

Special MeetingMay 31, 2010

A Special Meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole of the Municipal Council of the City of Kelowna was held in the Council Chamber, 1435 Water Street, Kelowna, B.C., on Monday, May 31, 2010.

Council members in attendance: Mayor Sharon Shepherd, Councillors Andre Blanleil, Kevin Craig*, Charlie Hodge, Graeme James, Angela Reid, Michele Rule and Luke Stack.

Council members absent: Councillor Robert Hobson.

Staff members in attendance were: Acting City Manager, Jim Paterson; City Clerk, Stephen Fleming; Planner, Luke Turri; and Council Recording Secretary, Sandi Horning.

(* denotes partial attendance)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shepherd called the special meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. WORKSHOP

2.1 Liquor Control Review

Stakeholders:

Garth Letcher, Community Policing Coordinator, Kelowna RCMP

- Gave a presentation regarding the RCMP's perspective with respect to the City of Kelowna's Liquor Control Review.
- Believes that segregating nightclubs will not manage behaviour.
- Believes that the longer you serve liquor, the more problems you will create.
- Believes that there is potential with "soft closings" and advised that the RCMP would be happy to explore soft closings in Kelowna.
- Believes that the lack of transportation options at bar closing significantly increases policing challenges related to maintaining order and public safety.
- Suggested that Council visit the Responsible Hospitality Institute's website www.RHI.org.

City Clerk:

- Provided information regarding the City's Business License Bylaw and the different business license bylaw processes.

Garth Letcher, Community Policing Coordinator, Mark Slade, Downtown Enforcement Unit, and Inspector Rick Flewelling, Kelowna RCMP

- Advised that the RCMP Members are fully supportive of "soft closings.
- Advised that unless there is infrastructure in place, RCMP manpower in place, and establishment participation and co-operation, the RCMP are not supportive of establishments that have 350 seats or more being spread out around the City.
- Liquor establishments can hire the RCMP to monitor their establishments through the "cost recovery" process.
- Credits the bar owners with stepping up to the plate and trying to make things better.
- Believes that there is confusion around "soft closings" and whether or not it does or does not work. It is the Liquor Primary industry that will or will not make "soft closings" work.
- Believe that taxi stands are a proven method in reducing congestion in front of nightclubs.

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City Clerk:

- Provided details with respect to the process around "show-cause hearings".

Dave Willoughby, President, Uptown Rutland Business Improvement Association, and Owner/Operator, Doc Willoughby's

- Distributed a handout detailing URBA's comments with respect to the Liquor Control Review.
- Feels that most of the issues with liquor establishments are associated with the downtown core and uptown Rutland does not have the same issues.
- Expressed a concern with Special Occasions Licenses.
- Believes that there should be increased liquor enforcement.
- Believes that there needs to be improvements to liquor primary networking.
- Believes that minors should be allowed in liquor primary establishments up to a certain time (i.e. 8:00 pm).
- Expressed a concern with food primary establishments operating after hours as "after hours clubs".

Councillor Craig joined the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Rose Sexsmith, Owner/Operator, Rose's Pub and Hannah's, and Andrew Neville, Manager, Rose's Pub

- Expressed a concern with the taxi stand in the area of Rose's Pub.
- Inquired why taxis are allowed to park in front of the casino, which has a liquor license.
- Have installed a personal identification system at a cost of \$6,000.00.
- Would be willing to enter into a Good Neighbour Agreement.
- Advised that Rose's Pub stops service of "jugs" of beer at 1:00 am on any day of the week and have imposed a two (2) drink maximum at all times.
- Supports the RCMP with "soft closings".
- Advised that there is a "gentleman's" agreement in place amongst some of the downtown establishments that regulates the price of liquor.
- Would be interested in forming a "stakeholders" group to address some of the liquor control concerns.

Inspector Rick Flewelling, RCMP

- Will investigate the rationale behind the Rose's Pub taxi stand.

Mark Slade, Downtown Enforcement Unit, Kelowna RCMP

- Commented on what is currently happening with the ongoing discussions between the local liquor establishments and the RCMP.

City Clerk:

- Provided details on how Council can proceed with implementations of the liquor control review.

Staff:

- Advised that there is a press conference next Wednesday regarding the different Personal Identification Systems that can be utilized by liquor establishments.
- Confirmed that the Liquor Control & Licensing Branch has the last word on "soft closings".

Mayor Shepherd invited anyone in the public gallery to come forward. No one came forward.

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3. TERMINATION

The special meeting was declared terminated at 9:51 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Mayor

City Clerk

/slh