

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
March 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, and Pastor Marvin Hightower

Commissioner's not present: Terry Cooper, Barry Anderson, and Mickeisha Armstrong

Others present: Senior Human Resources Specialist Debra Bush, Police Sergeant Brian Richards, Police Officer Christopher Collins, Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger, Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings, and Attorney Masum Perkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Burke asked for the approval of the minutes from February 4, 2026, Fire and Police Commission meeting.

Kelly Petersen motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2026; seconded by Pastor Marvin Hightower; all approved 4-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Completion of Probation – Firefighters Colton Heiser, Jacob Lonergan, Tyler Montgomery, Tyler Peterson, and Breyden Schmitz effective February 17, 2026

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Police Officer Chris Collins stated that they are in their hiring process, and the interviews have been conducted.

Officer Collins thanked the Commission for taking the time to conduct over 40 interviews for the hiring process.

Officer Collins stated that there were 75 applicants that applied; five applicants failed the written, which is a larger number than usual.

Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings passed out the City of Peoria Fire Department Recruitment Committee report for March 2026.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they hired a total of 14 Firefighters off their current list and 11 of those had their EMT-B's and one had their paramedic license.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that their diversity data of the 14 hired included three African American males and one Hispanic female that was a former Fire Apprentice.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that included in the 12-week training were the Apprentices, including the two newest which are one white female and one African American male.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that the Recruitment Team is currently working on the active hiring list, evaluating retention and continued interest for future employment.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that the upcoming networking events include UIS Career Expo in March, SIUE Spring Career Fair, Bradley University Spring Job and Internship Fair and Dunlap High School Career Day.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they have two Interns from Western Illinois University starting in May and August.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that the current Firefighters in the Academy will graduate on May 15, 2026, and the ceremony will be held at the Gateway Building at 10:00 a.m. if any of the Commissioners would like to attend.

Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger stated that with the grant of \$100,000 to \$200,000 regarding Fire Apprentices Programs, they will be able to on board an additional seven Apprentices when the grant is given.

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

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

The Commission reviewed the questions and interview evaluation tools and agreed with the revisions that were made by Attorney Perkins.

Kelly Petersen motioned to receive and file the Peoria Fire and Police and Fire Commission Police Lateral interview questions; seconded by Bill Spears; all approved 4-0.

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

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pastor Marvin Hightower moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by Kelly Petersen; all approved 4-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes – Regular Meeting February 4, 2026

Chairman Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the executive session minutes from meeting February 4, 2026, and they are okay to be released, per Attorney Perkins.

William Spears moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2026, executive session and they are okay to be released per Attorney Perkins; seconded by Kelly Petersen; all approved 4-0.

B. Approval of Police Recruit May 2026 Eligibility Pool

Chairman Burke stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the Police Recruit May 2026 Eligibility Pool and the pool will be received and filed as presented.

Kelly Petersen moved to receive and file the Police Recruit May 2026 Eligibility Pool as presented; seconded by Pastor Hightower; all approved 4-0.

C. Approval of Firefighter Psychological Examinations

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

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

Chairman Burke stated that Firefighter candidate F26-007 will have their offer of employment withdrawn due to being found unqualified on the psychological examination.

Kelly Petersen moved to remove the offer of employment from Firefighter candidate F26-007 due to being found unqualified on the psychological examination; seconded by Pastor Hightower; all approved 4-0.

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

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Pastor Hightower moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by William Spears; all approved 4-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Senior Human Resources Specialist

APPROVED:

Thomas Burke, Chairperson

William Spears, Vice Chairperson

Kelly Petersen, Secretary

Pastor Marvin Hightower, Member