

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

March 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

Leonard Unes motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting of February 3, 2021 as presented; seconded by William Watkins; all approved 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Promotion** – Request to permanently promote Police Officer Dustin Barnett to the rank of Police Sergeant, effective Sunday, February 21, 2021 due to the retirement of Sergeant Chad Batterham

Tom Burke motioned to receive and file communication “A” as presented; seconded by William Spears; all approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Interim Police Chief Douglas Theobald stated that they will be conducting the Police Recruit testing April 15, 16 and 17, 2021.

Chief Theobald stated that the strength is 222 and they are down to 212 and he anticipates two retirements in February, another two in March and possibly two in April.

Chief Theobald stated that they are working on a new promotional list for Police Lieutenant and Police Sergeant which expires April 30, 2021.

Chief Theobald stated that they have exhausted the current Sergeant promotional list, so those that placed high on the new list will be promoted quickly. There may be a chance that they may have to temporarily promote Sergeants off the new list until it is effective.

Chief Theobald stated that they have 10 Police Recruits in the Police Academy and 10 in the FTO program.

Chief Theobald stated that it will be a tough time for the Police Department especially since they are losing so many people.

Chief Theobald stated that they anticipate hiring five Police Recruits in May.

Fire Chief Anthony Ardis stated that he had another minority Firefighter resign on February 28, 2021.

Chief Ardis stated that they are 10 down and he hopes that the City Manager will give him permission to hire if they don't close an engine down.

Chief Ardis stated that the RFP was sent out for the Fire Battalion Chief promotional process and they received two; one from Resource Management Associates and the other from First Idea from Texas.

Chief Ardis stated that they are awarding the contract with Resource Management Associates because of price and familiarity. The recommendation will be going to City Council on March 23, 2021 for their approval.

Police Captain Scott Cook stated that they are attempting to get additional slots in the September Police Academy.

Leonard Unes asked if the contract with Peoria Heights Fire Department was still on the table.

Chief Ardis stated there would be a referendum on the ballot in April asking the citizens if they want a contract with the City of Peoria.

Chief Ardis stated that Part B of the contract would give the new Chief a few months to get people interested in being a Firefighter. He is hoping that by June, everything will be decided.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

William Watkins moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by Tom Burke; 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 February 3, 2021 and they are okay to be released per Attorney Masum Patel.

William Spears motioned to release the executive session minutes of February 3, 2021, per Attorney Patel; seconded by Leonard Unes; all approved 5-0.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session they reviewed the Recommendation to Hire Police Recruits and agreed to approve the recommendation.

Leonard Unes motioned to approve the Recommendation to Hire Police Recruits as presented; seconded by William Spears; all approved 5-0.

Lynn Pearson congratulated Debra Bush on the publication of her article in the IPMA-HR magazine.

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