

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

February 3, 2021

8:30 a.m. – Peoria, Illinois

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners present: Lynn Pearson, Leonard Unes, William Watkins, Tom Burke, and William Spears

Commissioners Absent: Janda Carter and Tom Jackson

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Captain Scott Cook, Interim Police Chief Douglas Theobald, and Fire Chief Anthony Ardis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Watkins motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting of January 6, 2020 as presented; seconded by Leonard Unes; all approved 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Police Captain Scott Cook stated that the Police Department is in the process of the Sergeant and Lieutenant promotional testing process.

Captain Cook stated that this week the orientation sessions were being held and then next week the Assessment Centers will begin.

Captain Cook stated that there are 26 candidates participating in the Sergeant process and 13 candidates participating in the Lieutenant process.

Captain Cook stated that the written tests will follow in March for both groups.

Captain Cook stated that they have eight Police Recruits that just graduated from the Police Academy. There was one Police Recruit that had prior service as an Officer that was also hired, plus one Police Recruit returned from Military duty.

Captain Cook stated that all those Police Recruits will now start their field training.

Captain Cook stated that they have 10 Police Recruits currently in the Police Training Institute in Champaign, Illinois. That group had to be sent home because someone in the Academy had tested positive for COVID, but they are scheduled to return to PTI the next week.

Interim Police Chief Douglas Theobald stated that they have one Sergeant retiring next week: another one in April and one Officer relocating to another department in Alabama.

Chief Theobald stated that we are losing more in the Sergeant rank in March and April and will be ready to hire off the new list as soon as it is in effect.

Chief Theobald stated that they may be losing more than they can gain in the next six months, which is going to be a challenge for the Police Department.

Chief Theobald stated that they have five slots in May and five slots in September for the Police Academy. They are trying to get more spots, but the Academy is pretty full.

Chief Theobald stated that it could be one year to two years before they will be where they need to be as far as Police Officers.

Fire Chief Anthony Ardis stated that they are nine down and have lost two more minority Firefighters since the last meeting. One was due to retirement and the other was a resignation, which brings the resignations to 10 over the last 1½ years.

Chief Ardis stated they have not been given permission to do any hiring at this time.

Chief Ardis stated that they are working on the Fire Battalion Chief promotion process by getting the Request for Proposal out for bid. The current list will expire in July 2021.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session, they reviewed executive session regular meeting minutes of January 6, 2021 and they are okay to be released per Attorney Masum Patel.

William Spears motioned to release the executive session minutes of January 6, 2021, per Attorney Patel; seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 5-0.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session they reviewed the Police and Fire Presentations for Council and agreed to approve them.

Tom Burke motioned to approve the presentations to be presented to the City Council on behalf of the Fire and Police Commission; seconded by William Spears; all approved 5-0.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Lynn Pearson, Vice Chairperson

William Spears, Member

Thomas Burke, Secretary

Leonard Unes, Member

William Watkins, Member