

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

July 7, 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, William Spears, John Williams, and Crystal Gothard

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Interim Police Chief Douglas Theobald, Police Captain Michael Clark, and Fire Chief James Bachman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Watkins motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting June 2, 2021 as presented; seconded by Leonard Unes; all approved 7-0.

Lynn Pearson asked the new members to introduce themselves to the Commission.

John Williams stated that he was a retired Firefighter from the City of Peoria where he fought fires for 15 years and did investigations for 11 years and was happy to be on the Commission.

Crystal Gothard stated that she had been an Attorney with Caterpillar for 10 years in various cities and she was thankful to be on the Commission.

Ms. Gothard stated that she found out yesterday that they were moving her to Dallas, but didn't know when that would happen, but she was willing to stay on the Commission until then.

Lynn Pearson then asked the Commission and City staff to introduce themselves to the new Commission members.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. **Letter of Commendation** – Police Officer Jacob Willis

B. **Recognition Day Letters** – Police Officers Christopher Faulkner, Nate Adams, and Jake Jepson

C. **Promotion** – Request to permanently promote Police Officers William England, Amy Dotson, and Nathan Adams to the rank of Sergeant and Police Sergeant Bryan Sylvester to the rank of Lieutenant effective Sunday, July 11, 2021, due to the retirements of Sergeants Donna Nicholson, Tony Allen, and Jacob Faw and the retirement of Lieutenant David Cook

D. **Promotion** – Request to promote Firefighter Chad Fiers to Fire Engineer, Fire Captain Stephany Baxter to Fire Battalion Chief and Fire Engineer Ian Domenighini to Fire Captain effective May 13, 2021

E. **Promotion** – Request to promote Firefighter Ryan Harris to Fire Engineer, Fire Engineer Matthew Smith to Fire Captain and Fire Captain Scott Strum to Fire Battalion Chief effective May 15, 2021

Tom Burke motioned to receive, and file communication A, B, C, D, and E as presented; seconded by William Spears; all approved 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Timeline and Recruiting Efforts**

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they currently have 16 Firefighter recruits about halfway through the Academy and they are doing well.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that the Fire Battalion Chief Assessment Center was held yesterday, and the written examination will be later this month in order to get an Eligibility List completed.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that the Fire Department had attended the Juneteenth celebration where they had a table set up by a Firefighter.

Interim Police Chief Theobald stated that there has been lots of retirements, which is why there are so many promotions.

Interim Police Chief Theobald stated that they are down to 201, which is 20 down from where they should be.

Interim Police Chief Theobald stated that they are looking to have five spots for the September Police Academy and that Captain Michael Clark has gotten 30 slots reserved for next year.

Interim Police Chief Theobald stated that the projection would be that in 2023, the department would be caught up on hiring.

Interim Police Chief Theobald stated that the hiring will continue to be challenging for next year, but the hiring will continue to be frequently until we get to the correct number of Officers.

Police Captain Clark stated 15 candidates were offered Police Recruit positions and now they are down to nine; four failed the pre-POWER test and two withdrew from the process.

Leonard Unes stated his appreciation for Interim Police Chief Theobald's service in the last three months as Chief and that he has done a great job.

Interim Police Chief Theobald stated that the new Police Chief will be sworn in on July 30th with his first day being August 2, 2021.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

William Spears moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by William Watkins; all approved 7-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session they reviewed the Executive Session minutes of regular meetings May 5, 2021 and June 2, 2021 and they will be marked as "Not to be Released" per the Senior Attorney.

William Watkins motioned to approve the executive session minutes of May 5, 2021 and June 2, 2021 and they are not to be released per the Senior Attorney; seconded by William Spears; all approved 7-0.

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

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, William Watkins moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 7-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Lynn Pearson, Vice Chairperson

William Watkins, Member

Thomas Burke, Secretary

Leonard Unes, Member

William Spears, Member

Crystal Gothard, Member

John Williams, Member