

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION**  
**BERLIN, WISCONSIN**  
**BERLIN CITY HALL – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**April 06, 2022 -6:30pm**

President Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Dan Johnson, Joanne Guden, Ed Marks, Curt Olson, and Chad Martin. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Engel, Fire Chief Paugels, Emergency Manager Gary Podoll, Liaison Alderman James Lehr, City Administrator Sara Rutkowski, BPD Officers: Scott Strahan, Tyler McDowell, Zach Plath, Assistant Chief Pulvermacher, Alex Schmidt, Noah Knetzger, and Berlin Journal Paul Wiegel. Family and Friends of Alex Schmidt and Noah Knetzger: Amy Hingeveld Schmidt, Michelle Roberson, Clyde Roberson, Brittany Schmidt, Taylor Sharp, Renee Winn, Nicholas Winn, Ruth Hingeveld, Christopher Fraunfelder, Jordyn Spoolstra, Jessica Schroeder, and Brad Kurczek, Public appearance: Ed Marks.

Presentation of gift for years of service to Ed Marks.

Under approval of minutes, Guden moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of March 02, 2022 with corrections to closed session roll call vote and second motion. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

New Officer Alex Schmidt was sworn in by Chief Engel.

Promotion to investigator for Noah Knetzger was sworn in by Chief Engel.

Under police and fire commissions' bylaws, City Administrator Sara Rutkowski asked the commission what direction they would like to go in for the new bylaws. Guden stated that she would like to incorporate what was given in a book from a past presentation and what is currently used. Sara stated that parts can be pulled from the book and go off of what is also currently written. This information will be put together for next month. Johnson stated that this item will go on for further discussion for next month's meeting.

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

Fire Chief Paugels stated that there were seven fire calls last month. Three of those calls were major calls. The three major calls where a gas leak within a building and the whole block had to be cleared. Another was the mass fire that broke out at waste management, and the last was a fire at the spice factory. Maintenance issues, the rescue squad needed brakes to be repaired. Upcoming events: 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 80 traffic stops, 5 drug investigations, 12 welfare checks, and 6 domestic abuse investigations.

Under police activity updates, Chief Engel explained, there was significant damage done to one of the squads as it hit a deer. We will be working with the insurance to get reimbursed for the money spent on getting that fixed. There is an active investigation relating to a drug overdose. This case will be taking a large amount of time for investigating. There were two other drug related overdoses as well. There was an extensive vehicle pursuit that ended with the subject taken into custody. There were several felony charges sent to the District Attorney's office for that individual. Officer Schmidt has started his training and is doing very well. There is still an ongoing interview process happening for the open patrol position. The interviews are intended to conclude on Friday. We are currently working with three different jurisdictions on open cases. EVOC training is in process and the DAAT session was supposed to happen but was cancelled and awaiting rescheduling. We were designated money from the American Relief Fund from Governor Evers in the sum of \$12,080.00. We do not know when we will receive this money and what it can be used for. Once we are aware it is available and what it can be used on we will let you know.

Under police department pursuit policy, Johnson stated this item will be moved to next month.

Under police department uniform policy, Johnson stated this item will be moved to next month.

Under police department quarterly stats, Chief Engel stated the chart presented will show quarter one and quarter two of 2021 and 2022 for comparison. There seems to be a norm for Municipal Court tickets to show an average of 55 per quarter. Between the two quarters and years it shows that crashes went up by 1, an increase in the calls for service went up by 47%, and an increase in juvenile referrals went up from 5 to 12. Overall this quarter it shows that there were 91 cases referred to the District Attorney's office for criminal charges. Guden stated that this chart provides a great oversight for the department and is nice to have.

Under police department contract for sponsoring recruits, Johnson stated this item will be moved to next month.

Under police department update on job descriptions, Johnson stated this item will be moved to next month.

Under police department ICrimeFighter, Investigator Knetzger stated that they would like to show the commission what all takes place when downloading and providing information needed to the District Attorney's office. This demonstration would happen downstairs inside the police department. Johnson stated that would be fine to go after the meeting has concluded and see the presentation with questions only. This item will be moved to next month as well.

Under old business: Police and Fire Commissions Bylaws, police department pursuit and uniform policy, police department contract for sponsoring recruits, police department update job descriptions, and police department ICrimeFighter.

Under new business: Elections.

Public appearances: Ed Marks. Marks stated that he wanted to take the time to thank everyone for their time together serving on the commission. He thanked the commission, fire and police departments for their outstanding work. He wished to say that he believes this commission is moving forward and in the right direction. He had a good time while serving on the commission and wishes everyone luck and to keep up the good work.

Guden moved to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Olson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers  
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 04, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall