

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
July 14, 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 Chairperson Thomas Burke
Commissioner's present: Thomas Burke, William Watkins, William Spears, John Williams, Lynn Pearson, and Kelly Petersen

Commissioners Absent: Leonard Unes

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Captain Earnest McCall, Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger, Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings, and Police Sergeant Amy Dotson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kelly Petersen motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting June 7, 2023, as presented; seconded by William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Recognition Day Letter** – Police Officer Marques Smith
- B. Request to Promote** – Promote Fire Captain Ian Domenighini to Fire Training Supervisor effective May 6, 2023
- C. Request to Promote** – Promote Fire Engineer Brian Clark to Fire Captain effective May 10, 2023
- D. Request to Promote** – Promote Firefighter Zachery Knaus to Fire Engineer effective May 10, 2023
- E. Request to Promote** – Promote Firefighter Harold Smith to Fire Engineer effective June 11, 2023
- F. Request to Promote** – Promote Fire Engineer Jason Whalen to Fire Captain effective June 11, 2023

Kelly Petersen motioned to receive, and file communications A - F as presented; seconded by John Williams; all approved 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings stated that they have started their Firefighter testing process and they are using the National Testing Network (NTN) for the written examination, and it is open now for candidates to apply.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that he has sent their flier to Illinois Central College, Western Illinois University and John Wood due to them being heavily involved in Fire Science.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated they have a couple of recruiting events at Manual High School in September and the Library in a few weeks.

Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger stated that they are one month in with the Apprenticeship program and the three Apprentices selected are doing a great job.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they are a diverse group with one Hispanic, one African American and one Caucasian.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated they have great energy, very focused and one may be taking the Firefighter exam in the Fall.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they would be hiring five Firefighter candidates in August.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that the Apprentices will be starting the Training Academy next, and they will be starting with Module A.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they were working on the female Firefighter video with the help of Division Chief Baxter.

Sergeant Amy Dotson stated that out of the 35 Police Recruit candidates interviewed; 24 conditional offers of employment were given, and 21 candidates passed the POWER test. Those candidates will now begin the polygraph, psychological and medical examinations along with a background investigation.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they attended three Career Fairs in June, which were Speak Out Illinois Job Fair and Law Enforcement Hiring Expo in Columbus, Ohio.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they partnered with Hy-Vee for recruitment and Officer Christopher Collins called the event Donuts for Dollars where they handed out applications, information, and donuts as recruitment.

Sergeant Dotson stated they attended the following Community Engagements:

- Pack the Cruiser – Kroger's on Lindbergh
- Glen Oak School – End of School Bash
- Peace, Love and Cheer Day – Coach Bre Cottage Cheerleading
- God is Like a Rescuer – Northwest United Methodist Church
- Summer Safe Zone – Richwoods High School
- Juneteenth Celebration – Carver Center

Sergeant Dotson stated that recruiting close to our area and at community events, that was where there is a good selection of applicants, which are right in our backyard.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they attended some networking events such as Dr. Ali's 2023 Strategic Planning event and working with Discover Peoria on an upcoming video project.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they currently have three Interns; one each from Bradley University, Millikin University and University of Iowa and they plan to test with the City in the fall.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they did two sessions of Situational Awareness Training in City Hall to help employees be more aware of their surroundings and for personal safety.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they conducted a department tour of four groups of the Mayor's Youth Program employees.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they visited the Police Training Institute (PTI) on pepper spray day to see the 10 Police Recruits and Sergeant Scott Goforth gave them a pep talk on what not to do when getting sprayed. They all did very well with the pepper spray training.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they are still doing the Physical Fitness Team training three times a week; Tuesday and Thursday nights and on Saturday mornings.

Sergeant Dotson stated that they use the Peoria Police Department gym, Rock Island Trail, and Yoga in the Park to help with the training.

Commissioner Kelly Petersen stated that he would like to see the Commissioners get business cards because he has run into people at various events, and he would like to be able to hand them a card with contact information regarding recruitment.

Police Captain Earnest McCall stated that the Police Department will be holding a Car Show and more details will be coming soon.

Police Captain McCall stated that the Recruitment Team is going to host an Open House at the Police Department and bring out cars, gear, food, etc. for prospective Police Recruit candidates.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Lynn Pearson moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the minutes from the Regular Meeting June 7, 2023, and they are not to be released per Attorney Perkins.

Kelly Petersen moved to approve the Executive Session minutes from the Regular Meeting June 7, 2023, and they are not to be released; seconded by William Spears; all approved 6-0.

Commission Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Firefighter psychological examinations and Firefighter candidate F23-019 will have their offer of employment withdrawn due to being found unqualified by the psychologist. Firefighter candidates F23-012, F23-014, F23-015, F23-016, F23-018, F23-021, F23-022 and F23-023 will continue in the process.

John Williams moved to withdraw the offer of employment from Firefighter candidate F23-019 due to being found unqualified by the psychologist, seconded by Lynn Pearson; all approved 6-0.

Commission Chair Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Police Recruit Recommendation for Hire, and it will be approved as presented.

William Watkins moved to approve the Police Recruit Recommendation to Hire as presented, seconded by John Williams; all approved 6-0.

Commission Chair Burke stated while in Executive Session they reviewed the Police Recruit polygraph examinations and P23-018 will have their offer of employment withdrawn due to admissions made on the polygraph examinations. Police Recruit candidates P23-015, P23-016, P23-017, P23-019, P23-020, P23-021, P23-022, P23-023, P23-024, P23-025, and P23-026 will continue in the process.

Lynn Pearson moved to withdraw the offer of employment from Police Recruit candidate P23-018 due to admission made on the polygraph examination, seconded by William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

Kelly Petersen stated that he would like to see about getting business cards for the Commissioners.

Commission Chair Burke stated that the subject of business cards will be put on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Thomas Burke, Chairperson

William Spears, Vice Chairperson

John Williams Jr., Secretary

William Watkins, Member

Lynn Pearson, Member

Kelly Petersen, Member