



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Lee Cutforth, Chair

Peter Deys, Vice-Chair

Mayor Chris Spearman

Councillor Jeff Coffman

Victoria Chester

Simon Griffiths

D. Jean Valgardson

Robert Van Spronsen

Carmen Hellowell (Recording Secretary)

Deputy Chief Scott Woods

Inspector Bill Anderson

Inspector Tom Ascroft

Kamran Ali

Regrets

Marion Wiebe

Chief Robert Davis

Inspector Jason Dobirstein

Kristen Harding

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Chair Cutforth at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Swearing in of New Commission Members
 - Mayor Chris Spearman and Councillor Jeff Coffman were sworn in as new Lethbridge Police Commission Members by Chair Cutforth, Q.C.
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - Removal - 8)a. AAPG Executive Director Presentation
 - **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the agenda be approved as amended....Carried**
- 4) Chief's Certificate of Recognition
 - Deputy Chief Woods presented a Chief's Certificate of Recognition to Dale Ketcheson (Jim McColl accepted on his behalf), Mark Overes, Laurie Pacarynuk, Scott

Simpson and Baz Skinner (absent) for their assistance preventing a woman from falling off a 40 foot high ledge at the CASA Building this past June. Constable Sean Walshe (absent) will receive a Chief's Commendation for his involvement as he was able to hoist the woman back up on the patio, take her into custody and transport her to hospital.

- 5) Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2017 Open Meeting
 - **Motion by Rob Van Spronsen, Seconded Peter Deys that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 6) Business Arising
 - There was no business arising
- 7) Standing Items
 - a) ALERT Update – Inspector Ascroft
 - November 2017 update of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) and Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE) distributed in agenda package
 - Confirmation provided that the individual described in the report was previously charged
 - b) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
 - October calls for service up almost 500 over last year, annually calls are up 2300 over year 2016
 - Year to date tickets total is comparable to the last couple of years
 - Step Initiative – pedestrian safety with 7 violation tickets issued
 - Confirmation that there is a ticket violation for pedestrians stepping into the path of a vehicle
 - c) Monthly Compliments – Deputy Chief Woods
 - October Compliments: 1 Citizen/External, 3 Community Partners
 - Some highlights:
 - External compliment – Constables Teerling, Vroegindewey, Riddell, Napper and A Team for assisting an individual who was attempting to jump off the Whoop Up Drive Bridge, great team work in a dangerous situation
 - Community Partner – Sergeant Olsen, Constable D. Easter and LPS members received thanks from the Schizophrenia Society for speaking about their experiences in dealing with situations involving Schizophrenia
 - d) Community Issues – Inspector Ascroft
 - Monthly update provided in agenda package and reviewed
 - Issues are moving indoors due to the weather change
 - Good communication between Downtown Policing Unit and business community
 - Questions from Commission:
 - Is the needle debris related to the abundance of needles distributed by ARCHES? ARCHES has been reducing the number of needles distributed and

the City, LPS and ARCHES are all working on this situation. The Safe Consumption Site should provide a reduction of needle debris

- Discussion about the issues at the Public Library. Due to changing weather individuals are moving towards buildings. Better strategy would be a place for them to move on to. ARCHES does their best to clean up debris

8) New Business

a) User Fees Comparison – Kamran Ali

- Police Service Fees Comparison information provided to Commission for information, relates to Police Information Checks and Fingerprinting
- At a previous meeting a question was raised why LPS charges a \$50 rush fee
- Information was compiled from various police service websites to show what they are charging for these services
- Explanation provided of the voluntary rush fee
- Questions/comments by Commission:
 - Is LPS breaking even with the current fee structure? LPS is not collecting enough money to offset the costs
 - Post-secondary education for Lethbridge missing. Kamran will look into this and provide information to Commission
 - Clarification that the rush fee is voluntary, policy in place as to when applied
 - Is the record check process mandated by the AB government for police services to perform? Police likely provide this service due to the access of data bases, could not confirm about a mandate

9) Inquiries by the Police Commission

- MacLean's magazine released the crime severity index for 2016. Any comments/perspective from LPS? Deputy Chief Woods was pleased to see that Lethbridge fell in the rankings. A number of factors are taken into account for this information and population base plays a major role. He does not put a ton of weight on this report, need to look at totality of the equation. Lethbridge is still a very safe community to live in, we are not without our problems but LPS is looking into addressing some strategies in relation to property crimes, etc.
- Last month LPS spoke of restructuring the beats, any updates? Deputy Chief Woods advised it is early into the process. A lot of front end work occurred with mapping the zones and integration in the CAD system. Resource issues need to be addressed with "own your zone", the process will be laid out in different layers. Goal to have the same amount of calls per zone. Will have further analysis

10) Inquiries by the Public

- Merv Hudemka
 - Has the security system at Henderson pool been used other than test alarms? LPS would receive this information only if they were called. Alarm companies may call the key holder, rather than police
 - Who responds to business alarms? Depends on arrangements with alarm providers
 - Any increase in false alarms? Likely declining as police do not attend all calls

- Wondered about enforcement of vehicular traffic on 7 Ave S as he has noticed many violations since the modifications. Was encouraged to provide information to LPS and specific enforcement could be arranged if deemed necessary
- Tony Sprado
 - Shared concerns regarding a complaint he filed five years ago against LPS officers regarding an incident involving his son who was a minor at the time
 - Explained the timeline of the complaint and the most recent notification of the decision being upheld by the LERB. Concerned LERB did not address some of his concerns at the hearing
 - Wondered if Commission is at all concerned how this investigation transpired and how Commission holds those responsible accountable
 - Chair Cutforth advised this was a decision of the LERB and explained the complaint process. Commission's focus is on what happens now and has received confirmation from the current Chief the practice mentioned in the LERB decision closing paragraph does not occur under his watch
 - Professional standards complaints are not dealt with in Commission meetings, and by statute, there is no recourse against officers who have since retired. If there is a new complaint based on new information it would need to be put forth in writing and submitted to the Public Complaint Director

11) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.