

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
June 02, 2021 -6:30pm

President Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Ed Marks, Dan Johnson, Joanne Guden, Curt Olson. Absent: None. Vacancy: One. Also present: Police Chief Engel, Assistant Chief Pulvermacher, Fire Chief Paugels, Emergency Management Director Gary Podoll, Liaison Alderman James Lehr, City Administrator Jodie Olson, Berlin Police Dept. Officers: Reinhart, Bennett, Strahan, Schroeder. Fire Dept. Matt Walker. Family members of Chief Engel: Marise Engel, Richard Engel, Joni Anderson, Craig Engel, Heidi Engel, Margo Nardi, Tom Seidl, Jeanne Seidl; Berlin Journal Scott Mundro, and Public appearance: None.

Commissioners would like to welcome Curt Olson to the Police and Fire commission.

New Police Chief Jeffrey Engel sworn in by President Dan Johnson.

Under approval of minutes, Guden moved to approve the open P&F Commission minutes of May 05, 2021. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

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

Fire Chief Paugels announced promotion of Matt Walker to Lieutenant for the fire department. Walker has 12 years of volunteer service to the city and has proven to be a great asset to the department. Guden motioned to approve of the promotion to Lieutenant. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote. Walker was presented with a Lieutenant badge by Fire Chief Paugels.

Fire Chief Paugels stated that there were 15 fire calls last month, most of the calls where structural fire. Paugels stated that maintenance updates took place for all of the engines. They all underwent a pump test; the anticipation is for all of them to pass. Podoll stated there are a lot of upcoming events throughout the summer. The two biggest will be the Fourth of July and the car show. There are a lot of requests for the fire department to come to all of the events but not every event will be able to be attended.

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

Police Chief Engel stated that the chart provided to the commission shows last month's calls. The chart shows that traffic contacts were down. The chart shows an additional number sheet to give information from past years to present. Curt Olson asked if the chart could be broken down quarterly to show each officer interactions with the citizens. Engel stated that the quarterly chart can be done.

Under police activity updates, Chief Engel explained, Officer Heider is doing very well in the FTO program and is in the final weeks. Sworn in officers have completed 6 hours of defense and arrest tactics training. Additionally about half of the sworn officers have completed 45 minutes

of standardized field sobriety test training. The 2021 squad is being up fitted this week and will hope to have that back by next week. Currently there are two squads that have been outfitted with new cradle points which have replaced the pepwaves. This means that the officers will get better WIFI in the squads. Six M14 rifles have been unused for 20 years and were part of the Department of Defense re-allocation program. With none use of the rifles they have been sent back to the Department of Defense for destruction and the police department is no longer part of the program. The ammunition that we have ordered in 2020 has still not been received. There is no new update on when that might come in. Green Lake Sheriff office has been generous to help supply us with what we need for training. There continues to be a swap of shifts between the probationary officers. All of the feedback is continuing to be positive in this. Officer Meyer has completed SWAT basic training and is now a part of the Green Lake Co Sheriffs Combined Unit.

Police department Ride along policy, Chief Engel stated that the policy and procedure has been updated. With the update there will be no juveniles allowed to partake in the ride-a-long program. This will help to ensure that the insurance and intent of the individual is covered. If a juvenile would like to tour the police department they are welcome and there could be more education into what an officer really does rather than have them ride along with an officer. The program will be open to pre-employment interests with a limit of three rides within a 12 month period. The liability waver is also updated and included in the policy. Olson stated that he is in favor of the ride-a-long program for adults. Marks asked if the city attorney has reviewed the policy. Engel stated that he has and that the policy is the same as before with minor changes to age limits. Jodie Olson stated that the insurance company will likely want to see the new policy and this will be shared with them. Marks moved to approve of the ride-a-long policy. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under new business: None.

Under old business: None.

At 7 p.m. Guden 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 (Discussion on police officer performance evaluations) Olson seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in four (4) ayes, zero (0) nays and one (1) vacancy. Motion carried.

Marks moved to seat Jodie Olson, Jim Lehr, Chief Engel and Asst. Chief Pulvermacher for the closed session discussion. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Discussion continued in closed session.

Marks moved to reconvene into open session at 7:35 p.m. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote. No action was taken as a result of closed session discussion.

Marks moved to adjourn. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, July 07, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall