



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021  
Council Chamber, City Hall  
6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

Chair Rob Van Spronsen, Members Victoria Chester, Belinda Crowson, Diane Conley, Dawna Coslovi, Rachel Hopf, Blaine Hyggen, Douglas Thornton, Bruce Thurber

Lethbridge Police Service Executive:

Chief Shahin Mehdizadeh, Inspector Russell Lawrence, Inspector Jason Dobirstein

Other:

Financial Manager Kamran Ali, Communications Manager Craig Albrecht, Legal Counsel to Lethbridge Police Service Lee Cutforth, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police Carmen Hellawell, Clerk David Sarsfield

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Chair van Spronsen opened the meeting of the Lethbridge Police Commission for September 29, 2021, the time being 6:15 pm.

**2. Reconciliation Statement**

Chair Van Spronsen read the Reconciliation Statement.

**3. Conflict of Interest Declaration**

Chair Van Spronsen called for a Declaration of Conflict of Interest. None were noted.

**3. Consent Agenda**

The following Minutes were circulated for approval:

- a. Minutes of June 30, 2021 Police Commission Meeting

Moved by Diane Conley, seconded by Dawna Coslovi, that the June 30, 2021 Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

## 5. Approval of Agenda

The following items were deleted from the agenda:

- LPS Focus Initiatives Plan Mid-Year Review
- Youth Engagement Unit

and a report on Statistical Information Reporting be added to the agenda.

Moved by Bruce Thurber, seconded by Dawna Coslovi, that the Agenda for the September 29, 2021 Lethbridge Police Commission Meeting, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

## 6. Recognition

Awards to Constable Brent Paxman and Constable Steve Baker were presented by Anita Huchala, President, MADD Lethbridge and Area Chapter.

## 7. Standing Items

### a. Criminal Investigation Division Update

Moved by Diane Conley, seconded by Belinda Crowson, that the Criminal Investigation Division Update Report, dated September 29, 2021 be received as information.

CARRIED

### b. Support Services Division Update

Moved by Diane Conley, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that the Support Services Division Updates, dated September 29, 2021, be received as information.

CARRIED

### c. Field Operations Division Update

Moved by Victoria Chester, seconded by Diane Conley, that the Field Operations Division Updates and Lethbridge Police Service Month in Review, dated September 29, 2021, be received as information.

CARRIED

### d. Monthly Compliments

Moved by Victoria Chester, seconded by Dawna Coslovi, that the report on the compliments received by the Lethbridge Police Service be received as information.

CARRIED

**e. Update on Lethbridge Police Service Action Plan**

Moved by Diane Conley, seconded by Dawna Coslovi, that the report on the Lethbridge Police Service Action Plan be received as information.

CARRIED

**f. Change Management Task Force**

Moved by Rachel Hopf, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that the report on the Change Management Task Force be received as information.

CARRIED

**g. Statistical Information Reporting**

Moved by Belinda Crowson, seconded by Douglas Thornton, that the presentation on statistical information reporting by the Lethbridge Police Service be received as information.

CARRIED

**9. Committees**

**a. Finance Committee**

Moved by Dawna Coslovi, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that the Finance Committee Report be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**c. Policy and Governance Committee**

Moved by Diane Conley, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that the Policy and Governance Committee Report be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**d. Website Adhoc Committee**

Moved by Victoria Chester, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that the Website Adhoc Committee Report be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**e. Alberta Association of Police Governance**

Moved by Rachel Hopf, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that the update on the Alberta Association of Police Governance be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

**f. Canadian Association of Police Governance**

Moved by Rachel Hopf, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that Victoria Chester be appointed as the delegate for the Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference.

