

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
October 4, 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, Leonard Unes, and Kelly Petersen
Commissioners Absent: None
Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger, Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings, Police Captain Earnest McCall, and Attorney Masum Perkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Burke, Chairman asked for the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2023.

Kelly Petersen motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting September 6, 2023; seconded by John Williams; all approved 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Burke stated there were no communications.

OLD BUSINESS

B. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Police Captain Earnest McCall stated that they have an authorized strength of 222 and they are at 213 right now. HE stated that the Chief had asked the City Manager if they could over hire due to the upcoming retirements, and he did give the authorization.

Police Captain McCall stated that they have 30 new Officers in the PTO program and at the Police Training Academy, which is a lot of training happening right now.

Police Captain McCall went over the September 2023 Recruitment Team information as shown below:

Career Fairs:

- Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Internship and Recruiting Fair
- Western Illinois University Criminal Justice Job Fair
- Indiana State University Career Fair
- Peoria High School Job Fair
- Harris-Stowe State University Job Fair

Community Engagement

- Interview and Tour for local 3rd grader - Matthew
- Big Picture 2023 Street Festival
- Pride in the Park – Columbia Park
- Tour with local 9-year-old
- Car Show at Peoria Police Department
- Career Spark at Peoria Civic Center (approximately 3900 8th graders over 2 days)

Networking

- Upcoming video project
- Bradley University Men's Basketball Team – Speaking Engagement

Mentoring & Peer Support

- Intern Kayla Costic – Illinois State University
- Intern Logan Delgado – Bradley University
- Intern Gunner Merrit – US Army SkillBridge Program

Applicant Engagement

- Physical Fitness Team – 3x/week utilizing PPD gym, Rock Island Train, Yoga in the Park
- Orientation to New Applicants
- Written and POWER tests

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they went to Western Illinois Career Fair and to Peoria High School.

Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger stated that he met with the women's basketball Coach Redeker, and she brought all the sports teams into an assembly with the Fire Department and about 12 to 15 other companies to discuss various careers where they rotated to each table to talk to the representatives. They plan to do this again in the Spring.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they completed their female Firefighter video and thanked Division Chief Stephany Baxter for her help with this project.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they used the same videographer as the Police Department, and they plan to expand the next video showing the entire Fire Department with plans to join forces with the Police Department.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated they have three Interns working at the Fire Department with the breakdown of one Hispanic male, one Black male and one White male, and they are doing excellent work and they also passed Module A and will begin working on Module B and taking the EMT Basic Course next spring.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that they are having their CPAT orientations, practices, etc., at Northwoods Mall. The agreement with Expo Gardens didn't work out, so they had to find another location.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that this location was much better due to them being able to leave the equipment set up until the CPAT testing is completed.

B. Fire and Police Commission Rules Discussion

Debra Bush passed out the updates to the Fire and Police Commission Rules regarding how the interviews will be conducted.

Attorney Masum Perkins stated that she put that there would be up to two members from the respective departments participating in the interviews with the Fire and Police Commission panel members and that the department interviews will be deleted from the process.

Debra Bush stated that she would make the updates to the Rules and make sure each Commissioner gets an updated copy.

William Watkins moved to approve the updates to the Fire and Police Commission Rules regarding combining the Commission and department interviews instead of two separate interviews; seconded by John Williams; all approved 7-0.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Leonard Unes 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

Commission Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the minutes from the Regular Meeting October 4, 2023, and they are not to be released per Attorney Perkins.

John Williams moved to approve the Executive Session minutes from the Regular Meeting October 4, 2023, and they are not to be released per the Attorney Masum Perkins; seconded by Kelly Petersen; all approved 7-0.

Commission Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Firefighter polygraph examinations and candidates F23-024, F23-025 and F23-026 will continue in the process.

Commission Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Hiring Statistics for the Police and Fire Departments and asked for a motion to receive and file the reports.

Lynn Pearson motioned to receive and file the hiring statistical reports from the Fire and Police Departments as presented; seconded by Leonard Unes; all approved 7-0.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

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

Leonard Unes, Member