



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 26, 2018
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Peter Deys, Chair
Simon Griffiths, Vice-Chair
Councillor Jeff Coffman (*arrived at 4:13 p.m.*)
Victoria Chester
Dawna Coslovi
Rachel Hopf
D. Jean Valgardson
Robert Van Spronsen
Carmen Hellawell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis
Deputy Chief Scott Woods
Inspector Bill Anderson
Inspector Tom Ascroft
Sergeant Cam Van Roon
Kristen Harding
Kamran Ali

Regrets

Mayor Chris Spearman
Inspector Jason Dobirstein

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Chair Deys at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Presentation of Citizen Award – Chief Davis
 - Presented to Eduard Schindler for his actions that assisted police in the apprehension of an offender
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - a) Addition: New Business 7e. Police Commission Website Ad-hoc Committee – Chair Deys
 - **Motion by Dawna Coslovi, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the agenda be approved as amended....Carried**
- 4) Approval of Minutes of June 27, 2018 Open Meeting
 - **Motion by Rachel Hopf, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 5) Business Arising
 - None

- 6) Standing Items
- a) ALERT/CID Update – Inspector Ascroft
 - July – September 2018 update of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU), Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE) and Criminal Investigation Division (CID) distributed in agenda package
 - Commission asked about convictions relating to the drug statistics. Some files are still going through the court system and Chief Davis advised it would be beneficial to have a dedicated full time federal crown to prosecute drug cases. Discussion about advocacy for this which would be best through AAPG
 - Commission shared their appreciation of the work of ICE and the apprehension that occurred across the globe
 - b) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
 - Information circulated in agenda package
 - Numbers may appear to be lower in July and August as parking complaints have now been removed from the calls for service
 - Commission questions:
 - Thefts do include shoplifting but most often occur from vehicles
 - Assaults increasing but no real pattern to discern
 - c) Community Issues – Inspector Ascroft
 - No report
 - d) Financial Report – Kamran Ali
 - Report was circulated in the agenda package
 - e) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
 - June Compliments: 6 Citizen/External, 3 Community Partners, 3 Internal
 - July Compliments: 5 Citizen/External, 1 Community Partners, 3 Internal
 - August Compliments: 6 Citizen/External, 3 Community Partners
 - Highlights:
 - External - Cst. Jim DeMone – Facebook post complimenting how he educated children on what to do when they found a needle
 - External - An LPS officer had assisted a citizen stopped along Whoop Up Drive by diverting traffic so she could safety deal with her situation
 - Community Partner - Chief Abela from Taber Police Service thanked LPS Criminal Investigation Section, Identification Section and Patrols for their assistance they provided regarding a Taber investigation
 - Internal - Sgt. Kyle Meyers and Cst. Don Realini thanked the Public Safety Communications Centre, specifically Eric Pelzman and Mandy Kain, for their assistance with a recent child abduction file

Chair Deys welcomed Councillor Coffman to the meeting and advised Commission that Mayor Spearman sent his regrets as he was attending the AUMA Conference.

- 7) New Business
- a) Stewart Inquiry (Sec 3.3 Item 3) – Chair Deys
 - Mr. Stewart appeared before Commission last meeting expressing concern regarding Commission Policy Sec 3.3 Item 3 (circulated)

- Chair Deys acknowledged that Mr. Stewart was in the audience and shared his concern was police traffic enforcement occurring outside city limits
 - Chair Deys advised if police vehicles were parked within city limits and had to pursue outside city limits, this would be acceptable under this policy
 - Chair Deys shared that Commission has been assured it is not LPS practice to be located outside of city limits, LPS can also track locations of their vehicles via GPS
 - Reminder to Chief Davis and LPS that speed traps are not to be located outside of city limits unless done in conjunction with other police services
 - Commission plans to review all of its policies but is satisfied with this policy as the way it is written and appreciated Mr. Stewart bringing this to their attention
 - Mr. Stewart addressed Commission and explained since Commission is a civil agency overseeing the police service, who was not following procedures, he suggested Commission should cancel all tickets that occurred from that location
 - Chair Deys advised Commission will take that under advisement
- b) Police Information Checks – Akin Ishola
- Akin Ishola, Manager of the Records Management Unit explained the types of checks conducted by LPS
 - Police Information Check (PIC) – applicants who are not seeking a position of authority or trust with vulnerable persons
 - Vulnerable Sector PIC – applicants who will be in a position of trust or authority of vulnerable persons
 - Explained the application process, how the information is processed and the release of information
 - Provided the number of applications to date and the last two years
 - Questions/comments from Commission:
 - Commission shared personal experiences regarding the pic application process. Akin Ishola explained that the release of information is guided by the FOIP Act
 - Time frame of the validity of PICs depends on the employer who is requesting
 - Commission member suggested the turnaround be within two weeks, they are currently taking too long to be completed
 - Commission wondered how they can assist in providing LPS the resources as Medicine Hat provides PICs in five to seven business days, as an example. Akin Ishola advised additional resources would quicken the turnaround
 - What about providing different time frames for completion, such as PIC being completed faster than the vulnerable sector PIC
 - Asked if front counter staff understand the process to properly explain it to customers
 - Chief Davis explained an online application has been discussed in the past but that would not change the process time, only reduce attending LPS for application
 - Discussion about making a motion for LPS to come back next meeting with a commitment for a two week application process
 - Is there a technology solution to the PIC process? Calgary has more automation but it took them seven years of writing the scripts to make them work
 - Kamran Ali advised there is also a budgetary component as LPS currently issues refunds in certain cases, other services may/do not
 - Discussion about turnaround times and what is reasonable. Insp. Anderson explained this is a labour intensive process of sifting through information. If resources move from another location then something else will be affected. Changes have been made

to already reduce the process. Commission challenged to further reduce the turnaround to 10 – 14 days

- Decision that LPS report back with a follow up at the November Meeting

c) AAPG Representative to replace current LPC member – Chair Deys

- Victoria Chester was appointed as the Executive Director of the AAPG and had to relinquish her position on the AAPG Board
- AAPG has requested confirmation of LPC whether they wish to continue with representation on the AAPG Board
- Do not need to selection at this point, just require confirmation
- **Motion by Dawna Coslovi, Seconded by Simon Griffiths that the Lethbridge Police Commission support continued representation on the Board of the Alberta Association of Police Governance.....CARRIED**
(Victoria Chester abstained from the vote)

d) 2018 CAPG Governance Summit – Chair Deys

- Agreement that Rob Van Spronsen will attend on behalf of LPC

e) Police Commission Website Ad-hoc Committee – Chair Deys

- Looking for volunteers for ad-hoc committee to provide some direction to Sgt. Van Roon as to content for the new LPC website
- Victoria Chester and Dawna Coslovi volunteered

8) Inquiries by the Police Commission

- Updates on opioid crisis - Having troubles around the SCS, property crimes, frauds. Police certainly have a role to play as do other community partners, a number of pillars in the strategy to address it
- Chief Davis brought up the comments he heard from the Ribfest event, asked Councillor Coffman to pass on to council that when the city issues permits for events there could be a mechanism in place that may require the event holder to have increased security or if they want police, they can request pay duty officers
- Is a risk assessment completed for such events to determine security? More a corporation function but Chief Davis will look into this and report back. There is police involvement when there is a liquor permit, but not to perform a risk assessment

9) Inquiries by the Public

- Merv Hudemka
 - People not adhering to the 30 km speed limit on 7 Ave S bicycle route, should be monitored
 - Some communities are looking at lowering speed limits in residential areas
 - Asked about bicycle/vehicular accidents
- Tony Sprado
 - Stemming from past presentations to Commission, wondered why the Commission is allowing the Lethbridge Police Service to not be held accountable
 - Chair Deys advised that LPC advised Mr. Sprado at the previous meeting that they considered this matter closed and questioned what he was looking for
 - Mr. Sprado asked how he could make a complaint regarding the Chief of Police and Chair Deys advised that he can direct it to him as LPC Chair

10) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.