

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
August 06, 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, Assistant Chief Noah Knetzger, Interim Fire Chief Doug Dewhurst, Liaison Stobbe, and City Admin Jessi Balcom. Public appearance: None.

Under approval of minutes, Hess moved to approve the open P&F Commission minutes of July 02, 2025. Krentz seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under alarm permit application for Terry Summerville, Krentz motioned to approve the residential alarm permit. Knoke seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

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

Under Fire Department reporting and updates Interim Fire Chief Dewhurst explained there were 19 calls for last month. This puts the department to 107 calls for the year. One of the calls was a house fire in the attic on N Washington St. Maintenance issues, Red Power performed all DOT testing and pump testing for the trucks. All of the trucks passed inspections. Upcoming events, we attended the 3rd of July events and fireworks. We attended a farmers' market and showed what the jaws of life could do in an emergency. We attended tractor pulls and had a family night with our firefighters to help promote unity. We will be at the car show coming up this Sunday to help serve food. Training, no updates.

Knoke 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 185 traffic stops, 7 drug investigations, 17 welfare checks, 11 theft investigations, and 2 domestic abuse investigations. The chart indicates, theft reports were much higher than average with five of the thefts being retail. Check welfare requests increased sharply from last month.

Under Police reporting and updates, Police Chief Pulvermacher explained we continue to devote a lot of investigation effort to three death investigations from this year. This contributed to lower traffic enforcement. the bugle mouth bass tournament went without issue and we will also be present during the car show this Saturday. One staff member was selected for DCI death investigation course in September. One staff member is scheduled for investigating domestic violence training. The department completed firearms training as of yesterday. Calls for service and related investigations remain somewhat typical given the increased activity for the summer months.

Under Police Department pilot program for body cams, Assistant Chief Knetzger explained the department is looking to use the Fund 15 account to purchase three body cameras and docking

stations for the officers to share. If the pilot goes well then, we would look to expand the program to have eight total cameras and docking for the officers to use throughout their shifts. The total cost for the pilot program would be \$7,890.15. The new squad car was equipped with the camera system for these body cameras. So, the body camera will automatically turn on when they go into that squad car. If they are not using the new squad car, they would simply turn the camera on using the power button on the camera itself and manually upload the content to the server. As we outfit new squads, we will utilize the new camera system. Krentz asked do you need the eight-docking station for the cameras or could we go cheaper to start. Knetzger stated that it doesn't go lower than eight unless you just purchase single docking stations. Since our ultimate goal is to have eight this would not be an extra cost later since we would already have it. Krentz asked what the life span of the cameras are. Knetzger stated he is unsure but they do come with a three-year warranty. Other agencies who have the same body cameras are happy with them. Ross asked about the storage of the data and if that would also be a cost. Knetzger stated that the company Axis was the company that came in to install the new server for the squad car and that would be where the information goes before going to cloud storage. The cloud storage is separate from the server and as of now we have one terabyte. That amount of storage costs \$196.00 for the year. So, if we need more storage, we would simply add another terabyte for the same amount of \$196.00 per terabyte. Hess asked if we send this to Common Council then they have to come up with the money. Knetzger stated that the funds would come out of Fund 15. Krentz asked if Fund 15 can be used for anything within the police department or if it is specified for certain items. Chief Pulvermacher stated the department was afforded this one time roll over of money from the savings that happened during 2020 due to short staffing. The funds were put into an account that the department can use for equipment and other uses for updates. So, when we use up this account then it will go away there is no replenishing money coming in. Knoke asked what the remaining cost would be for the other body cameras needed. Knetzger stated when we are able to get the remaining body cameras needed it would be just the cost of the camera at that time so about \$6,000.00. Krentz motioned to approve the use of Fund 15 for the pilot program of body cameras at the cost of \$7,890.15 to go to Common Council for approval. Hess seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under old business: None.

Under new business: None.

At 7pm Monohan 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 *(1) Review of applications for Fire Chief)(2) Selection of interview panel and questions for interviews)* Krentz seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five (5) ayes, zero (0) nays, and zero (0) absent. Motion carried.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, September 03, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Berlin City Hall