

**MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 – 6:30 PM**

President Lindahl called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Guden, Marks, Pionke, and Eckstein (5). Absent: (0). Also present were Chief Plantz, Captain Block, Emergency Services Director Gary Podoll, Fire Chief Paugels, and Ald Secora.

Chief Plantz stated that there were two excellent candidates for the position vacated by Sgt. Patterson and it was a hard choice for himself, Captain, and Sgt. Jones to make but the department is lucky to have such qualified personnel. The new Sergeant will fill the midnight to 8am shift and Chief requested approval of the promotion for Officer Scott Strahan to Sergeant. Motion by Pionke to approve the promotion, seconded by Guden and carried by voice vote. The family of Sgt. Strahan along with Chief Plantz then pinned the Sergeant's badge on.

Motion by Guden to approve the August 2, 2017 minutes as presented, seconded by Marks and carried by voice vote.

Podoll reported there was only one bill and he will be having a 2018 budget meeting with the City Administrator tomorrow at 2:00 asking for zero operating budget increase and no capital big projects. Chief Paugels stated they had quite a few ambulance assists and a few fire calls. Motion by Marks to approve and file the Fire Department Report and vouchers for payment, seconded by Guden, and carried by voice vote.

Chief Plantz stated the department works very closely with the Fire Department and thanked them for all the assistance they provide on medical calls. There were 378 calls for service since the last meeting and also worked the Click It or Ticket program with the County and State Patrol with 59 stops, 33 warnings, 63 citations, 2 criminal arrests, and 1 drug citation issued stating it was a good deployment overall. Chief stated the abatement ordinance has been receiving positive feedback and need to keep moving forward to increase the quality of life and pride in the community. Mainly Officer Krause, Lindsey Kemnitz in Zoning, and some County departments have been all working together. A comment was made regarding the importance regarding the continuation of the abatement program with respect to the amount of time dedicated by officers and the zoning & economic development director. If a property receives 3 nuisance activities within a 12 month period the abatement process starts. Capt. Block stated he had spent some time with the Hartford Police Chief earlier in the year and he stated Hartford was similar to Berlin and it took 5 years to clean up. Chief attended the Council meeting regarding the 107 E. Huron property. A 55 year old deceased female did test positive for heroin and will now be considered a homicide. Heroin is coming up and is being laced with fentanyl which is a thousand times stronger than just heroin. The department has completed training and will carry Narcan along with PPE or personal protective equipment to keep exposure to fentanyl at a minimum. Ford is going thru police vehicles in response to the carbon monoxide issue with squad cars which may be due to the vehicles being outfitted with the radios and cage equipment. Capt. Block is working on credit card skimmers for the last 4 weeks with hundreds of cards being used at a local store. It looks like the persons are Cuban Immigrants out of the Miami, Florida area. The FBI is assisting with working the case with a timeframe of late July to mid-August in this area. Recommendation is for people to pay inside the gas stations. Motion by Eckstein to approve the police department report and vouchers for payment, seconded by Pionke, carried by voice vote.

Discussion only: Chief Plantz stated the 2018 budget process is moving forward and will be meeting with Jodie on Friday. Chief stated the operating budget is tight and it will be a tough year with city increases and maintain a zero increase. Jodie was present and stated the workmens comp increased 42%, property and liability insurance, and health insurance increases. The departments can reallocate funds between accounts. Pionke inquired as to where the public safety fit into the priority of the city with Jodie stating all departments are important and Lindahl stating all departments need each other and must balance all the budgets. Lindahl stated the abatement program is important and with a tight budget it needs to keep progressing as it will have long term effects. Jodie stated it will be a long process and one of the biggest ones has been taken care of but there are lots of smaller ones. Chief confirmed it is a long process and very labor intensive.

All commissioners were okay with changing the next regular scheduled P&F meeting from October 4th to October 11, 2017.

Hiring update: Tomorrow the Chief, Captain, and new Sergeant will have oral interviews with candidates. 14 took the initial test and hoping to find 3 strong candidates to bring to the P&F Commission on Monday, September 18th. Chief stated if any Commissioners had specific questions they would like to ask to forward them to him.

Old Business – None
New Business: None
Public Appearances: None

Motion to Adjourn by Pionke, seconded by Guden and carried by voice vote.

Submitted by Vicki Murphy

Next scheduled regular meeting Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Berlin City Hall