

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
April 05, 2023 -6:30pm

President Joanne Guden called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Joanne Guden, Keith Hess, Gary Knoke, Dan Johnson and Chad Martin. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Brian Pulvermacher, Fire Chief Paugels, Alderman liaison Kristian Boeck, City Admin Sara Rutkowski, and Berlin Journal: Paul Wiegel. Public appearance: None.

Under approval of minutes, Hess moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of March 01, 2023 with correction to open minutes of the spelling of a last name. Johnson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

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

Fire Chief Paugels stated that there were 5 calls last month. Very slow month for calls. Maintenance there are none for this month. The did finish the brush truck with wiring and replacement of some lights but nothing major. Upcoming events, last week we helped with the escort out of town for the wrestling team. Next Tuesday we will start our annual hose testing.

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

Under Police Department Fund 15 purchase for new pistols, Chief Pulvermacher explained the switch for new pistols would come from Fund 15. We are looking to move from our current equipment to what is being used around the county which is 9mm. We would like to trade in our current handguns to the new handguns much like we did with the rifles. Hess asked why we are using Fund 15 and what is it. Chief explained that it is like a saving account for the department. But Sara could explain better. Sara explained that Fund 15 was a one-time allotment of funds that was placed for future purchases for the Police Department. Back in 2020 the department ran very short on expenses and knowing that the department needed to make future purchases that would require a great deal of money Council decided to allow the extra funds that would have been used for that year to be placed into the Fund 15 account for future use. It does need approval of this committee and Council before it can be used. Martin motion to approve the Fund 15 purchase of new 9mm pistols and recommend the decision to Common Council. Hess second the motion which carried by voice vote.

Chief Pulvermacher stated that the chart provided to the commission shows last month's calls. The chart shows that there were 175 traffic stops, 2 drug investigations, 10 welfare checks, and 5 property damage crashes. Traffic enforcement has risen this month. The improvement can likely be attributed to less snow and increased traffic along with staff availability. New stop signs have been placed were yield signs used to be. There will be a learning curve on that but ultimately, I think this will help the traffic complaints we receive on speeding. The rest of the signs are anticipated to be in on Monday of next week.

Under police activity updates, Chief Pulvermacher explained two staff members will attend first line supervisor training in May. The staff member that is interested in firearms instructor will

need to wait until December per DOJ requirements. I am currently evaluating the pistols we using which is the .40 caliber to the 9mm that is used by most law enforcement in the county. I am still evaluating the cameras that are around in City Hall and the PD. We have received our new squad car but will hopefully be in for outfitting in June. We are still awaiting on the radio for that to be placed in the squad. We have started purging old files and reports from 1990s. At this point we have made it through about 20 boxes of old files. We need to keep certain reports for retention purposes and this process will take some time. The department is also purging old and broken electronics. With the retention schedule now blessed we know how long we have to hold onto those, so we have started that process of labeling for destruction per the schedule. We have several trainings throughout the next month including firearms, emergency vehicle operations, CPR recertification and portable breath tester training for those newly hired. Officer McMartin is doing very well. We are looking to have him be on his own by the first week of May. Martin asked about the SRO position and how that is coming along with choosing a new officer for the roll. Chief explained that it is still ongoing and the two currently interested in the position did interview for the spot last week. The school is having them do a shadow of the position to ultimately help with deciding who may take over the job.

Under City of Berlin Parking ordinance, Alderman liaison Boeck explained that the ordinance was actually looked at last night. Some aspects of the ordinance will end up changing such as where some parking stalls may end up for 24hr parking. The 2-hour parking will remain in effect with how it is currently set up. We have fielded a lot of complaints on this but ultimately now that it is being enforced there is a great deal of movement within the downtown district that the businesses like. It is a learning curve for those who are unfamiliar but it does work. Guden asked about the empty lot that sits behind the car wash on the west side and who owns that. Sara stated that the city does own that lot but there needs to be a change with the DNR that we are waiting on in order to do anything with it. Boeck stated that as this parking issue continues to be worked out with Common Council, I will keep you up to date.

Under old business: None.

Under new business: Elections of officers and Closed session for SRO position update.

Public appearances: None.

At 7:00pm Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hess second the motion which carried by voice vote.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 03, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall