

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

January 6, 2021

Meeting Minutes

8:30 a.m. – Peoria, Illinois

This meeting was held electronically, and Roll Call was taken by Debra Bush. We are having this Zoom meeting because of Governor Pritzker's Executive Order which allows municipalities and other forms of Government to hold Zoom meetings to prevent the spread COVID-19.

ROLL CALL

The Board of Fire & Police Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Janda' Carter. Commissioners present: Janda Carter, Lynn Pearson, Leonard Unes, William Watkins, Tom Burke, and Tom Jackson

Commissioners Absent: William Spears

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Chief Loren Marion, Assistant Police Chief Douglas Theobald, Fire Chief Anthony Ardis and Attorney Masum Patel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Thomas Burke motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting of December 2, 2020 as presented; seconded by Lynn Pearson; Roll Call was taken by Debra Bush; all approved 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. **Recognition Day Letters** – Police Officers Matheson Wood, Tyler Hodges, and Nicholas Russell
- B. **Request to Promote** – Police Officers David Buss and Denise White will be promoted to the Rank of Sergeant, effective Sunday, January 3, 2021 due to the retirements of Sergeants Ronald Hartzell and Heath Armentrout

Thomas Burke motioned to receive and file the Communications of A and B as presented; seconded by Lynn Pearson; Roll Call was taken by Debra Bush; all approved 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Police Chief Loren Marion stated that on January 13, 2021, they will be hiring Dylan Lowder who was a St. Louis Police Officer and on January 14, 2021, there will be 10 candidates going to the Police Academy on January 24, 2021.

Police Chief Marion stated that they will be sworn in at City Hall on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on the 18th.

Police Chief Marion stated that they will have nine Police Recruits graduating the Police Academy on January 15, 2021 and will be starting the FTO program.

Police Chief Marion stated that currently their numbers sit at 206 and when they add the 11 that will be hired, the new number will be 217.

Police Chief Marion stated that his last day of employment as the Police Chief will be January 22, 2021, which will put the number back to 216 with the authorized strength being 222.

Police Chief Marion stated that they have five slots for the Police Academy in May, and they are on track to get the applicants from this current pool and will have to retest prior to the summer for the five slots in September.

Lynn Pearson stated that the Police Chief would be missed, and they appreciated his service to the City.

Police Chief Marion stated that usually his Administrative Captain and Assistant Police Chief attend the Commission meetings, but that since this was his last one, he wanted to attend and thank the Commission and for what they do as well.

Police Chief Marion stated that Assistant Chief Douglas Theobald would be the Interim Police Chief when he leaves and that the Human Resources Department would be conducting a nationwide search for a replacement.

Assistant Police Chief Theobald stated that he will be attending the Fire and Police Commission meetings.

Janda Carter thanked the Police Chief for his service and for the support he had given the Board and wished him the best in his retirement.

Fire Chief Anthony Ardis said Happy New Year to everyone!

Fire Chief Ardis stated that they are currently down seven positions and as of January 18th they will be eight down due a Captain retiring on the 19th.

Fire Chief Ardis stated that the City Manager still wants to hold off on hiring because there is a possibility that another machine will be shut down in March.

Fire Chief Ardis stated that they are rumors that four Firefighters will be leaving which is due in part to their jobs being in jeopardy every year and they are tired of being in this situation.

Fire Chief Ardis stated that if this happens, then that would mean that there would have been 10 people resign within the last year and a half.

Fire Chief Ardis stated that during his first 20 years there had been only one resignation.

Tom Burke asked if there had been any movement on the Peoria Heights decision.

Fire Chief Ardis stated that they will have a referendum on the April ballot, which is non-binding, and see what happens from there and move forward accordingly.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Leonard Unes moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by William Watkins; Roll Call was taken by Debra Bush; all approved 6-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Janda Carter stated that while in executive session, they reviewed executive session regular meeting minutes of December 2, 2020 and they were okay to be released per Attorney Masum Patel.

Tom Jackson motioned to release the executive session minutes of December 2, 2020, per Attorney Patel; seconded by William Watkins; Roll Call was taken; all approved 6-0.

Janda Carter stated that in Executive Session, the psychological examinations for Police Recruit candidates P20-013, P20-014, P20-015, P20-016, P20-017, P20-018 and P20-019 were reviewed.

Tom Jackson motioned to approve psychological examinations for Police Recruit candidates P20-013, P20-014, P20-015, P20-016, P20-017, P20-018 and P20-019 as presented; seconded by Lynn Pearson; Roll Call was taken, and Leonard Unes did not approve candidate P20-018; approved 5-1.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Lynn Pearson moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Lynn Pearson, Vice Chairperson

Janda Carter, Chairperson

Thomas Burke, Secretary

Leonard Unes, Member

William Watkins, Member

Thomas Jackson Jr., Member