

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION**  
**BERLIN, WISCONSIN**  
**BERLIN CITY HALL – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**Sept 02, 2020 – 6:30 PM**

President Justin Lindahl called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Ed Marks, Chris Jenkinson, Joanne Guden, Dan Johnson and Justin Lindahl. No one absent. Also present: Acting Chief Pulvermacher, Emergency Management Director Gary Podoll, Fire Chief Paugels, Liaison Alderman James Lehr, Attorney Matt Chier, City Administrator Jodie Olson, Berlin Journal: Scott Mundro and Public appearance: Neil Tettenborn

Under approval of minutes, Guden moved to approve the August 05, 2020 P&F Commission minutes. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under approval of closed session minutes, Marks motioned to approve the August 05, 2020 closed session minutes. Jenkinson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Public appearance by Mr. Neil Tettenborn who had many concerns about traffic issues within the city. There are also concerns of City parking lots that are unkept. Lindahl expressed that he will address the police department issues and delegate the other issues to appropriate individuals.

Jenkinson moved to approve the fire department expenses. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Chief Paugels stated that the 2021 budget for fire department is ready. Gary Podoll gave a report on the fire department budget. There are no changes to the actual overall operating budget but there are differences in where the money is going. Johnson motioned to approve the 2021 fire department budget. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Paugels informed that the department had low call volume this past month. The training that has gone on is going well. There will be a new member to the fire department that will start soon.

Guden moved to approve the Police Department expenses as presented. Johnson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Acting Chief Pulvermacher stated the 2021 police department budget is ready with no actual operating increase. There will be some increases within the budget for salary and insurance but no actual operating increase. Marks asked if this budget would include the new hiring of personnel. Pulvermacher stated that it should and money will be moved around to help ensure we do not go over. Jodie Olson stated that the 2020 budget is looking good thanks to JD Lind and Chief Pulvermacher. Pulvermacher stated that a new squad car will be purchased for 2021 and should have enough within this budget to make the switch to trade out the older squad. The budget for this year we have been able to work with Jodie to get a contingency fund for new radios. The radios we have now are at end of life so with this contingency fund we will be able to get new radios this year. Squad car (\$30k) and radio (\$3k) funding will continue to be set aside for future purchases as well.

Johnson motioned to approve the 2021 police department budget. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Pulvermacher stated that the chart provided to the commission shows more thefts this month as well as more drug issues. Staffing levels are still an issue but we will have a new officer starting. The contract for the PLSO position is coming to an end and will go to Committee of the Whole for approval. We should be able to post the position soon. We currently have a temporary officer assigned to the school until we do a formal process for hire.

Under police activity updates, Pulvermacher explained, training is going well and we are still rolling out the new patch. The union has been very helpful with covering officer shifts to keep the cost low on overtime. Still working on ordinance updates and updating computer software. The federal government gives smaller agencies the ability to get surplus military guns. The contract that we have had with them has fallen to the way side so we are working with the government to get that back on track and be able to switch out older guns for newer models. There was a social media issue that has gone around that raised issues with concerns of threats between groups of people within the city. We have addressed this issue and will continue to monitor this and act accordingly.

Lindahl moves to discuss agenda number nine before number eight (residency issue).

Marks started the discussion from the presentation that took place was very nice and a good overview of what the commission needs to do. The best phrase that he took from the instructor was to look at the bigger issue and to always think that “you are 30 thousand feet up and 5 miles out”. Reminders were given about avoiding walking quorums, discussing issues outside of meetings, sticking to policy making and not micro managing or getting over involved in the daily operations of the department.

Residency for the police department was discussed. Marks stated that he attended the Committee of the Whole meeting there was no action to change the residency requirement for employees. Lindahl stated that he spoke to the Council and feels that it fell on deaf ears. He noted that previous administration from the police department had made their views known against lifting residency and Lindahl felt that persuaded the Council. Lindahl and Jenkinson indicated that Council as well as constituents are stuck in the past and can't see the future as they are too scared. The Commission questioned Ald. Lehr on the Council action, who stated he had been contacted by many constituents who were opposed to removing residency requirements. He further noted that this decision affects the city as a whole and not just the PD and that had to weigh in on his decision. He indicated that he did not feel the votes were there at the Council to pass anything. He had recognized that voices and tempers had begun to rise at the meeting, so that is why he decided ending the Council discussion was best at that time. Jenkinson stated that the residency issue is completely stuck in the past and feels that the Council did not listen to what the police and fire commission would like. Jodie suggested a joint P&F and Council meeting request could be made to the Mayor if the Commission wanted further discussion on it. Jenkinson stated that he is in favor of this meeting and will contact the Mayor and try to set up a meeting. All Commissioners were in agreement.

At 7:30 p.m. Johnson moved to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat §19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, and pursuant to Wis. Stat §19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever

competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (1) Police Chief hiring process. Second by Marks the motion which carried by voice vote.

Guden moved to seat Jim Lehr, Jodie Olson, and Attorney Chier for the closed session discussion. Johnson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Discussion continued in closed session.

Jenkinson moved to reconvene into open session at 8:15 p.m. Johnson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Jenkinson moved to post the Chief of Police vacancy with the job description presented with the addition of the residency requirement. Marks seconded the motion which carried by a voice vote.

There was no old business.

Under new business next month's agenda will contain a closed session item relating to salary for Interim Chief of Police.

Johnson moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers  
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, October 07, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall