

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
July 02, 2025 -6:30pm

President Ron Ross called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Present: Commissioners Morgan Monohan, Ron Ross, Denise Krentz, Gary Knoke, and Keith Hess. Seated virtually: None. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Brian Pulvermacher, Interim Fire Chief Doug Dewhurst, Alan Vaillancourt, Liaison Stobbe, and City Admin Jessi Balcom. Public appearance: None.

Under approval of minutes, Hess moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of June 04, 2025. Krentz seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under Fire Department new members, Interim Fire Chief Dewhurst would like to add Alan Vaillancourt to the Fire Department. Krentz motioned to approve of new member Alan Vaillancourt to the fire department. Hess seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under Fire Department Chief hire update discussion, Krentz stated the Commission should discuss the timeline they are looking for and agree on what that looks like. The city has the job description and we can now post that to as many platforms as we can. City Admin Balcom stated the job posting time depends on the type of job. Krentz asked if three weeks would be appropriate. Balcom agreed. Krentz gave a tentative timeline overview. Monohan stated she would like to see someone who is on the fire department who has a leadership role and another who does not have a leadership role to be on the interview panel so it is well rounded on all points. Balcom stated that the Commission should not appoint anyone to the panel until after the applications come in. This will prevent appointing someone who may have submitted for the position. Ross stated the timeline looks to be as follows, post the job for three weeks which puts us at the end of July. Review the applications in closed session meeting for August. Then after discussion of applications we can choose who will be on the panel for the interviews that would be held in mid/late August early September. To hopefully have a new Fire Chief before budget. Balcom stated there were a few minor changes she would make to the job description before posting it. And asked for clarification on what sites it would be posted to and when. Krentz stated we would like this posted by tomorrow on the City's website and that then starts the three weeks. We can get the posting to the Berlin Journal and the Chief's website as soon as Monday because of the holiday. The Commission all agreed on the timeline.

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

Under Fire Department reporting and updates Interim Fire Chief Dewhurst explained there were 16 calls for last month. That puts the department to 86 for the year. We had a mutual aid in Omro for a shed fire. Maintenance issues, engine 66 had a leaky valve which was replaced. We also had DOT inspections, they all passed. Upcoming events, we have the third of July events tomorrow and the fireworks. This past month we attended the farmers market, breakfast on the farm, and a special event at Walmart. Training, we had the department do a refresher on the ladder truck using the pump. We also had a water movement training which is taking water from a local source to use for putting out the fire. We will also be hosting a family night on the 15th for

the department that will have demos and a small cookout so the members can come together with their families there and get some training in and getting to know each other.

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

Police Chief Pulvermacher stated that the chart provided to the commission shows last month's calls. The chart shows that there were 256 traffic stops, 11 drug investigations, 9 welfare checks, 3 theft investigations, and 5 domestic abuse investigations. The chart indicates, slightly higher than average traffic stops. The detour from 21 has increased the through traffic. Of the three theft investigations two were retail related. Domestic abuse remains higher than normal while check welfares have dropped from last month.

Under Police reporting and updates, Police Chief Pulvermacher explained one staff member attended online training concerning crypto currency. One staff member attended the WI administrative professions conference. One staff member completed front line supervisor training. We had two scheduled for this training but a family emergency came up so the other had to drop out. We are hoping to get that officer in on a future training. One staff member completed four hours of mass casualty training. The new squad car is finally built. We can start to use the squad very soon we just need to complete a few details. Calls for service remain typical for this time of year. We also attended the farmers market and the special event that Walmart had put on.

Under Police Department discussion of language and understanding of Article 17 of the collective bargaining agreement, Police Chief Pulvermacher stated he wanted to bring this forward to the Commission for their opinion and directive moving forward. Krentz asked if there was someone to talk to in regards to this in order to get that clarity. Pulvermacher stated no, there is not someone to ask to gain that clarity or direction on how they interpret the verbiage. When I look at this, I can see holes in parts of the verbiage and how it could be interpreted. The bulk of the union understands my interpretation of this article and the stance I am taking on it but not all. Knoke asked if you could specify how the officer can spend their annual clothing allowance. Pulvermacher stated the officers are given an annual allowance of \$500.00 to use for replacement of their equipment for the year. So, for instance if they need new pants or shirts after what the department has initially given them, they would use their allowance to get those. Now I am not saying everything should come out of this allowance. For example, if the officer was at a training and the cuff holder broke then it should be on the city to pay to replace that equipment item. But if that same cuff holder broke because the officer happened to drop it at home or snag it coming out of their personal vehicle before work then it should come out of the uniform allowance. It should also be noted that if the officer does not use the entire \$500.00, they get the remaining amount at the end of the year. Ross asked what type of guidance are you looking for with this. Pulvermacher stated your interpretation of how the Commission views this and if I am okay on how I am interpreting the article or if I should be looking at it differently. So, we are all on the same page. Ross stated that he can read the article and see both sides of how it could be interpreted with how it is laid out in the language. So, I would say that I would leave it to your descension as it states. Pulvermacher stated that his interpretation of it is when issued the equipment upon employment if it is broken during duty then it should be on the city to replace that item. If it becomes worn out or the officer simply chooses to get a new one then it should come out of the clothing allowance. Ross stated we do stand by what you say and are we all in agreeance that it is up to the Chief's descension correct. The Commission all agreed with that statement.

Under old business: None.

Under new business: Proposal of a pilot program for body cams for the Police Department.

Ross stated we do not need to go into closed session so I am adjourning the meeting at 7:16pm.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, August 06, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Berlin City Hall