

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 02, 2022 -6:30pm

President Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Dan Johnson, Joanne Guden, Curt Olson, and Chad Martin. Absent: Ed Marks. Also present: Police Chief Engel, Fire Chief Paugels, Emergency manager Gary Podoll, Liaison Alderman James Lehr, City Administrator Sara Rutkowski, and Berlin Journal Paul Wiegel. Public appearance: None.

Under approval of minutes, Olson moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of February 02, 2022. Martin seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

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

Fire Chief Paugels stated that there were seven fire calls last month. During one of the calls for assist a saw from 1985 broke. A new saw will need to be purchased for replacement. Upcoming events, there are none.

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

Chief Engel stated that the chart provided to the commission shows last month's calls. The chart shows that there were 72 traffic stops, 6 drug investigations and 12 welfare checks. Since last month there was a decline in welfare checks.

Under police activity updates, Chief Engel explained, the squads are being outfitted with the same computers, docking stations and printers. This will help to provide uniformity for all squads except one which is the SRO vehicle. The burglary from last month remains under investigation and leads are still being followed up. There was one significant reckless injury case sent to the District Attorney for charges. During this investigation the entire team did really well and put in a lot of hours for the investigation. There was recently an EDI that lasted 16 hours. We were fortunate enough to have adequate staffing to cover the long hospital stay. Officer Schmidt will be starting March 7. His anticipated date for being off training is Memorial Day. We have posted a new officer position as Officer Knetzger will be promoted to Detective after Corp. Schroeder leaves March 14. At this time there is only one candidate.

Under bank account signature change, City Administrator Sara stated there are bank accounts with the city that are connected to the police department. At this time is has only Assistant Chief Pulvermacher on them. The Chief should be added to the accounts in the event it is needed for him to use them. Guden motioned to add the Chief of Police to city bank accounts for the police department. Olson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under police department squad usage, Chief Engel explained the squads idle in part for the computers and the electronics within them. If the squads were to be turned off the computers would then start to draw on the squads' battery and thus the car will die. After jumping a squad the battery life is reduced to 50%. Olson asked if there are docking stations inside the PD for the

computers to come out of the squads to be plugged into. Engel stated that there is not currently. Olson asked if it would be more cost efficient to take the computers out of the squads and plug them in inside the PD to reduce the gasoline cost for the squads. Engel stated that it is in the works of finding the middle ground. At this time the officers will leave the car run if they will only be a few minutes inside. If the officer is going to be inside for a longer period of time they could use a power cord for the computers to keep them charged and turn the squads off.

Under police department use of force policy, Chief Engel stated the policies are model policies provided from an agency. This agency uses the WI DAAT manual to draft the use of force policy so it is in compliance with WI law. Guden asked if all officers sign this after they read it. Chief stated yes all officers will sign after reading every revision.

Under police department pursuit policy, Chief Engel stated that the same company provided the model policy for this as well. The agency used the WI evoc manual to help shape the policy. There are only minor differences as the city has a restrictive pursuit policy. Johnson asked if this policy changes much. Engel stated that it does not, typically. Olson motioned to approve both Use of Force policy and Pursuit policy. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under new business: None.

Under old business: None.

Public appearances: None.

At 7:00pm Guden moved to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat §19.85(1)(d) 19.85(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises (1) *Evaluation of police chief*. Olson seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in four (4) ayes, zero (0) nays, and one (1) absent. Motion carried.

Discussion was held in closed session.

Motion to move into open session by Guden, seconded by Martin. Motion passes by voice vote.

Motion to approve the Chief's evaluation by Olson, second by Martin. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion to adjourn by Martin at 7:10 pm. Second by Guden and motion carried by voice vote.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 06, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall