



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

### OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 31, 2018  
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers  
4:00 p.m.

#### In Attendance

Peter Deys, Chair

Simon Griffiths, Vice-Chair

Mayor Chris Spearman

Councillor Jeff Coffman

Victoria Chester

Dawna Coslovi

Rachel Hopf

D. Jean Valgardson

Robert Van Spronsen

Carmen Hellawell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis

Deputy Chief Scott Woods

Inspector Jason Dobirstein

A/Inspector George Carscadden

A/Inspector Jason Walper

Kamran Ali

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Deys at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Dawna Coslovi that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 3) Approval of Minutes of September 26, 2018 Open Meeting
  - **Motion by Simon Griffiths, Seconded by Rachel Hopf that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 4) Business Arising
  - Commission Inquiries re: Risk Assessment for City Events – Chief Davis
    - Follow up provided regarding a request last meeting of role of the police in public events and risk assessments performed for city events
    - Public event process was explained, arranged through the City of Lethbridge
    - Explained process when events include alcohol, require security but could be private security
    - Explained what occurred with the Ribfest event
    - Questions by Commission:
      - Any policy recommendations for the City or AGLC? Chief Davis will reach out to other 100,000 population cities to inquire of their process which could be adopted for Lethbridge
      - Street Wheelers cruise night – police presence required due to traffic laws

- 5) Standing Items
- a) ALERT/CID Update – A/Inspector Carscadden
    - October 2018 update of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU), Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE) and Criminal Investigation Division (CID) distributed in agenda package
  - b) Calls for Service – Inspector Dobirstein
    - Information circulated in agenda package and summary provided
    - Questions from Commission:
      - Assault stats? Will report back to Commission once analyst researches locations of assaults occurring throughout the city
      - Any observational data regarding the recent legalization of marijuana? No analyst data yet, has been quiet as no consumer purchasing at this point
  - c) Community Issues – Inspector Dobirstein
    - No report
  - d) Financial Report – Kamran Ali
    - Information circulated in the agenda package
    - Chair Deys explained a new reporting process which will move financial information to the open session
    - Kamran Ali advised that all financial reporting will channel through the Finance Committee and be presented on a monthly/quarterly basis, depending on need
    - Goal to have the Chair of the Finance Committee present information
  - e) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
    - September Compliments: 4 Citizen/External, 1 Community Partners, 2 Internal
    - Highlights:
      - Cst. Stephanie Law and LPS members – thanks from citizen for the extra patrols provided in neighbourhood
      - Cst. Les Vonkeman – thanks from community partners for his facilitation and participation in the Blackfoot Perspectives Tipi Camp
      - Cst. David Wharf – thanks from co-worker for his actions while off-duty with assisting a citizen in distress
      - Alyson Dunsmore – thanks from co-worker for her positive and professional attitude in a new role
      - Chief Davis noted that Cst. Vonkeman has been working with the urban aboriginal community and meetings have been held to mobilize an initiative called SAGE, LPS involved as a resource only to assist in the success of the initiative
- 6) New Business
- a) LPS Goals and Objectives Update – Chief Davis
    - One page snapshot distributed and will be explained in more detail in closed meeting
  - b) Safety in the Downtown Core – Stephen Mogdan & Hunter Heggie
    - Downtown Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ) presentation providing perspective on issues facing Lethbridge
    - BRZ exists to improve business in downtown Lethbridge
    - Explained what the downtown businesses are facing, what could be done to assist

- Explained how the drug crisis is negatively impacting the economic viability of downtown
- Brought these concerns to council and asked for their support of the Watch Program
- Police hold some keys to the problem and solution, asked council for more funding for police to help with this
- BRZ have done what they can to help but have reached their limit, noticing lack of respect for the law and for the police officers
- Individuals leaving the SCS trickle into downtown and some cause issues
- There must be both understanding and compromise
- BRZ were told by council there is no money, council sent a letter to government but BRZ suggests not to stop until there is funding and solutions
- Need money for enforcement, committees and letters are good but we need action
- Proud of downtown - compassion and safety, why can't we have them both?
- Questions from Commission:
  - Confirmation provided that some business owners have moved from downtown or looking at moving from downtown location
  - BRZ did not have information available of businesses who hire private security
  - Survey of downtown business impact is a good representation of BRZ membership and issues at hand and results have shown a disturbing trend
- Chair Deys thanked the BRZ for their presentation and appreciated the sharing of concerns in a constructive way

#### 7) Council Updates

- Requested by City Council as a standing item to identify and discuss items/issues of significant importance for city council reps to verbally report to their colleagues at council meetings
- Commission is working on a communication process and researched that other municipalities allow council reps to speak freely to council regarding discussions held in the open meeting
- Truth and Reconciliation process - calls to action were identified for the municipality and framework created. Commission could review the calls to action relating to police, justice, enforcement. Needs to be strategic approach and separate from municipality
- Stemming from BRZ presentation, request to Council to speak to their process on event security requirements

#### 8) Inquiries by the Police Commission

- Aftermath of the events from social media of the police officer assaulted. Videos show only a certain aspect of the incident, situation officer attended was explained. LPS will look into body worn cameras via a pilot project but realizing it is a narrow lens and does not show the whole picture, also data storage issues
- Would like as a Commission to look into the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation – through Policy & Governance back to Commission

#### 9) Inquiries by the Public

- Merv Hudemka
  - Confirmation that enforcement was performed along the bicycle route along 7 Ave S
  - Discussion of internal program to locate bicycles that have been stolen

#### 10) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.