CARRIED

**10. Inquiries from the Public to the Police Commission**

**a. Michael Bates**

Michael Bates, representing two undisclosed clients, asked the Police Commission a series of questions:

1. Does the Commission have any policies or policing standards which direct the Chief of Police to protect a citizen or member of the media who is seeking public accountability from being retaliated against by members of the LPS?
2. What steps, if any, have you taken since July of 2020 to eliminate differential treatment of citizens by LPS Officers based on their political views?
3. Has the LPS received direction from the Commission via the Chief of Police to ensure that sexual assault survivors and in particular sex trade workers are treated with dignity and respect at all times within the LPS?
4. Does the Commission have process to facilitate and protect whistleblower disclosures by LPS personnel?
5. Is the Commission in a position to advise today if they will be notifying the Minister of Justice of an intention to commence an inquiry pursuant to section 32 of the Police Act based on the letter submitted on behalf of my two clients on September 27, 2021?

**11. Closed Session**

**Commission Members Only Closed Session**

The Lethbridge Police Commission met in closed session to discuss items pursuant to the provision of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Moved by Dawna Coslovi, seconded by Diane Conley, that the Police Commission move into closed session, the time being 4:00 p.m., pursuant to provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

CARRIED

Moved by Belinda Crowson, seconded by Douglas Thornton, that the Commission Only Closed Session adjourn, the time being 5:05 p.m.

CARRIED

*Commission Members*

*Clerk*

*Police Chief*

*Legal Counsel to Lethbridge Police Service*

- a. **Human Resources Matters**
- b. **Joint Workplace Culture Survey**
- c. **Governance**
- c. **Professional Standards**
- d. **Appeals**

Moved by Dawna Coslovi, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that the Commission Only Closed Session Meeting discussions, reports, and documents relating to:

Human Resources Matters  
Joint Workplace Culture Survey  
Governance  
Professional Standards  
Appeals

remain confidential, pursuant to Sections 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, and 27 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Police Commission proceed with the confidential direction provided during the Commission Only Closed Session.

CARRIED

Moved by Rachel Hopf, seconded by Bruce Thurber, that the following Extension Request be extended to November 24, 2021:

Extension File No. 2019-085

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following Extension Request be extended to October 27, 2021:

Extension File No. 2020-006

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following Extension Requests be extended to January 26, 2022:

Extension File No. 2020-010  
Extension File No. 2020-092  
Extension File No. 2021-001  
Extension File No. 2021-006  
Extension File No. 2021-015

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following Extension Requests be extended to March 30, 2022:

Extension File No. 2020-089  
Extension File No. 2021-011  
Extension File No. 2021-014.

CARRIED

**Commission Members with Lethbridge Police Executive**

The Lethbridge Police Commission, Lethbridge Police Executive and Staff Members met in closed session to discuss items pursuant to the provision of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Moved by Dawna Coslovi, seconded by Diane Conley, that the Police Commission, Lethbridge Police Executive, and Staff Members move into closed session, the time being 5:05 p.m., pursuant to provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

CARRIED

Moved by Diane Conley, seconded by Douglas Thornton, that the Closed Session adjourn, the time being 6:10 p.m.

CARRIED

*Commission Members  
Lethbridge Police Service Executive and Staff  
Clerk*

- a. **Monthly Compliments**
- b. **Police Chief Report**
- c. **Change Management Task Force**
- d. **Reporting of Statistical Information**

Moved by Bruce Thurber, seconded by Douglas Thornton, that the Closed Session Meeting discussions, reports, and documents relating to:

Monthly Compliments  
Police Chief Report  
Change Management Task Force

## Reporting of Statistical Information

remain confidential, pursuant to Sections 17, 18, 20, and 24 of the *Freedom and Information Protection of Privacy Act*; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Police Commission proceed with the confidential direction provided during the Closed Session.

CARRIED

## 12. New Business

### a. Letter from Milean Deacon – Lakeview Area

Moved by Bruce Thurber, seconded by Diane Conley, that the correspondence from Milena Deacon be received as information.

CARRIED

## 13. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

## 14. Meeting Adjournment

Moved by Bruce Thurber that the Lethbridge Police Commission Meeting for September 29, 2021 adjourn, the time being 8:50 pm.

CARRIED

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Rob Van Spronsen, Chair

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David Sarsfield, Clerk