

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
September 4, 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 Spears, Mickeisha Armstrong, Kelly Petersen, and Barry Anderson (New Commissioner)
Commissioners Absent: Terry Cooper (New Commissioner)
Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Captain Earnest McCall, Police Officer Christopher Collins, Police Sergeant Ryan Winkle, and Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger, Bob Oliver, Citizen and Zach Roth, Journal Star

Commission Chairman Tom Burke called the meeting to order.

Chairman Burke introduced the new Commissioner Barry Anderson to the Board.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he was originally from Chicago, Illinois, but came to Peoria to attend Bradley University.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he and his wife own a home here and that he was retired from ATT.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he was glad to be a member of the Commission.

Chairman Burke asked Bob Oliver, a Peoria Citizen at the meeting, if he would like to address the Commission.

Mr. Oliver stated that he had attended the Peoria Urban Advisory Board meeting and stated that they had gotten money from Ameren to use to clean up the trash, remove trees, etc., but he felt that the money wouldn't get used as it should to help those that need the funds to get repairs completed.

Commissioner Kelly Petersen stated that the information he was discussing was not something that the Fire and Police Commission would be able to help him with.

Commissioner Mickeisha Armstrong assured him that the Commission listened to his concerns and that he should seek answers from the City Council or the Advisory Committee on Police-Community Relations to help with those concerns.

Mr. Oliver thanked the Commission for allowing him to speak and giving him some direction on where to go to get the answers he needed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Burke, Chairman asked for the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 2, 2024.

Kelly Petersen motioned to receive and file the minutes of the regular meeting of July 2, 2024; seconded by William Spears; all approved 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

- A. **Letter of Commendation** – Police Officer Terravis Ward
- B. **Recognition Day Letters** – Police Sergeants Matthew Lane, Stevie Hughes, Lieutenant James Chiola, Police Officers Joseph Smiles, Matheson Wood, Brian Moore, and Andrew Redpath

- C. **Promotion** – Permanent Promotion of Police Officer Roberto Vasquez to the Rank of Sergeant effective May 19, 2024
- D. **Promotion** – Permanent promotion of Police Officer Andrew Connor to the Rank of Sergeant effective June 16, 2024

William Spears motioned to receive and file the communications A-D as presented; seconded by Mickeisha Armstrong; all approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger stated in September they will be attending several career fairs at Bradley University September 19th, Reservoir Exploratory September 20th, Western Illinois University September 24th, Peoria High School September 26th and Illinois State University September 23rd.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated they created an EMT Basics class that would be totally voluntary and no cost to the candidates.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated they had 13 that signed up for the class and 12 that passed everything and made it through the class.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated those that passed the class will not be signed up for the National test.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that there are currently 23 on the Firefighter Eligibility List and they were called by Debra Bush called them in July to see if they were still interested, especially since they don't have any openings at this time.

Fire Chief Sollberger stated that since they have joined Interview Now, along with the Police Department, once the candidate calls then they will always have their contact information and be able to keep in contact with them.

Police Sergeant Ryan Winkle went over the following Recruitment Team activities for July and August 2024:

22 applicants currently going through the hiring process for this test cycle for the January 2025 PTI Class. They have passed the written test and physical. There are seven that are waiting on the make-up physical test. There are nine that just graduated the academy, eight that just were sent off to the academy and 19 are currently in the field training program.

Community Engagement:

- Meet and Greets with New Candidates
- Several Department Tours
- Birthday Buddies at Pleasant Valley Elementary

Networking:

- Lost Art Design
- Pride Festival
- Fiesta En El Rio
- Emergency Expo
- DAV Veterans Job Fair St. Louis

Mentoring & Peer Support

- Intern Ethan Church – Western
- Intern Catherine Lemieux – Bradley
- Intern Benjamin Hanley – Bradley
- Alexandria Atanasov – Illinois State University

Applicant Engagement:

- Physical Fitness Team – 3x/week utilizing PPD gym and Riverplex personal training facilities

Sergeant Winkle stated that they were doing more things to reach out to the Hispanic community with Spanish fliers and attending several events.

Sergeant Winkle stated there has been an increase in the number of Officers hired since the Recruitment Committee was form.

Sergeant Winkle stated that there will be a report done by the Police Chief that will show the progress of the hiring and diversity in the department.

Chairperson Burke asked Zach Roth from the Journal Star if he had anything he wanted to say before the Commission went to Executive Session.

Mr. Roth wanted more information on why the promotions listed on the agenda were happening.

Police Captain Earnest McCall stated that the Chief selected Officer Roberto Vasquez and Officer Andrew Connor to be promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant due to retirements.

Police Captain McCall stated that they have a Police Sergeant promotional list that is established through a testing process and the Police Officers that are eligible take an assessment and written examination to be placed on this list.

Police Captain McCall stated that once the scores have been calculated, the Officers are place on a list and it is approved by the Fire and Police Commission.

Police Captain McCall stated that once the list is approved, the Police Chief will make his selection from that pool when an opening exists.

Sergeant Winkle stated that the testing process is written in the Illinois Municipal Code and the City if governed by this code.

Chairperson Burke asked if Mr. Roth had any other questions and he said no so he thanked him for coming to address the Commission.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the minutes from the Regular Meeting July 2, 2024, and they are not to be released per Attorney Perkins.

William Spears moved to approve the Executive Session minutes from the Regular Meeting July 2, 2024, per Attorney Masum Perkins; seconded by Mickeisha Armstrong; all approved 5-0.

Chairperson Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Police Recruit January 2025 Eligibility Pool, and it will be approved as presented.

Kelly Petersen moved to approve Police Recruit January 2025 Eligibility Pool as presented, seconded by William Spears; all approved 5-0.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, William Spears moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mickeisha Armstrong; all approved 5-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Thomas Burke, Chairperson

William Spears, Vice Chairperson

Mickeisha Armstrong, Secretary

Barry Anderson, Member

Kelly Petersen, Member