

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
February 4, 2026
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 Tom Burke.

Commissioner's present: Thomas Burke, William Spears, Kelly Petersen, Terry Cooper, Barry Anderson, Pastor Marvin Hightower, and Mickeisha Armstrong

Others present: Senior Human Resources Specialist Debra Bush, Police Chief Eric Echevarria, Police Captain John Briggs, Police Officer Ciara Barker, Police Officer Christopher Collins, Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings, and Attorney Masum Perkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Burke asked for the approval of the minutes from January 7, 2026, Fire and Police Commission meeting.

Kelly Petersen motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2026; seconded by Terry Cooper; all approved 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications received.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings stated that they selected two Fire Apprentices: one African American male and Caucasian female.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that on February 20, 2026, the new Firefighters will be sworn in in the Council Chambers if anyone would like to attend.

Police Chief Eric Echevarria stated that the Recruitment Committee has been doing a phenomenal job!

Police Officer Ciara Barker stated that the applicant deadline was approaching, and 59 applicants had submitted all their documents and 11 had not submitted them.

Officer Barker stated that there were eight Hispanic males that have applied and awaiting documents from one applicant.

Officer Barker stated that there will be a Police Recruit Orientation held at the Police Department tonight from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and on Saturday from 9:00am to 11:00am.

Officer Barker stated that more upcoming events are the mock interviews, the written examinations and POWER tests.

Officer Barker stated that they will be going to Dunlap High School, SIU Carbondale, and the Law Enforcement Hiring Expo.

Police Chief Echevarria stated that they have three certified fitness trainers to help move the physical fitness team in a better direction as it relates to workouts with applicants.

Police Chief Echevarria stated that they were certified through NASUM which is a curriculum that is online.

B. Discussion, Review and approval of Fire and Police Commission and Fire Department Interview Questions and Evaluation Tools

Attorney Masum Perkins passed out the draft of the Peoria Fire and Police and Fire Commission Firefighter interview questions to review.

The Commission reviewed the questions and interview evaluation tool and minor revisions will be made to question #3 and the questions will be approved with the revisions.

Kelly Petersen motioned to receive and file the Peoria Fire and Police and Fire Commission Firefighter interview questions with the minor revision to question #3 as presented; seconded by Barry Anderson; all approved 7-0.

Attorney Perkins stated that she will make the revision and send the updated final copy of the questions to Debra Bush to share with the Commission.

C. Discussion, Review and approval of Fire and Police Commission and Police Department Interview Questions and Evaluation Tools

Attorney Masum Perkins passed out the draft of the Peoria Fire and Police and Fire Commission Police interview questions to review.

The Commission reviewed the questions and interview evaluation tools, and a proposed question will be added to the questions.

Mikeisha Armstrong motioned to receive and file the Peoria Fire and Police Commission and Police Department interview questions with the alternate question added as presented; seconded by Bill Spears; all approved 7-0.

Attorney Perkins stated that she will add the proposed question and send the updated final copy of the questions to Debra Bush to share with the Commission.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Kelly Petersen moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by Pastor Marvin Hightower; all approved 7-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes – Regular Meeting January 7, 2026

Chairman Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the executive session minutes from meeting January 7, 2026, and they are not to be released, per Attorney Perkins.

William Spears moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2026, executive session and they are not to be released per Attorney Perkins; seconded by Kelly Petersen; all approved 7-0.

B. Approval of Firefighter Polygraph Examinations

Chairman Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the following Firefighter polygraph examinations:

F26-001	F26-005
F26-002	F26-006
F26-003	F26-007
F26-004	F26-008

Chairman Burke stated that Firefighter candidates F26-006 and F26-008 will have their offers of employment withdrawn due to admission made on the polygraph examinations.

Kelly Petersen moved to remove the offers of employment from Firefighter candidates F26-006 and F26-008 due to admission made on the polygraph examination; seconded by William Spears; all approved 7-0.

Chairman Burke stated that Firefighter candidates F26-001, F26-002, F26-003, F26-004, F26-005, and F26-007 will continue in the process.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Senior Human Resources Specialist

APPROVED:

Thomas Burke, Chairperson

William Spears, Vice Chairperson

Kelly Petersen, Secretary

Terry Cooper, Member

Barry Anderson, Member

Mickeisha Armstrong, Member

Pastor Marvin Hightower, Member