



MINUTES
Community Policing Advisory Committee

February 19, 2020
9:00am
Council Chambers, Town Hall

Committee Members Present: Councillor Winter
Mayor Strathdee
Doug Diplock
Paul Dunseith
Jacqueline Hibbert

Stratford Police Services Present: Deputy Chief Gerald Foster
Inspector Mark Taylor

Staff Present: Jenna McCartney, Deputy Clerk
Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works
Morgan Dykstra, Public Works Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Winter called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Committee asked that the following be added to Other Business:

9.4 - Social Housing Follow Up

9.5 - Location of Police at Town Hall

Moved By Jacqueline Hibbert

Seconded By Paul Dunseith

THAT the February 19, 2020 Community Policing Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved By Mayor Strathdee

Seconded By Doug Diplock

THAT the January 15, 2020 Community Policing Advisory Committee minutes be approved as amended by the Committee, and signed by the Chair and Secretary.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Marylynne Shipway re: Neighbourhood Watch Program

In the absence of Ms. Shipway, Chris Stanley of Zorra Township spoke to an offer of volunteers to conduct community patrol in the Town of St. Marys.

The Committee discussed the establishment of a neighbourhood watch program in St. Marys.

Moved By Paul Dunseith

Seconded By Mayor Strathdee

THAT the delegation from Marylynne Shipway regarding a neighbourhood watch program be received; and

THAT staff be directed to report back on the request to establish a neighbourhood watch program.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS

7.1 POLICE MONTHLY STATISTICS

Inspector Mark Taylor spoke to the January 2020 monthly policing stats.

Moved By Doug Diplock

Seconded By Jacqueline Hibbert

THAT the January 2020 monthly policing stats be received for information.

CARRIED

7.2 CRIME STOPPERS MONTHLY REPORT

No report presented at this time.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 February 3, 2020 Stratford Beacon Herald Article re: Police Sick Time

Deputy Chief Foster provided an overview of recent article in the Stratford Beacon Herald.

In response to an inquiry about the provision for personal days to be used to support other family members or for mental health needs being available in the contract, Deputy Chief Foster stated that it exists.

In response to an inquiry if police services members are permitted to book sick days in advance for the purpose of support other family members, Deputy Chief Foster stated members are able to pre-book sick days but the purpose for the prebooking is not tracked.

9.2 Overnight and On-street Parking

Councillor Winter stated that overnight parking on streets is causing an issue for snow plow operations and garbage collection.

Staff will investigate the suggestion that a no parking sign may be obscured along Elgin Street East.

Deputy Chief Foster stated that targeted patrols can take place if the police are alerted to the situation.

9.3 Funeral Processions

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry about the expectations of motorists during a funeral procession, Deputy Chief Foster stated that motorists are expected to follow the Highway Traffic Act although it is acknowledged that many individuals will pull over when coming to a funeral procession out of respect for the deceased. While this may be a habit, it should be reiterated that all motorists are expected to proceed with caution and follow the Highway Traffic Act.

Deputy Chief Foster stated that in instances where the funeral home is aware of a funeral procession that is expected to be large, it would be advantageous for the funeral home to contact the police and seek a police escort.

Andrew Hodges explained his practice as a local funeral home owner with respect to funeral processions.

9.4 Social Housing Follow Up

Chair Winter provided an overview of the recent delegation to Council.

Mayor Strathdee provided an update to the Committee regarding next steps by Council to improve the situation at the local apartments in St. Marys.

Deputy Chief Foster elaborated on the number of calls for service over the course of the past year to each of the addresses. It should be acknowledged that the sight of police vehicles at any address should not be assumed to have originated through a call for service. Often times the police have been conducting general foot patrols of specific addresses as a general crime prevention strategy. As well, a number of calls for service have been made for single situations that will create a higher call volume as it is not based on situation.

9.5 Location of Police

It was reported through a member that there may be times when the public is not able to locate the correct entrance to access the police at Town Hall.

Staff will investigate further.

9.6 Vision Zero

Paul Dunseith asked that this item be added to today's agenda and all further agendas as a standing item.

In response to Paul Dunseith's inquiry about the status of the vision zero strategy development and the extent to which staff have made to consult with the community and police, staff confirmed that it is not their intention to develop a strategy at this time and consultation has not occurred with the community or the police. Staff are investigating the implications of a vision zero approach and will report back to Council in the second quarter.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Chair Winter reviewed the upcoming meeting as presented on the agenda.

Mayor Strathdee provided regrets for the next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Doug Diplock
Seconded By Mayor Strathdee

THAT this meeting of the Community Policing Advisory Committee be adjourned at 10:03 am.

CARRIED

Chair Winter

Brent Kittmer, CAO / Clerk, Secretary