

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

November 2, 2022

8:30 a.m.

City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Room 404, Peoria, Illinois

ROLL CALL

The Board of Fire & Police Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lynn Pearson.

Commissioner's present: William Watkins, Leonard Unes, William Spears, Lynn Pearson, Tom Burke, and Kelly Petersen

Commissioners Absent: John Williams

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Captain Earnest McCall, and Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Spears motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting October 5, 2022, as presented; seconded by Leonard Unes; all approved 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letters of Commendation** – Fire Captain Matt Smith, Fire Engineer Chet Hammond, and Firefighter Reilly Taylor
- B. Request to Promote** – Fire Captain Jeffrey Hascall to Fire Battalion Chief effective August 24, 2022, due to the retirement of Fire Battalion Chief Clint Kuhlman
- C. Request to Promote** – Fire Captain Thomas Stimeling to Fire Battalion Chief effective October 26, 2022, due to the retirement of Fire Battalion Chief Michael Hughes
- D. Completion of Probation** – Firefighter Tyvon Davis completed probation effective September 4, 2022

William Watkins motioned to receive, and file communications A-D as presented; seconded by Bill Spears; all approved 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they are going through their testing process and finishing up in the month of November with the testing in December.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that there are a few Illinois Central College women's basketball players interested in becoming a Firefighter and he feel they would be strong candidates.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they were done with the recruitment video, and they are trying to get it on their social media, which is a good starting point to getting the information out about the Fire Department and on how to become a Firefighter.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they will be having a graduation on Friday with five Firefighters consisting of one female, who is a paramedic and the Chief's niece, and one African American male that came up through the Peoria public school's system.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that since receiving the SAFER grant, they will be hiring 11 Firefighters in November, which has a breakdown of five protected class of three Hispanics and two African American males.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that the 11 will start the following Monday after the last class graduates, which has never been done before.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that even though the numbers are low, they like the diversity and the direction they are going.

Police Captain Earnest McCall stated that they are still working on their recruitment video.

Police Captain McCall stated that they just found out that the Police Academy is lowering their standards for the POWER test.

Police Captain McCall stated that the POWER test works on what is called a Cooper Standard, where you meet a certain standard for each component of the test, which they are lowering from the 40% percentile to 20%.

Police Captain McCall stated we had a few candidates that missed some steps with the old testing, but with the new testing, they would have pass, so they allowed those candidates to continue in the hiring process.

Police Captain McCall stated that their numbers were continuing to go down due to retirements and now they are at 196 with an authorization of 220.

Police Captain McCall stated that they are still working on the Women in Law Enforcement Career Fair to try and increase the number of female Officers.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they secured some capital funds to expand the women's locker room plus they want to renovate Station 17 with updated technology and a workout room.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they are not only training our new Firefighters, but others from different agencies and housing them during the training.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they will have three Fire Apprentices starting in May 2023 that are City of Peoria resident and a high school graduate with the target ages of 17 to 21.

Police Captain McCall stated that they are working on recruitment billboards being put up in the metro areas like Chicago and St. Louis due to Officers leaving from those areas and we hope they will want to come to Peoria.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Kelly Peterson moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Pearson stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the minutes from the October 5, 2022, meeting and they are not to be released per Attorney Perkins.

Kelly Peterson moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 5, 2022, that are not to be released, seconded by William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Police recruit polygraphs and Police Recruit candidates P22-034 and P22-039 will have their offers of employment withdrawn due to admissions made on the examination.

Kelly Peterson moved to have the Police Recruit candidates P22-034 and P22-039 offers of employment withdrawn due to admissions made on the polygraph examinations; seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 6-0.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Police Recruit polygraphs, and P22-028, P22-029, P22-030, P22-031, P22-032, P22-033, P22-035, P22-036, P22-037, P22-038, P22-040, P22-041, P22-042, P22-043, P22-044 and P22-045 will continue in the process.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Tom Burke moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Kelly Peterson; all approved 6-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Lynn Pearson, Chairperson

William Spears, Member

Thomas Burke, Vice Chairperson

William Watkins, Member

Kelly Peterson, Member

Leonard Unes, Member