



MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 4:00 P.M.
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre,
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

- Members: Councillor S. Armstrong, Chair
Councillor H. Eastmure
S. Brodie, At Large Member
K. Coulthard, At Large Member
D. Cowling, At Large Member
K. Lambert, At Large Member
C. Middleton, At Large Member
J. Millbank, At Large Member
R. Taylor, At Large Member
- Absent: J. Bowen, At Large Member
D. Herman, At Large Member
- Staff: R. Harding, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy
Chief Administrative Officer
T. Doyle, Fire Chief
D. LaBerge, Director, Public Safety
Supt. A. Burton, Officer in Charge, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
C. Wood, Manager, Social Planning
N. Vracar, Deputy Corporate Officer
N. Sponaule, Communications Advisor
L. Young, Steno, Legislative Services
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Add Agenda Item 5(a) Introduction of Supt. Andrew Burton, Officer in Charge, Nanaimo Detachment, RCMP.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the following Minutes be adopted as circulated:

- Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2024-JUN-12, at 3:00 p.m.
- Minutes of the Special Public Safety Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2024-SEP-04, at 3:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- (a) Introduction of Supt. Andrew Burton, Officer in Charge (OIC), Nanaimo Detachment, RCMP

The Chair congratulated Supt. Andrew Burton, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP, on his appointment as OIC.

Supt. Andrew Burton, provided a brief introduction and spoke regarding the Nanaimo RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan (APP). Highlights included:

- The APP is a requirement for every detachment and is created in consultation with various partners and service providers
- The APP categories include: Crime Reduction and Public Safety, Youth Drug Enforcement, Reconciliation, Member Wellness, and Traffic and Impaired Driving
- Nanaimo Community Policing Volunteers are a valuable and dedicated group

The Chair advised the Committee that the Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program Overview report, scheduled for the 2024-OCT-16 Finance and Audit Committee Meeting, will likely be referred to the Public Safety Committee. They also spoke regarding meeting decorum and the process of starting a new Committee.

6. REPORTS:

a. Updated Draft Public Safety Committee Work Plan

Nikolina Vracar, Deputy Corporate Officer, Legislative Services, informed the Committee that the draft Public Safety Committee Work Plan (Work Plan) has been updated based on feedback from the 2024-SEP-04 Committee Meeting.

Dave LaBerge, Director, Public Safety, provided an overview of Theme 1: Transportation Safety. Highlights included:

- Improving safety of transit stop locations in relation to social disorder issues being classified as a low/medium priority

Committee discussion took place regarding the process for submitting complaints to BC Transit regarding specific transit stops.

Director, Public Safety, provided an overview of Theme 2: Crime Prevention. Highlights included:

- Increasing the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) being classified as a low priority
- Avoiding closure/relocation of businesses and public open spaces due to crime and social disorder being classified as a medium/high priority
- Implementing community-wide graffiti removal and cleanup initiatives being classified as a medium/high priority

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The potential for the Neighbourhood Safety Audits conducted by the RCMP Community Volunteers to be sent to the Public Safety Committee
- The desire for details/actions that can be done to assist the business community
- A report on vacant properties was presented at the 2024-OCT-07 Regular Council Meeting, and there is intention to have the report be referred to the Public Safety Committee at a future date

- Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation conducting exit interviews with businesses who are considering leaving to determine potential improvements
- Unsightly premises and graffiti fall under the “Property Maintenance and Standards Bylaw 2017 No. 7242” which is a complaint driven process, and there are no incentive programs for the maintenance of properties for private businesses

Director, Public Safety, provided an overview of Theme 3: Homelessness, Addiction and Community Impacts. Highlights included:

- Establishing a baseline and implementing long-term monitoring for the impacts on community safety being classified as a medium priority
- Providing indoor spaces for unhoused individuals being classified as a high priority

Director, Public Safety, provided an overview of Theme 4: Health and Wellness. Highlights included:

- Working to ensure safe access to public spaces being classified as a high priority

Director, Public Safety, provided an overview of Theme 5: Advocacy. Highlights included:

- Advocating for addressing root causes of the opioid overdose public health and safety emergency being classified as a medium priority
- Advocating for the implementation of Housing First initiatives and related best practices to address/reduce homelessness being classified as a low priority
- Requesting reimbursement of the municipal funds expanded on the opioid overdose public health and safety emergency being classified as a medium/high priority
- Advocating for a restorative justice program being classified as a medium priority
- Reporting on the details of Council’s advocacy being classified as a high priority

Committee discussion took place regarding the forthcoming Restorative Justice Program Overview report and the positive impact of the Restorative Justice Program.

Director, Public Safety, provided an overview of Theme 6: Education. Highlights included:

- Improving the understanding of public safety in Nanaimo being classified as a medium priority

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Wildfire concern for the Chase River area with only one entrance/exit
- City of Parksville and City of Nanaimo RCMP have both seen an increase in online crime reporting statistics
- Changes in the classification of domestic crime incidents

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee recommend that Council approve the draft Public Safety Committee Term Work Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Privacy Impact Assessments and restrictions on CCTV
- CCTV's effectiveness at crime prevention depends on whether it is live monitored or recorded
- Belief that a sticker that indicates a camera is recording is just as effective crime deterrent as a camera
- Security cameras may displace crime rather than prevent it
- The desire to hear from Staff regarding public safety measures in parkades
- Items coming forward to upcoming meetings will likely include the Restorative Justice Program Overview, Vacant Properties report and the City of Nanaimo Liquor Control Strategy
- Request for an update on the pedestrian safety zone added in the Bayview area

Christy Wood, Manager, Social Planning, noted that Staff could bring forward an update on the drop-in hubs to the 2024-DEC-18 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Conducting "stay" interviews with businesses in the community prior to them leaving
- Fire concerns with vacant properties and preventative measures

- Request for a Committee discussion topic around health, despite it being a provincial mandate, and potentially including a presentation from Search and Rescue and St. John Ambulance
- The desire to ensuring the topic of advocacy is not overlooked

The Chair encouraged the Committee to reach out by email to the Chair, Co-Chair or the Corporate Officer if there is anything they would like to see brought forward to a future meeting.

Committee discussion took place regarding upcoming meeting times and agendas to ensure there is sufficient time for the Committee's discussion.

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

The Committee received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:10 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER