

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
April 07, 2021 -6:30pm

Secretary Joanne Guden called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present: Commissioners Ed Marks, Dan Johnson, Joanne Guden. Absent: Chris Jenkinson and Justin Lindahl. Also present: Police Chief Engel, Assistant Chief Pulvermacher, Fire Chief Paugels, Emergency Management Director Gary Podoll, Liaison Alderman James Lehr, Berlin Police Department Officers Knetzger, McDowell, and Heider along with Sgt Strahan, Berlin Journal Paul Wiegel, family members of Heider: Jacob, Samantha, and Sylvan Heider, James Hanson, Hope, and Shane Markovic, Jayden Schreiner, and Public appearance: None.

Police and Fire commission presented Assistant Chief Pulvermacher with a plaque for outstanding service to the city and Police department while acting as Chief for past several months. Congratulation was given by all members of the commission.

Under approval of minutes, Johnson moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes March 03, 2021. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

New Officer Josh Heider was sworn in by Chief Engel.

Marks moved to approve the fire department expenses. Johnson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Fire Chief Paugels stated that there were only five fire calls last month. The only maintenance that needs to be addressed at this time is the repair for the 6 wheeler. There are no immediate activities coming up for the department. Gary Podoll stated that there will be more training coming up for the department and there will be hose testing next Tuesday.

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

Assistant Chief Pulvermacher stated that the chart provided to the commission shows last month's calls. The chart shows that traffic contacts were up, as well as drug investigations. Both of these may be linked to the higher traffic stops that included drug related charges. The chart also shows an increase in emergency detentions.

Under police activity updates, Pulvermacher explained, the last patrolman vacancy was filled by Josh Heider. Training continues within the department to include the remainder of the officers who did not complete CPR training have now done so. Most staff also completed on-line training for tint meters and window tint enforcement. Due to an exposure of a drug within the Sheriff's office some staff have completed a drug exposure video training. This highlights how to carefully handle items that may have been seized from a person as evidence. There are currently two patrolmen that are in their second month of switching shifts. The switching allows for the officers to gain exposure on different types of calls within different shifts. At this time the department would like to continue this with all new officers so they may understand and get to know the city on all levels. The new 2021 squad car is finally in and is waiting shop time to be properly outfitted and ready to use. The hope is to have the new squad up and running by

Memorial Day weekend. Chief Engel added that since starting with the department that there has been a lot of information given in a short time. He feels that the department is moving in the right direction and continues to get to know staff and the city by going out on rides with officers.

Police department Ride along policy, Assistant Chief Pulvermacher stated that there is a current ride along policy for the department. Before a ride along can take place there is a waiver that must be signed. To this point it is unknown if juveniles should partake in a ride along even with the waiver signed by a parent/guardian. The City Administrator asked the cities insurance provider if juveniles should be allowed to partake in a ride along with the current waiver. The insurance company does not wish for juveniles or possibly anyone to partake in this as the liability may be too great even with a waiver signed. With both the city insurance and city attorney weighing in on this subject it is still undetermined if a better waiver would be sufficient or simply not offer the program. There are benefits to having the program as well as disadvantages. This is where we ask the commission for their input on the matter and discuss the packet given by the City Administrator. Guden stated that with the information only just given to take time and review the packet and discuss this at the next meeting.

Police department alarm permit for Fortifi bank, the commission reviewed the alarm permit and Johnson motioned to approve the permit. Marks second the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under new business: Police budget from 2020 to current, an overall view of expenses.

Under old business: Police department ride along

Johnson moved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 05, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall