Service and the *Crown Counsel Act* sets out the function and responsibilities of Crown Counsel, the BCPS and ADAG
  - Meet monthly with RCMP detachment to discuss priorities and projects
  - Provided Council with a high level step by step process for investigating to appealing a criminal act
  - Receive files from RCMP and Crown Counsel deals with files according to policies and processes
  - Charge Assessment is assessed by Crown Counsel who determines what and how many, if any, charges should be laid along with a guideline to show whether a matter should be diverted from the Court
  - BCPS uses a two-part test to assess whether charges are approved which includes: substantial likelihood of conviction and public interest

Committee discussion took place regarding convictions and assistance to the victim of an offense if charges are not laid against the offender.

Jessica Patterson, Deputy Regional Crown Counsel, North Island, continued the presentation:

- Conduct of prosecutions is to act as prosecutors on behalf of society as a whole which include the roles of Crown Counsel, Bail and Trial

L. Fletcher vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 2:10 p.m.

- Sentencing is recommended by Crown Counsel but the judge has authority to determine the appropriate penalty for an offence
- *Criminal Code* is the fundamental purpose of sentencing
- Objectives of sentencing include:
  - Denounce unlawful conduct
  - Deter the offender or other persons from committing offences
  - Separate offenders from society
  - Assist in rehabilitating offenders
  - Provide reparations for harm done on victims or to the community
  - Promote a sense of responsibility in offenders and acknowledgement of the harm done
- Provided Council with an overview of the principles of sentencing included in the *Criminal Code* and the numerous policies that govern a sentencing position in a particular matter
- Different types of sentencing include discharges, fines, community supervision and imprisonment; focus is on deterrents and holding the offender responsible

Committee discussion took place regarding sentencing by judges, offenders being released “next day” and joint submissions.

The Governance and Priorities Committee meeting recessed at 2:24 p.m.  
The Governance and Priorities Committee reconvened at 2:33 p.m.

T. Bernadino, T. Horst, A. Mills and E. TenHave entered the Shaw Auditorium at 2:33 p.m.

Councillor Armstrong vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 2:33 p.m.

Council received a presentation and training from Karen Fry, Fire Chief, and Tim Doyle, Deputy Fire Chief, Capt. T. Bernadino, Lieutenant T. Horst, Firefighter A. Mills and Firefighter E. TenHave in Bystander CPR.

T. Bernadino, T. Horst, A. Mills and E. TenHave vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 2:45 p.m.

Karen Fry, Fire Chief, and Tim Doyle, Deputy Fire Chief, continued the Bystander Training.

Councillor Armstrong returned the Shaw Auditorium at 2:54 p.m.

J. Rudolph returned to the Shaw Auditorium at 2:54 p.m.

E. Williams entered the Shaw Auditorium at 2:54 p.m.

Supt. C. Miller returned to the Shaw Auditorium at 2:55 p.m.

3. Dave Laberge, Manager, Bylaw Services, continued the presentation on Public Safety and spoke regarding:

- Enforcement responses to illicit drug markets and enforcement resources
- 400 Block of Wesley Street
- Environmental influences on place specific crime/disorder including defensible space, community influences, surrounding environment and neighbourhood thresholds (tipping points)
- Encampments are monitored continuously so they do not grow in size and the Bylaw Department and RCMP can monitor fires and accumulation of stolen property
- Nuisance Abatement including “Nuisance Abatement Bylaw 2019 No. 7250”, Public Nuisance Bylaw 2019 No. 7267”, Parks, Recreation and Culture Bylaw 2008 No. 7073”, and “Property Maintenance Bylaw 2017 No. 7242”
- Downtown security patrols including bike patrols, RCMP foot patrols and private security patrols

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Bylaw Enforcement Officers work week changing from 35 hours per week to 40 hours per week.
- Theft from vehicles in the downtown area
- Safety in downtown and bylaws perspective on what the City of Nanaimo can do to assist in helping downtown becoming safer
- Open air drug market locations in Nanaimo and which areas are most prolific
- What legal ramifications does the City or RCMP have to break up Wesley Street

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke regarding RCMP enforcement of the area of Wesley Street and future plans for the property at 421 Franklyn Street.

Supt. C. Miller, spoke regarding RCMP patrols in the 400 block of Wesley Street, clean up of this area, declaring the drug use issue a health crisis and that there are homeless people in many areas throughout the city who are not drug users and do not participate in criminal activity.

Committee discussions took place regarding:

- Tools in place now to assist with and stop drug use and the criminal element in the 400 Block of Wesley Street
- Stronger advocacy plan to lobby the Provincial and Federal governments regarding homelessness, mental health and drug use issues

- Statistics on whether the overdose prevention site at Wesley Street increased the open use of drugs and criminal activity
- Statistics on harm reduction and supportive housing

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the increase in supportive housing have not been matched with an increase in mental health and drug addiction services.

4. Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning continued the Public Safety presentation and spoke regarding:

Supt C. Miller and D. Laberge vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 3:50 p.m.

- There is an increased number of people with complex health and housing needs
- Safety implications for those in the community who are housed and safety of those who remain unhoused
- People who have housing are not able to maintain housing because of health issues and drug use
- City of Nanaimo has partnered with Health and Housing Task Force (HHTF), Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition, Community Action Team and others to try and mitigate homelessness and provide support for those who are in crisis

R. Harding entered the Shaw Auditorium at 3:53 p.m.

D. Laberge returned to the Shaw Auditorium at 3:53 p.m.

- HHTF is going to create a mapping system to show where resources are available and what exactly each resource provides
- Lobbying and leveraging efforts are being made to the Provincial Government and Federal Government
- City has funded initiatives such as the shower program, urban clean up and added beds to the Unitarian shelter
- Community planning can help in building healthy environments, creating safe interactive spaces, livable streets and crime prevention through environmental design
- Connecting with various groups can encourage participation in planning through the Official Community Plan (OCP), Transportation and Mobility and neighbourhood networks

5. Karen Fry, Fire Chief, continued the Public Safety Presentation and spoke regarding:

- In 2019 there were over 600 cardiac or unconscious incident responses and 38 incidents where bystander CPR was being performed
- 332 Staff in 2019 were trained to perform Bystander CPR

- Nanaimo Fire Rescue (NFR) has responded to over 1200 overdoses since 2017 and from 2017 to 2019, 158 Naloxone doses were administered; many of these occur in private residences
- Mental health, compassion fatigue and wellness of NFR members needs to be supported
- In 2019 NFR responded to 117 responses for structure fires, 665 residents visited and installed 202 smoke alarms
- Overdose on the streets and in residences are typically repeat users and suffer mental health issues because of repeated overdoses
- NFR are present in the community more and have participated in 140 events in the community which creates a sense of security for the public

Councillor Brown vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 4:09 p.m.

6. Elizabeth Williams, A/Director, Recreation and Culture, provided Council with a presentation regarding Public Safety, which included the following information:
  - Increase in discarded needles, drug paraphernalia and garbage, vandalism and theft in Parks
  - Increase in loitering and sleeping in facilities and negative interactions with staff
  - Needle box program in parks and facilities and updated bylaw with regard to overnight shelter in parks
  - Timely response to clean ups, increased staffing and added security to areas of concern
  - Improved lighting in target areas in parks and around facilities and reducing access to these areas
  - Closure and reduction of hours in some facilities and review and change of some entry points of facilities
  - Resiliency strategy includes:
    - Additional training for Staff on dealing with negative interactions and improved safety equipment for staff
    - Developed better communication between other agencies
    - Cleaning underbrush and tree canopies in areas identified as no overnight shelter
    - Education staff/public on reducing opportunity for theft, review, hold and secure lock down procedures
  - Parks and Recreation is over budget for park and facilities clean up

Councillor Hemmens vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 4:17 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding shelters, Staff time and budget to deal with needles and garbage clean up in parks, amount of needle disposal boxes in Nanaimo and the overall burden on the community because of addiction and homelessness issues.



L. Bhopalsingh and D. Laberge vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 4:21 p.m.

b. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer provided Council with an update on the upcoming Governance and Priorities Committee meetings.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:22 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER