BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
August 4, 2021

8:30 a.m. – Peoria, Illinois

MEETING WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY - ZOOM

ROLL CALL

The Board of Fire & Police Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Lynn Pearson.
Commissioners present: Lynn Pearson, Tom Burke, William Spears, John Williams, and Crystal Gothard
Commissioners Absent: Leonard Unes and William Watkins
Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Chief Eric Echevarria, Assistant Police Chief Douglas Theobald, Police Captain Michael Clark, and Fire Chief James Bachman

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Lynn Pearson asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Debra Bush explained the duties of Secretary since there are new members on the Commission.

Tom Burke nominated Leonard Unes for Secretary and seconded by Crystal Gothard; all approved 5-0.

Lynn Pearson asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson.

Crystal Gothard nominated Tom Burke for Vice Chairperson and seconded by John Williams; all approved 5-0.

Tom Burke asked for nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Tom Burke nominated Lynn Pearson for Chairperson and seconded by Crystal Gothard; all approved 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Spears motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting June 7, 2021 as presented; seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. **Recognition Day Letters** – Police Officers Jacob Beck, Roberto Vasquez, Jared Moore, and Clint Rezac

B. **Letter of Commendation** – Police Sergeant Shannon Walden

C. **Request to Promote** – Request to promote Firefighter Chet Hammond to Fire Engineer effective July 31, 2021

Tom Burke motioned to receive, and file communication A, B, and C as presented; seconded by Crystal Gothard; all approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Lynn Pearson stated that the Night Out against Crime was amazing, and she thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and City of Peoria staff for coming out and participating.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they are coming to the end of their Firefighter Recruit class of 16 and they are doing really well.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they are scheduled to graduate on August 27, 2021, but they are still looking for a venue to hold the ceremony.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they are still talking with the venue regarding holding the CPAT examination for the next testing cycle.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that there are nine candidates left on the hiring list from the previous process, but they don't have a testing date at this time, but just want to get things in place to be ready when that time comes around.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that when the Recruits come out of the class, they would be close to being even again.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they expect three or more retirements within the next few months.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that the two Firefighters that were injured in the house fire last weekend were doing well. One does have an infection that is being monitored by the doctors, but they are both at home.

Assistant Chief Theobald stated that they will be having three Police Recruits graduating from the Police Academy next week to begin their field training.

Assistant Chief Theobald stated that 10 Police Recruits that graduated in January are doing well and ready to go out on their own in October.

Assistant Chief Theobald stated that the Police Recruit Orientation will be held tonight at 4:00 p.m. at the Peoria Police Department. This testing process is for the 10 spots that they have at the Police Academy in January.

Assistant Chief Theobald stated that they have five spots in September at the Police Academy and their psychological examinations will be reviewed today by the Commission and then they would need to pass their medical examinations.

Assistant Chief Theobald stated that there is one candidate that has prior service, so he may be starting before the other candidates to get him in the training process.

Assistant Chief Theobald stated that they are at 197, but they will be losing two more Police Officers next month. One is going to Florida and the other one to Arizona Police Departments.

Police Chief Eric Echevarria introduced himself to the Commission. He said he has been impressed with what he has seen from the Police Officers.

Each of the Commission members introduced themselves to Police Chief Echevarria and welcomed him to the City and to the Police Department.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom Burke moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by Crystal Gothard; all approved 5-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Pearson stated that the Executive Session Minutes of July 7, 2021 were not available and will be put on the August agenda.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session they reviewed the Police Recruit psychological examinations and they will continue in the process.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session they reviewed the Fire Battalion Chief Eligibility List and it will be approved as presented.

William Spears moved to approve the Fire Battalion Chief Eligibility List as presented, seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 5-0.

Debra Bush asked the Commission and City staff to destroy the information that was sent for the meeting or they could get it back to her and she would take care of getting it shredded.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Tom Burke moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by John Williams; all approved 5-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

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Lynn Pearson, Vice Chairperson

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John Williams, Member

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Thomas Burke, Secretary

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Crystal Gothard, Member

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William Spears, Member