

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
March 6, 2024
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, Mikeisha Armstrong, and Leonard Unes

Commissioners Absent: Kelly Petersen

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings, Police Captain Earnest McCall, Police Sergeant Ryan Winkle, Police Officer Christopher Collins, and Kimberly Richardson, Assistant City Manager/Interim Human Resources Director

Commission Chairman Tom Burke called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Burke, Chairman asked for the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2024, and Special meeting of February 19, 2024.

Secretary John Williams motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting February 7, 2024, and Special meeting February 19, 2024; seconded by Vice Chairperson William Spears; all approved 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Burke read the communication and asked for the approval of the communication A.

A. Recognition Day Letter – Police Officer Joseph Smiles

Commissioner Mikeisha Armstrong motioned to receive and file the communication A as presented; seconded by Commissioner Spears; all approved 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Police Sergeant Ryan Winkle passed out the Recruitment Team Information Sheet for February 2024 to the Commission.

Sergeant Winkle stated that there were 12 applicants currently going through the hiring process for this test cycle; 16 applicants had successfully applied for the new test cycle; there are currently eight in the Academy and 23 currently in the field training program.

Sergeant Winkle also discussed the following:

Career Fairs Attended in February:

- Jackson State University in Mississippi – This was a big event.
- Bradley University
- Iowa State University
- Southern University – Carbondale
- Northern Illinois University
- Speak Out Job Fair

Community Engagement:

- Rogers Elementary School in North Pekin
- Birthday Buddies at Pleasant Valley Elementary
- Ron Hanna US Attorney's Office Tour
- Mark W. Bills Middle School Tour

Networking:

- Lost Art Design – Awarded a \$25,000 grant for Swag items.

Officer Collins stated that they will be upgrading their swag items to distribute to VIP guests, kids and use for gifts at job fairs.

Mentoring & Peer Support:

- Intern Cameron Dillefeld – Western Illinois University – He is currently in the testing process for September.
- Intern Patrick Ziegler – Bradley University

Applicant Engagement:

- Physical Fitness Team – 3 times a week utilizing the Peoria Police Department gym and Riverplex personal training facilities.

Police Captain Earnest McCall stated that they are authorized to have 222 and they are at 216 right now but hope to be at 245 at year's end.

Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings stated that he went to Jackson State University also and other personnel went to Bradley University and Dunlap High School.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that as far as community engagement, they work with the Explorer's program.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they plan to hire three more Fire Apprentices due to two of our previous Apprentices being hired by the department.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that the candidates would go through Module A and B first; then Module C and Hazmat with the end being the State qualifications.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they were waiting on the authorization to offer and EMT class to those applicants that are on in the Eligibility Pool at no cost to them.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that not being able to pay for the EMT class seems to be a hurdle for most candidates.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they are still networking and looking to have an Intern from Western Illinois University for the summer.

Debra Bush stated that the recruitment trip to Jackson State University worked out very well. The students and staff loved the recruitment car and some of the students went to their Director of the Criminal Justice Department to speak about our department and how they enjoyed talking with us.

Officer Collins stated that he asked for him to come sometime and speak with his class about the City of Peoria.

Officer Collins stated that after the event, they went on campus and parked the car and interacted with many students.

Debra Bush stated that we did learn that a lot of students were from up north and many were familiar with Peoria.

Officer Collins stated that they have had the Recruitment Team fulltime since April 2023 and now the City of Decatur and the City of Pekin are very interested and want to come and shadow them.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they have a recruitment class of seven for the City of Peoria going on with 12 from other agencies.

B. SR22 insurance discussion

Chairperson Burke stated that the SR22 insurance discussion will be tabled until the next meeting in April, due to Commissioner Kelly Peterson not being present, since he was the one that wanted to have this put on the Agenda.

Kimberly Richardson, Assistant City Manager stated that she was named the Interim Human Resources Director and Ed Hopkins, Senior Human Resources Specialist, was named the Assistant Human Resources Director with the intent on becoming the Director at some point in time.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session the minutes from Regular Meeting February 7, 2024, and Special Meeting February 19, 2024, were not available and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Recommendation to hire Lateral Police Recruits and asked for a motion to approve.

Vice Chairperson Spears moved to approve the Lateral Police Officers PL24-001 and PL24-002 to be hired; all approved 6-0.

Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Police Recruit psychological examinations and Police Recruit candidates P24-001, P24-003, P24-004, P24-006, P24-007, P24-009, P24-010, P24-012, P24-015, and P24-017 will continue in the process.

Chairperson Burke stated that Police Recruit candidates P24-005, P24-008, P24-016, P24-018 and P24-020 will have their offers of employment withdrawn due to being found unqualified on their psychological examinations.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the withdrawals of employment from Police Recruit candidates P24-005, P24-008, P24-016, P24-018 and P24-020 due to being found unqualified on their psychological examinations; seconded by Vice Chairperson Spears; all approved 6-0.

Chairperson Burke stated that Police Recruit candidate P24-011 will continue in the process.

Vice Chairperson Spears moved that Police Recruit candidate P24-011 would continue in the process; seconded by Commissioner Williams; There was one no vote and 5 approved.

Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the psychological examinations for Police Recruit Lateral candidates PPL24-001 and PL24-002 and they will continue in the process.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Commissioner Watkins moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Unes; 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

Leonard Unes, Member

Mikeisha Armstrong, Member