

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
July 10, 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, Fire Chief Robert Paugels, Berlin Police Department officers McMartin, and Schmidt, City Admin Sara Rutkowski, Liaison Samantha Stobbe, family members of Officer Johnson, Family members of Darnick and Petrovich, Mike Radke, and Berlin Journal: Paul Wiegel. Public appearance: None.

Under approval of minutes, Knoke moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of June 05, 2024. Hess seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Swearing in of Officer Kenneth Johnson

Under Fire Department addition of new member Colton Darnick and Dakota Petrovich, Knoke moved to approve the new member to the Fire Department. Krentz seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

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

Under Fire Department truck committee spec overview, Mike Radke spoke about all the hard work and many hours that went into the project. He stated that he was able to pick the people that could be involved in the project and liked the variety of input they all had and the final spec is to everyone's satisfaction. He stated the new truck would be a lot like their current truck 66 with some modifications. Truck 66 has some flaws and with the new build they were able to modify those flaws into something they feel will benefit the department and work well. Guden asked if it was accepted by the Towns. Radke stated yes and this spec is completed with no amendments from them so it is ready for bid. Krentz asked if it would be sent out to a lot of companies or just a few. Radke stated that it would be sent out to as many companies as they can. Krentz asked when will it go out. Gary Podoll stated that it would be in the paper for at least two weeks and it will be sent out to all the companies they know and anyone they may think may come back with an estimate. That will take place in August. Krentz asked how long the bid is usually good for in terms of getting back to them to say we accept your offer. Paugels stated that it is really up to the company on what they put on their bid. Podoll stated all the town and the city have known about the spec and have or should have put money aside for the purchase so it shouldn't take too long. Guden extended her appreciation and thanked the entire group that was in charge of putting this spec together and the amount of time it took.

Under Fire Department reporting and updates Fire Chief Robert Paugels explained there were 8 calls for last month. We are currently about average for this year. Maintenance issues, there are none. Upcoming events, on the 20th we went up to the park and did a demonstration with the truck. Truck committee had just explained all that has gone on, so no update. Training, last month we had practice with hose and stream control. We also had a practice with an aerial rescue

at the school. We had an actual helicopter come to do a rescue of “students”, there was a dummy, on the roof to practice air lifting off. In the first part of July, we will be doing hands on practice with the jaw’s tools.

Knoke moved to approve the Police Department expenses as presented. Krentz 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 238 traffic stops, 6 drug investigations, 6 welfare checks, 2 emergency detentions, and 5 property damage crashes. The chart indicates, this month’s traffic stops are a little higher than the previous month. With the SRO coming back to patrol duty it seemed better for staffing levels for June.

Under Police reporting and updates, Chief Pulvermacher explained Officer Johnson who was just sworn in is has already started field training. He is doing well and if all goes well should be on his own by September. There is a bit of bouncing around in terms of staffing. There are guys taking off and the flex officers are filling in for those to help avoid overtime. The veteran benefit ride went well although it was not well attended due to weather. The fourth of July fireworks were a bit problematic with the new location. It was mostly due to the size of the location and getting people to stay out of the restricted areas. It did provide insight to what we can improve on for next year and we will do so. The next upcoming events will be the bugle mouth bass tournament and the car show in August.

Under Police Department Body Worn Cameras, Assistant Chief Knetzger explained that he is working with a company called Lexipol that helps agencies navigate the grants for body worn cameras. They are free to use and with their advice we are actually not going to try to go for the Federal grant as they stated we would likely not get it. That grant is geared more for larger agencies and well-established grant writers. They suggested we actually go for the Wisconsin body worn camera grant program that is a 50/50 cost share. With that advise I went to Common Council yesterday and asked for their approval to go for the grant and they did approve it. That program will not come out until October which gives me time to get some more insight on the cameras and put together the grant. I did also apply for the 2024 Hero Fund Private Grant which could award up to \$2,000. We will know if we received this is about 60 days or so.

Under old business: None.

Under new business: None.

Public appearances: None.

At 7:00pm Ross 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*) Hess 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, Sara Rutkowski, and Liaison Stobbe. Krentz 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.

Hess made a motion to convene into open session, with a second by Krentz. Motion carried by voice vote with five (5) ayes.

Krentz made a motion to recommend to Common Council to approve staff wages as discussed, with a second by Ross. Motion carried via voice vote.

Guden adjourned the meeting at 7:16pm.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, August 07, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Berlin City Hall