

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
March 1, 2023
8:30 a.m.
City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Room 404, Peoria, Illinois

ROLL CALL

The Board of Fire & Police Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Tom Burke
Commissioner's present: Leonard Unes, William Watkins, Kelly Petersen, John Williams, and Tom Burke
Commissioners Absent: Lynn Pearson and William Spears
Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Captain Earnest McCall, Attorney Masum Patel, Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger and Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Watkins motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting February 1, 2023, as presented; seconded by John Williams; all approved 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of Commendation** – Police Officer Charles Bruess
- B. Recognition Day Letters** – Police Officers Robert Allen, Jacob Bainter, Moriah Blain, Clay Blum, Charles Bruess, Sean Clarke, Kyle Cruz, Nehemiah Doyle, Travis Ellefritz, Joshua Feeney, Brian Grice, James Hodges, Jonathan Irving, Ryan Isonhart, Brandon Kientzle, Marquis Lobdell, Philip Mahan, Nicholas Mason, Rachel McAfee, Justin Mitchell, Brian Moore, Patrick Nesterowicz, Veronica Orozco, Matthew Prest, Devonte Tincher, Matthew Trimble, Matheson Wood, Jia Zheng and David Buhl. Police Sergeants David Buss, William Calbow, Logan Grayson, Seth Landwehr, Steven Melton, Matthew Mocilan, Justin Sinks and Ryan Winkle
- C. Request to Promote** – Promote Police Sergeant Eric Esser to the rank of Police Lieutenant effective Sunday, February 5, 2023, due to the retirement of Shawn Wetzel

John Williams motioned to receive, and file communications A - C as presented; seconded by William Watkins; all approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger stated that the Firefighter Recruit class will begin on April 10, 2023.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that the Peoria Public Schools Intern started last week and there will be two more starting between March and April for a two-year program.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that March 31 will be the cutoff for the Apprenticeship Program and the interviews will start in April with the hiring date of May 2, 2023.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that the program will pay \$15 an hour and they will work up to 32 hours per week plus they will have to take up to 12 hours of college coursework for each of the three-year time frame.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they will be upgrading pictures to be used for the billboards in April.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they have the app Interview Now up and running, which will be interactive to receive calls from prospective applicants, call them back right away, and stay in touch with them through the entire testing process.

Police Captain Earnest McCall stated that March was Women History Month, and they will be holding a Women in Recruit Fair on March 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Police Station in hour of the month.

Police Captain McCall stated that they will post the Police Cadet position before the end of the school year, due to having two current Police Cadets in the hiring process.

Police Captain McCall stated that they have five Police Recruits in PTI Class, and the graduation is in April.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they are in the process of getting interest in having a physical fitness team.

Fire Chief Sollberger introduced Tony Cummings, the new Assistant Fire Chief to the Commission and also mentioned that Lori Baxter was the new Division Chief.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Leonard Unes moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by Kelly Petersen; all approved 5-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the minutes from the February 1, 2023, meeting and they not to be released per Attorney Perkins.

Kelly Petersen moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 1, 2023, that are not to be released per Attorney Perkins, seconded by John Williams; all approved 5-0.

Tom Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Firefighter Recommendation to Hire Candidates list.

William Watkins moved to approve the Firefighter Recommendation to Hire List as presented; seconded by Leonard Unes; all approved 5-0.

Tom Burke stated while in Executive Session they reviewed the Firefighter polygraph examinations, and all candidates will continue in the process.

Tom Burke stated while in Executive Session they reviewed the Police Recruit polygraph examinations, and all candidates will continue in the process.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Tom Burke, Vice Chairperson

Leonard Unes, Member

John Williams Jr., Secretary

William Watkins, Member

Kelly Petersen, Member