

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2018-JAN-04, AT 3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Members: Councillor Armstrong, Chair
 David Holmes
 David Lemire
 Muir (Thomas) Meredith
 Bruce Parker
 Alexis Petersen
 Robert Whitton

Absent: Councillor Yoachim (Alternate)

Staff: K. Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety
 Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
 Cpl. D. LaBerge, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, Bike Patrol Unit
 S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
 S. Griffin, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Committee held in the Board Room, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Thursday, 2017-DEC-07 at 3:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Current List of Public Safety Concerns from Bylaw Department and RCMP

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, provided an update on the current list of concerns from the Bylaw and Protective Services Department which included the following:

- Continued downtown day patrol for the month of January;

- Identified hot spots in the downtown area such as Knob Hill, Diana Krall Plaza, parkades;
- After hours complaints;
- Daily needle pickups
- Perception vs reality of feeling safe;
- Parking related issues near Dufferin Crescent;
- Increase in illegal suites;
- Nuisance properties and noise complaints;
- Unsightly properties; and,
- Zoning bylaw – Recreation Vehicles being parked in yards and streets and being rented out.

Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, advised that she will be taking a holistic approach to public safety issues and will be meeting with the Bylaw Department to prioritize bylaws for updating. She also spoke regarding performance update and tracking metrics regarding public safety matters and coordinating all areas of the Bylaw Department.

Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, spoke regarding 2017/2018 policing priorities that were previously presented to Council at the 2017-OCT-16 meeting which included the following:

1. Crime Prevention
 - Violence in relationships;
 - Harm reduction;
 - Drug enforcement;
 - Gang association; and,
 - Prolific Offender Management.
2. Youth
 - Educating youth on healthy relationships; and,
 - Integrated approach for higher risk youths.
3. Traffic
 - Targeting all types of distracted driving;
 - Focussing on safety for cyclists and pedestrians; and,
 - Commercial vehicle inspections.

Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, spoke regarding the overall 2017 and 2018 objectives. He advised the RCMP will be determining policing priorities for 2018/2019 including stopping crime and preventing homeless related crime.

Committee discussion took place regarding the possibility of moving the Community Policing and Services Office (CPSO) and discussed the Core Services Review recommendation to close the office. The CPSO was originally placed in its current location to improve the downtown core however, this office space does not meet the requirements to house police officers. The committee also discussed the possibility of the office space being used for dual services such as a drop-in centre

for the public to advise of any downtown safety concerns and an ambassador program for tourism.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Homelessness in all areas of the City;
- Committee should not only focus on the downtown core but rather use a broader scope;
- Previous recommendations regarding the CPSO building;
- Length of the lease; and,
- Possibility of moving bylaw staff out of the building and using the funds to hire a bylaw enforcement officer.

Councillor Armstrong advised that a piece of property was found for the use of modular homes and would be going forward to public consultation in the future.

It was moved and seconded that at its next meeting the Public Safety Committee make a recommendation regarding the Community Policing and Services Office (CPSO) to be forwarded to Council. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

- (a) Discussion re: Public Safety Committees Previous Motion to Send Letter to Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Judy Darcy, MLA

The committee was advised the motion from the Public Safety Committee Meeting 2017-DEC-07 recommending Council write a letter to the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, attention Judy Darcy, MLA, for support in providing an emergency response team based out of Nanaimo to deal with addictions, mental health and violence is on the 2018-JAN-15 Council agenda.

Roundtable discussion took place regarding the funding for a safe injection site and Federal regulations regarding opening a safe injection site. The committee discussed Vancouver Island Health Authority's (VIHA) role in allowing a mobile safe injection site and VIHA's responsibility for what happens after people leave the safe injection site.

The Public Safety Committee recessed at 4:37 p.m.
The Public Safety Committee reconvened at 4:43 p.m.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) "Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw 2003 No. 5645"

Committee discussion took place regarding the "Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw 2003 No. 5645", including having the bylaw amended to reflect current rates and the schedules be updated annually.

Cpl. Dave LaBerge, Nanaimo RCMP Detachment, Bike Patrol Unit, spoke regarding “Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw 2003 No. 5645” and advised portions of the *Local Government Act* have been repealed.

Committee discussion took place regarding a policy on the process for nuisance properties to be addressed by Council. Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, advised she will determine if there is a policy in place and report back to the committee at the next scheduled Public Safety Committee Meeting 2018-FEB-01.

Councillor Armstrong acknowledged Karen Fry, Fire Chief and Director of Public Safety, for her prompt response regarding 611 Seventh Street. She also thanked Tim McGrath for bringing it forwarded to the committee.

(b) Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP re: Cameras in Taxicabs

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to prepare a report regarding options to implement cameras in taxicabs in the City of Nanaimo and include community consultation with all stakeholders. The motion carried unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:12 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER