

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
May 05, 2021 -6:30pm

President Justin Lindahl called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Ed Marks, Dan Johnson, Joanne Guden, Justin Lindahl. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Engel, Assistant Chief Pulvermacher, Fire Chief Paugels, Emergency Management Director Gary Podoll, Liaison Alderman James Lehr, City Administrator Jodie Olson, Curt Olson, Berlin Journal Scott Mundro, and Public appearance: None.

Election of officers: Guden to nominate Johnson as President and Lindahl second, unanimous vote and decision passed. Johnson to nominate Marks as Vice President and Guden second, unanimous vote and decision passed. Lindahl to nominate Guden for Secretary and Johnson second, unanimous vote and decision passed.

Under approval of minutes, Marks moved to approve the open P&F Commission minutes of April 07, 2021. Johnson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

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

Fire Chief Paugels stated that there were 12 fire calls last month. The amount of calls for last month put the fire department back to average. There are no immediate maintenance issues at this time. There is some work to be done on the tower in the future, and that may be expensive. Upcoming activities include the boat show and car show. The organization has reached out for the fire department to hand out food. There is an upcoming concert in August. Lindahl asked if the police plan will be set up. Pulvermacher explained that there is not enough information yet and once there is the police can set up a plan for that concert much like last year's plan.

Marks moved to approve the Police Department expenses as presented. Guden 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 down, but the amount of OWI stops are up. The chart also shows a decrease in emergency detentions and thefts.

Under police activity updates, Chief Engel explained, Officer Heider is doing very well in the FTO program. Sworn in officers have completed half of the DOJ emergency vehicle training, as well as qualified for firearms. There are three probationary officers that are continuing in the swap of shifts. The feedback from the officers and department has been positive. There is a good growth happening with the officers reports and understanding of different shift needs. The new squad will be built the week of May 24. With a nationwide shortage of ammunition the department has still not seen the ammo purchased from 2020. The Green Lake Co Sheriff's office has enough ammo to spare us in the event that we may need it. There is discussion on a new maintenance system that could house all of the digital files for the department. This system is called ICrimefighter. This system would allow the department to save all digital files to a cloud and be able to retain them for use. It would eliminate the need to burn CD/DVD and be able to send links to the DA office or attorneys for their use. Most agencies around the area are

also looking at the same system if they do not have one already. There is a fixed cost to the system at \$240.00 per officer. There is no extra cost for retention or storage of the digital files. There are additional options to ease the work for officers and other businesses at an additional cost.

Under Police department budget, Jodie stated that there is no action to be taken on the information and chart presented. The information given on the budget is always good to go through annually to see where all lines items fall and what is out there for the budget. The biggest information to take from this is that 2020 had a large amount of money left over. This was due to the amount of staffing shortages and not purchasing bigger ticket items. This ended up saving the city about \$90,000. That amount was put into the overdraft fund for the police department to use for future purchases. This was a one-time move done for them. The chart shows all line items and what they are used for in terms of purchases. The overall budget is what is looked at every year and every year it has never gone over. Marks asked, was the insurance premium for car or personnel? Jodie stated that it is for cars and not personnel related. Johnson asked if overtime would be a lot this year. Chief Engel stated that it shouldn't be. Jodie stated that the capital purchases are also outlined in the chart. The Common Counsel puts a specific amount of money in that fund every year for purchases. These purchases are generally for bigger ticket items such as radios or squad cars. If the money is not used within that year it will simply carry over to the next. There is a question on whether or not the training budget should remain as non-lapsing item. There are discussions being taken on how to proceed with this line item as there is funds put into it by the DOJ every year.

Police department Ride along policy, Chief Engel stated that there is a question on whether or not a ride-along program should continue. 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. 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. Guden asked if there were any juveniles at the age of 16 who have asked to ride along. Engel stated that there is one currently asking but generally not many are 16 years old. When it comes to the age limit of a ride-along it is my thoughts that if they are 18 they are a legal adult and can make that decision on their own. Lindahl stated, but you don't want to stifle a kids dream by saying no to them due to their age. This program could benefit the kids out there and point them in a good direction. But if insurance says no then that's that. Jodie stated that the insurance did say no to ride-along all together but have come around to allowing them to happen with waivers. They would prefer the person to be 18 but ultimately would cover any issues that may happen regardless of age. Marks motioned to direct staff to draft up a proposal for the ride-along program in regards to those who are 18 years old and those who are under 18 years old. This can be presented at the next meeting and the city attorney should also weigh in on that proposal. Johnson second the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under new business: None.

Under old business: None.

Johnson moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Administrative Assistant

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 02, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall