

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2017-DEC-07, AT 3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Members: Councillor Armstrong, Chair
 David Holmes
 David Lemire (vacated 5:33 p.m.)
 Muir (Thomas) Meredith
 Bruce Parker
 Alexis Petersen
 Robert Whitton

 Absent: Councillor Yoachim (Alternate)

 Staff: K. Fry, Fire Chief, Nanaimo Fire Rescue Department
 K. Lindsay, Emergency Program Manager
 Cpl. D. LaBerge, Nanaimo RCMP Bike Patrol Unit
 J. Vanderhoef, Steno
 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, Nanaimo, BC, on Thursday, 2017-NOV-02 at 3:35 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee direct Staff to review the Public Safety Committee Minutes from 2017-OCT-05, whereby Staff were directed to provide feedback as follows:

“It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee:

1. direct Staff to provide a list of current public safety concerns from Staff’s perspective;
2. direct Staff to advise which projects and initiatives are in their workplan; and,
3. hold a brainstorming session at next Public Safety Committee meeting to revise their mandate and set goals.”

The motion carried unanimously.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) 2018 Workplan

Karen Fry, Fire Chief, provided a verbal presentation regarding the Fire Department which included the following information:

- Fire Services adopted fire plan;
- A review of the calls for service, and issues prior to June 2017, will be brought to the Public Safety Committee;
- 18 percent of fires do not have working smoke alarms, within Nanaimo 26 percent of homes have working smoke alarms;
- 3 deaths this year due to smoke alarms not working;
- The Fire Department has gone door to door and visited 920 buildings in the downtown core to check for working smoke alarms and installed and tested 130;
- Goal is to arrive on scene within 6 minutes; however not all areas are currently within this time frame;
- Putting extra Staff in the downtown core where the highest incidents occur;
- The Fire Department recently completed bystander CPR training for all City of Nanaimo Staff;
- 44 percent of the calls for service happen in the downtown;
- Total number of overdoses this year is approximately 400; and,
- Implementing training for fire fighters to help identify Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for first responders.

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- Number of incidents in regards to the population increase;
- Population of the City of Nanaimo;
- Legalization of medical marijuana and the City’s involvement in regards to safety inside peoples homes; and,

- Most common fires types in Nanaimo – cooking, cigarettes and candles cause the majority of fires in the downtown.

Karen Lindsay, Emergency Program Manager, spoke regarding hazard risk Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) of hazards within the City of Nanaimo. She noted that there are five public safety concerns which included the following:

- Fires – wildfires and commercial/industrial fires;
- Marine oil spills;
- Road and railway accidents;
- Severe Weather
- Earthquakes.

Mental Health was identified in the HRVA in 2014 (identified by RCMP) as a cause to some of the human caused hazards for eg. fire, mass shootings, dangerous crimes, substance abuse leading to public safety concerns. The thought was to look for ways to reduce some of the efforts by working with partners and other level of governments to reduce the risks. Typically, the number of victims per incident are low but when combined the effects are severe to the community. She also spoke about the 80 City staff members who are training to deal with mid to large size emergencies in our community in the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) . In 2018, the Emergency Management workplan will include:

- Input into the design/development/build of the ECC located in Fire Station 1;
- Working with the GIS planning group to integrate/develop the Emergency Management functions found in the GIS system/plan
- Public Education in Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity education

Councillor Armstrong advised that Elizabeth Turner was in attendance and wished to address the Public Safety Committee as a late delegation regarding the property located 611 Seventh Street.

It was moved and seconded that Elizabeth Turner be permitted to address the Public Safety Committee as a late delegation regarding 611 Seventh Street. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Delegation from Elizabeth Turner re: 611 Seventh Street

Elizabeth Turner spoke regarding safety concerns, illegal activity, unsightliness and the amount of calls for service to the Bylaw Department regarding 611 Seventh Street. She requested that this property be declared a nuisance property.

Councillor Armstrong advised that a report was being prepared for Council's review regarding 611 Seventh Street, and would be presented at a future Council meeting.

(c) Delegation from Kevan Shaw, Victoria Crescent Association

Kevan Shaw, Victoria Crescent Association, spoke regarding the downtown core safety issues getting worse. Footprints Security has been reinstated in the downtown however, the safety concerns are still present as Footprints is only able to advise and

report on issues. He spoke regarding the Community Policing Office and the RCMP Bike Patrol previously stationed out of that office. He requested that fellow downtown resident George Oliver address the committee.

Cpl. Dave LaBerge, Nanaimo RCMP Bike Patrol Unit, spoke regarding the source of the issues in the downtown core which included the following:

- Use of crack cocaine, crystal meth, and fentanyl makes people unpredictable and hard to deal with;
- Mental health issues;
- Current age range of people on the street is 14 to 70 years old; whereas in the past the age range was 20 to 40 years old;
- People who are poor and in despair are more likely to end up on the street; and,
- Social housing has created 120 units in the downtown.

(d) Delegation from Tim McGrath, Harewood Neighbourhood Association

Tim McGrath spoke on behalf the Harewood Neighbourhood Association regarding safety concerns for emergency personnel and dealing with the mental health issues within the City. He stated mental health is a provincial responsibility and requested that the committee make a motion to contact the province requesting funding for emergency housing.

Karen Fry, Fire Chief, spoke regarding a task force created by the Ministry of Health and Safety to deal with homelessness and drug abuse issues, and that the province is prepared to provide funding for affordable housing.

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee recommend that 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. The motion carried unanimously.

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

- Christie Whitcomb re: 611 Seventh Street, and home owners being responsible for their properties.

Councillor Armstrong spoke regarding a proposed notice of motion that Councillor Kipp had made during the Finance and Audit Committee meeting 2017-DEC-07, to possibly defer taxes for rental properties in the downtown. She also spoke about the possibility of putting the Home Town Hockey rink in the Diana Krall Centre and subsidies for seniors to encourage people to come downtown. She encouraged the committee to look at ways and find solutions to draw people downtown when businesses are closed.

Committee discussion took place regarding a request for Staff to provide a report listing public safety priorities, and further requested that discussion regarding Nuisance Property process be included on the next scheduled Public Safety

Committee 2017-JAN-04. It was requested that a copy of the Nuisance Property Bylaw be attached to the next scheduled agenda in order to discuss the process.

- Kevan Shaw re: availability of public washrooms at the Salvation Army.

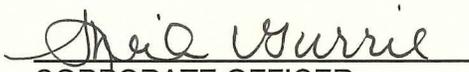
D. Lemire vacated the Board Room at 5:33 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:33 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.


CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


CORPORATE OFFICER