

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
December 06, 2023 -6:30pm

President Joanne Guden called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Joanne Guden, Gary Knoke, Denise Krentz, and Keith Hess. Seated virtually: None. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Brian Pulvermacher, Fire Chief Paugels, Emergency Manager Gary Podoll, City Administrator Sara Rutkowski, BPD officers, family members for officer Rose, family members for officer Zacharias, family members for AC Knetzger, family members of Kevin paramo, and Berlin Journal: Paul Wiegel. Public appearance: None.

President Guden stated that Dan Johnson has resigned from the Commission and wanted to thank him for his service and wish him luck.

Swearing in of Assistant Chief Noah Knetzger

Swearing in of Officer Jaylon Zacharias

Swearing in of Officer Carter Rose

Under Fire Department addition of new member Kevin Paramo, Hess moved to approve the new member to the Fire Department. Knoke seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under approval of minutes, Krentz moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of November 01, 2023. Hess seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Hess moved to approve the Police Department expenses as presented. Knoke seconded 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 138 traffic stops, 5 drug investigations, 12 welfare checks, and 6 property damage crashes. Current staffing levels is very poor, coupled with benefit time off the department still managed to average quantity of traffic contacts. Property damage crashes are somewhat elevated, most occurred in parking lots.

Under police activity updates, Chief Pulvermacher explained as you observed the swearing in of the two new officers Zacharias and Rose we are closer to staffing levels. The new officers are still in the academy and their anticipated graduation date is December 13th. They will go through the training process which takes about three months. So long as everything goes well with that they should be on their own by March of next year. I am almost complete with the third candidate for hire. He is also in the same academy class and will likely start about the same time. Not including the potential hire we still have two openings within the department. The officer that was looking to leave has opted to stay on at this time. The union wage side letter was passed by Council. There were two squad cars that had new fuel pumps installed although one had a catalytic convertor problem. Another is currently getting serviced for a different issue which has not yet been identified. AC Knetzger has completed internet crimes against children training. The entire department has a county-wide in service training tomorrow night for active shooter at All Saints School.

Under alarm permit application for Arpeggio Music (Art & Antiques), Krentz motioned to approve the new alarm permit. Hess seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

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

Fire Chief Paugels stated the last month was the most active for calls again. The total number of calls this year so far is 145. Maintenance issues the bill that came in for Engine 66 was a lot higher than we expected but we made it work. Engine 64 will be going in for a full maintenance and DOT inspection. Engine 69 will only be needing a pump test and the DOT inspection. Upcoming events, last month we had the holiday parade. This upcoming Saturday we have Shop with a hometown hero. Truck Committee, Podoll discussed that both he and the Fire Chief will be retiring by the end of next year. That being known the new engine that needs to be purchased will not be handled by them for the most part as they will not be there. We set up a committee for the purchase of this new engine with members of the fire department. There are four fire officers and 3 fire fighters on this committee. The chairman of the committee is the Assistant Chief Mike Radke. That chairman will then pick the members to sit on this committee. They will all be responsible for putting together the layout of the new fire engine. There are only two stipulations that can not change which is that it must run on a commercial chassis and carry 5 fire fighters with 3 in the back. The engine needs to be setup for city and rural responses. The Fire Chief and Deputy Chief will work on what company will help put the spec together. Once the company has been picked the chairman will contact the company to set up what they want their engine to look like. After diagrams are complete and the committee is ok with the engine the Fire Chief will then send back to the company for them to put the final spec together. That spec will need to be ready to go by May 2024. When the draft spec is ready the committee will look it over. If any changes are needed they will contact the company. The Chief and Deputy Chief will then put the spec through the bidding process after it is approved by the Police and Fire Commission and the Towns that the department serves. Guden asked if Radke will be here to do the presentation for the final bid. Podoll stated that he will be. Krentz asked if this will go to the fire department members for their approval. Paugels stated they are already involved they are all working on this together. Krentz stated that this is a great job on putting together this committee. Podoll stated the fire department's ISO is coming up. Back four years ago the department received a class 4. We currently sit at a class 3 and want to remain that way. In order to do that we need to keep up on the training and documenting that training. So far when we have trainings we have 19 members show up which is very good as only two are missing. This ultimately helps with the ISO as we document who is there and what equipment is used. We are currently setting up the program to let the members know the specific training that needs to happen. This will be very easy for them and help them in the next chapter when we are gone. Guden asked about the ATV/UTV purchase for the department and how it is going. Podoll stated that they have not purchased it as they do not have the money but rather will apply for grants and with that they may be able to purchase it next year. Krentz stated she appreciates the planning ahead and the work that has gone into it. Hess asked to get a roster of the fire department members with names and ranks. Podoll stated that he will have that for next meeting.

Under old business: None.

Under new business: None.

Public appearances: None.

At 7:23pm Knoke 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 (*Staff evaluation update*) Hess seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in four (4) ayes, zero (0) nays, and zero (0) absent. Motion carried.

Discussion continued in closed session.

Hess made a motion at 7:47pm to convene into open session, with a second by Krentz. Motion carried by voice vote.

Guden adjourned the meeting at 7:49pm.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, January 03, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall