



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

November 22, 2021

4:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Ian Boddy
Deputy Mayor Brian O'Leary
Councillor Travis Dodd
Councillor Scott Greig
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Marion Koepke
Councillor Carol Merton
Councillor Richard Thomas

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor John Tamming

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Dennis Kefalas, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Craig Ambrose, Police Chief
Dave Bishop, Police Inspector
Jeff Fluney, Police Inspector
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Jamie Eckenswiller, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-211122-001

Moved by Councillor Hamley

Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider public meetings, deputations and presentations, public question period, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business."

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

4. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.a Presentation from Chief Craig Ambrose and Inspectors Dave Bishop and Jeff Fluney Re: Owen Sound Police Services

Chief Ambrose, Inspector Bishop, and Inspector Fluney provided a presentation to Council on Owen Sound Police Services (OSPS), highlighting issues and complexity in policing, drivers of crime and calls to police, and dispatch services.

Chief Ambrose advised that while the severity of calls for service is increasing, the total number of calls for services has decreased. Chief Ambrose added that the Crime Severity Index for Owen Sound has decreased by 0.83 percent from 2019.

Chief Ambrose highlighted changes in the OSPS from 2019 to 2021, noting that one long-term absence that is not expected to return will be replaced but there will be no expansion to staffing for the OSPS in 2022. COVID-19 has presented many challenges for the OSPS with the ever-changing laws surrounding re-opening, having to source personal protective equipment, and creating a vaccine policy.

The OSPS is currently undertaking a major policy and procedures review to ensure all policies and procedures are current and up to date.

Chief Ambrose noted that the OSPS has implemented and completed training on equity, diversity, and inclusion, and is continuing to encourage and support women in policing. Chief Ambrose added that the OSPS has made progress with respect to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and will continue to work toward a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive force.

The OSPS has undertaken mental health initiatives, including the implementation of a members app that was created by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, an increase in mental health benefit coverage, and training officers in the Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR) program.

Chief Ambrose advised that the OSPS has activated its automated license plate reader vehicle which was fully funded through grant funding. This vehicle scans 360 degrees and reads all license plates in the area to check for information on insurance, plate registration, and whether the vehicle has been reported stolen. The automated process means that police will no longer have to manually enter license plate details to obtain this information. City Council expressed privacy concerns with police being able to canvas and collect this type of information in bulk, despite most people likely having done nothing to warrant the collection of this information. Chief Ambrose advised that the software has been tested and approved by the Ontario Privacy Commissioner. Inspector Bishop added that this software is simply an automated version of what an officer would be able to do manually. The license plate reader collects information on anything that has been flagged by the Ministry of Transportation and checks it against a database.

Chief Ambrose identified the following as the OSPS's strategic priorities key successes:

- Mental Health;
- Addictions;
- Traffic;
- Communications;
- Sustainability;
- Community Policing; and
- Member Wellness.

Chief Ambrose provided a breakdown comparison on OSPS from 2009 to 2021 highlighting the reduction in full-time officers, senior leaders, and staff in the Criminal Investigation Branch unit. Chief Ambrose also highlighted the increase in criminal cases per officer and portion of police budget allocated to payroll since 2009.

Chief Ambrose advised that the OSPS has been working with the City to develop the 2022 OSPS capital and operating budgets, noting that the City has asked that the increase in budget for 2022 not exceed 2.5 percent.

City Council asked for more information on the partnerships that the OSPS has with mental health support organizations. Chief Ambrose advised that the mobile mental health addictions response team partners OSPS with a member of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) where a member of the CMHA is stationed at the police station for 20 hours per week and is partnered with an officer in plain clothes so there is no uniformed officer when they attend a call for service.

City Council enquired as to whether the OSPS budget is on target for 2021. Chief Ambrose advised that the OSPS is on target for 2021 and will likely end the year slightly under budget for 2021.

City Council enquired about police revenues to see if there are any other revenue streams that police can draw on. Chief Ambrose advised that fine revenue is provided to the county from the province and then distributed to local police services. In addition to fine revenues and dispatch services, the OSPS generates revenues by completing third party records checks. The OSPS does not rely on revenues generated from third party records checks because it varies from year to year and is not guaranteed.

City Council advised that the City Manager and Council had to get involved with a hotspot in the City in the past, and enquired if the City Manager is made aware when a hotspot is identified. Chief Ambrose advised that the OSPS is made aware of hotspots first and will communicate the information to the City Manager when a hotspot is not quickly resolved.

City Council enquired about the number of criminal cases per officer referenced earlier in the presentation, seeking clarification on whether this is for calls or charges. Chief Ambrose advised that the number represents criminal charges per officer per year.

Councillor Merton left the meeting at this time.

5. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

S-211122-002

Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report."

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

Councillor Merton rejoined the meeting at this time.

6. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-211122-003

Moved by Councillor Hamley

Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering public meetings, deputations and presentations, public question period, matters

arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business be confirmed by this Council."

Carried.

7. BY-LAWS

7.a By-law No. 2021-131

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 22nd day of November, 2021"

S-211122-004

Moved by Councillor Hamley

Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT By-law No. 2021-131 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk