

**Police & License Committee Meeting
February 21, 2017
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Councillor D. Roberts, Chair
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor D. MacInnis
Sgt. W. McBeath
S/Cst. J. Pellerin
S/Cst. S. Smith
Mr. R. Proctor St. FX University Representative
St. FX Representative Taylor Chase

Also Present

Ms. D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
Mr. S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator
Ms. S. Rector, Director of Corporate Services
CAO J. Lawrence

Delegates

Absent with Regret

Mayor L. Boucher
Ms. J. De Leebeeck, St. FX Student Life Representative

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon.

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes with two (2) corrections.” Motion carried.

Presentations

- Ms. D. Horne; Re: Crosswalk Safety

The Chair thanked Ms. D. Horne for attending and round table introductions took place. It was noted information was sent previously to the Deputy Clerk for distribution.

Ms. D. Horne spoke briefly on crosswalk safety, particularly where Brookland Street intersects with Hawthorne Street, and noted she feels it is an area of concern. She noted a crosswalk safety initiative similar to one that has been undertaken in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) might be appropriate for the Town.

Ms. Horne provided details from a conversation she had with the gentleman who looks after the program in HRM. Photos were distributed. Ms. Horne advised that the group in Halifax could provide 30 flags and pipes to hold the flags at a cost of \$200.00. Brief discussion took place.

The Chair thanked the delegate and she left the meeting at 12:10 PM

- Ms. S. MacDougall; Re: Taxi Fees

Ms. MacDougall thanked the Chair. She noted that cab fees are fluctuating between \$5-7 within the Town, and that other areas have more consistent fees. She recommended having a (higher) flat rate across the board of \$7.00, and provided further comments.

The Chair requested comment from S/Cst. S. Smith. He noted that the last increase was in 2014. S/Cst. S. Smith noted that the number of cabs used to be limited however, at the request of the cab companies that is no longer the case. He provided additional information regarding seniors and the wording in the By-law. Discussion took place.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke briefly to free enterprise, and noted that a request from a united voice from the taxi cabs operators might bear more weight for consideration. The Chair suggested Ms. MacDougall reach out to the other companies.

Discussion took place on illuminated roof lights. Mr. R. Proctor spoke to other areas where additional markings are put on the vehicles, and spoke to additional branding of vehicles.

Ms. S. MacDougall requested to have the ability to turn off the roof light when they have a customer/parcel, and on when offering a service, in an effort not to be flagged down by potential customers.

Ms. S. MacDougall noted she would like to see a requirement for operators to show that they are registered with Joint Stock Companies. S/Cst. S. Smith provided comment.

Ms. S. MacDougall noted the Town currently does not have a by-law respecting scanners, and noted that there have been issues with one taxi picking up on another taxi's call. In response to a query from the Chair, Sgt. W. McBeath noted that it is not illegal to have a scanner. S/Cst. S. Smith spoke the radios being the problem. Sgt. W. McBeath noted that additional branding on vehicles would assist in this matter.

The Chair thanked Ms. S. MacDougall for her presentation. Ms. MacDougall noted she would speak to the other taxi companies prior to the next Police & License Committee meeting.

At 12:40 CAO J. Lawrence excused himself from the meeting.

S/Cst. S. Smith spoke to changes in the taxi industry as well as public transit. He spoke to increased students on campus, and more students with vehicles.

It was generally agreed to review the current Taxi By-law prior to the next meeting to determine if there are changes to be made. The Chair noted the next meeting will not likely take place until late April.

- Crosswalk Safety

Additional discussion took place on the crosswalk safety initiative, with S/Cst. S. Smith noting he would support this initiative.

R. Proctor spoke briefly to the success of the flower program, and the possibility of using the CACL for the production of flags/poles and promotion of the crosswalk initiative.

The Chair noted she would entertain a motion from the Committee on the matter of crosswalk safety.

“It was Moved and Seconded to recommend to Council to have a pilot project on a crosswalk safety initiative utilizing crosswalk flags.” Motion carried.

S. Rector provided comment from budget discussions from last year.

Business from Minutes

- Update; Traffic Study, St. Ninian St./West St./Highland Drive
S/Cst. S. Smith stated he had no additional information.

- Pleasant and College Streets; Statistics (St. W. McBeath)
Sgt. W. McBeath noted that in the past three (3) years there were only two (2) incidents/accidents at the intersection at Pleasant and College Streets, and that this would not be considered a concern.

- Signage to Alert Traffic of Turn; Brookland Street
S/Cst. S. Smith noted that the signs have arrived and will be installed to alert vehicles of the curve.

- Pub Activity
S/Cst. S. Smith noted that staff have attended the pub and did not feel they experienced sounds that would exceed a limit. S/Cst. J. Pellerin provided comments on his visit to the site. Brief discussion took place and staff agreed to monitor the area.

New Business

- Citizen Patrol

The Chair noted that she had spoken with a gentleman who was involved in a citizen patrol initiative elsewhere and was wondering if there would be an interest in having something similar here. Brief discussion took place.

R. Proctor spoke to a model on campus which utilizes paid students. He expanded on the program, and raised the suggestion of encouraging town citizens to do their part if they see something out of sorts.

Sgt. W. McBeath stated he would check with the Staff Sargent to see if she has heard from anyone on this matter.

Reports

- St. FX University Representative

R. Proctor noted they are in the middle of hockey cup season and provided details. He noted some discussion has taken place with respect to BurMac on campus, however nothing has been finalized.

- St. FX Student Union

T. Chase apologized for not providing a written report. He spoke to the BurMac Cup, noting the students came together to get the game back to the community arena, however, when it looked like it wasn't happening, the students approached the Students Union. It is now proposed the BurMac Cup come back to campus on March 25th. The event is a joint project by the Student Union and the University. The Committee was advised that they are hoping to host a community session today or tomorrow.

In response to Councillor M. Farrell, T. Chase provided comment on the drinking factor and efforts being taken to mitigate it. Discussion took place.

R. Proctor provided his comments on the matter and issues related to security.

- RCMP

Sgt. W. McBeath provided comments from his Report on calls for service and impaired driving. He noted a lot of their work is focused on community safety.

He noted upcoming events and resource details will come from the Staff Sergeant.

In response to an inquiry from Councillor M. Farrell, it was noted that there is a requirement for one additional staff member for the Town.

The Chair provided positive comment on the format of the report.

- By-law Enforcement

S/Cst. S. Smith noted his report was previously distributed. He noted he had met with the Canada Day Committee, and that they will be requesting the use of the centre block of Main Street, discussions are ongoing.

The Committee was advised that the S/Cst. is working with an engineering firm that previously worked with St. FX University regarding a crosswalk proposal.

S/Cst. S. Smith provided comment on the teacher's strike and a new owner for a local restaurant.

The Committee was advised that the winter parking ban is ongoing. S/Cst. S. Smith spoke to recent access to radios that did not work out, noting they may be looking for a TMR radio in the future, and would like to have the matter considered during budget deliberations.

Action Items

- Fixed and Mobile Signs

S/Cst. S. Smith advised the signs would not go up until after the snow is gone.

Adjournment

At 1:51 PM the meeting was adjourned.