

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
June 05, 2024 -6:30pm

President Joanne Guden called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Joanne Guden, Denise Krentz, Ron Ross, Gary Knoke, and Keith Hess. Seated virtually: None. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Brian Pulvermacher, Assistant Police Chief Noah Knetzger, Emergency Manager Gary Podoll, Liaison Samantha Stobbe, and Berlin Journal: Paul Wiegel. Public appearance: None.

Under General Public Comments, Podoll stated the new member to be approved will be moved to July meeting.

Under approval of minutes, Hess moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of May 01, 2024. Knoke seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under alarm permit for Andrew Disterhaft, 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. Ross seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under Fire Department reporting and updates Emergency Manager Podoll explained there were 15 calls for last month. We are currently running above average for this year. At this time the Chief and I are allowing more of the decisions to come from others within the department when we are at calls. We go to these calls but we want them to be comfortable with making the decisions since we are retiring at the end of this year. So far it has gone well and the members are working well together. We had some trainings, one which was with Brown Wilcox. We went over the new updated facility and set in place a plan for evacuation in case of emergency. We also had Alliant come out and go over training on how to clear areas and make them safe in the event of a fire to an electric pole. Maintenance issues, there are none. Upcoming events, the Memorial Day parade went well. The committee that was put together for the purpose of events has been working on organizing activities for the department. Truck committee has completed the spec. We anticipate them to come in July to go over briefly of what it is they are looking for. After that the spec will go out in August/September.

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 156 traffic stops, 6 drug investigations, 6 welfare checks, 2 emergency detentions, and 6 property damage crashes. The chart indicates, this month's traffic stops are lower than average although other calls for service had gone up. We also had a number of staffing issues that included staff taking time off and one member was on light duty.

Under Police reporting and updates, Chief Pulvermacher explained we are still two officers short. One background is complete and the anticipated start date is around the 17th of this month. Another background was nearly complete when the candidate backed out of our process and

accepted employment with another department. One staff member completes field training officer course tomorrow. The department completed a rifle tactical skills training. We held a bike auction for lost and found bikes. We only sold four bikes but the process was to be able to dispose of the remaining bikes. We have held some of those bikes since 2015. We were apart of the Memorial Day parade and that went well. We have an upcoming veteran benefit parade scheduled for Saturday the 8th.

Under Police Department Body Worn Cameras, Assistant Chief Knetzger explained that Sgt Strahan had attended a web demonstration for Wolfcom and I had one for IPRO. In total we have had about four demonstrations. It would appear the going rates are between \$24,000 and \$80,000. DOJ has released the body worn camera grant. The deadline for this is July 15. At this time, we are going to move forward with Digital Ally. The grant is specific to the company you are going with. Guden stated that it is a lot of money to have to come up with. Krentz asked if it is a set amount that is awarded or if it varies. Knetzger stated that it would vary on the amount and most times it is a 50/50 cost share. Guden asked when do we have to come up with the money if awarded the grant. Knetzger stated that it depends on what the grant would say. It could be this fall or next year. Pulvermacher stated that the grant is not a given when applying. The question really comes down to is there merit in putting money towards this aspect of policing or would the money have more benefit in other areas. Guden stated that she has concern for the night shift guys and giving them more protection with having body cameras.

Under old business: None.

Under new business: None.

Public appearances: None.

At 6:53pm 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 (*Wage discussion*) Ross seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five (5) ayes, zero (0) nays, and zero (0) absent. Motion carried.

Hess moved to seat Chief Pulvermacher and Liason Stubbe. Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in five (5) ayes, zero (0) nays, and zero (0) absent. Motion carried.

Discussion continued in closed session.

Krentz made a motion at 7:35pm to convene into open session, with a second by Ross. Motion carried by voice vote.

Guden adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Berlin City Hall