

Police and Fire Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Sept. 7, 2021

Attendance: Deborah Rice, Council Liaison Kathy Kopp, Tim Boldt, Mike Dalecki, Frank King, Vikki Peterson, City Manager Adam Ruechel, Fire Chief Ryan Simmons, Chief of Police Doug McKinley

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Dalecki
- The regular meeting minutes from July 6, 2021 were approved unanimously (motion by Boldt, 2nd by Rice)
- There were no citizen comments or observations.
- Fire Department Update:

I. Membership Update

- Our volunteer membership is currently at 55 and all new members are currently in the Entry Level Firefighter training course and are scheduled to complete this training by mid-December.

II. Reports of Significant Service Calls

- We have had 183 calls to date for the year compared to 158 for the same time in 2020 which puts us currently at 25 more calls over 2020 volume YTD. This puts us on pace to have over 250 calls for service this year.

III. Information Updates

- Chapter 24 Fire Prevention Ordinance - Still working on updating Chapter 24 Fire Prevention ordinances as well as the governance and oversight structure of the fire department. The Plan Commission has reviewed and making some recommended edits. Anticipate will be on agenda for review of PFC in October.
- Fire Service Agreements - City Manager Ruechel and Fire Chief Simmons are meeting with each of the 7 townships that have Fire Service Agreements with the City to get them all renewed and updated. New agreements are scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2022.
- Radio System Update – The Fire Department radio repeater has been moved to a radio tower belonging to Comelec on a trial basis to determine if increased height would correct issues the Fire Department has had with radio communications. The trial has been very successful and radio communications for the Fire Department have been vastly improved. City staff met this morning to review preventative maintenance quotes and determine what we feel is the best course of action next. It was decided to have preventative maintenance completed on the complete City radio system and then review the report following the preventative maintenance to determine how to proceed next. This will be an ongoing process for the next few years until a permanent solution is in place to resolve the radio communications within the city.

IV. Personnel Issues/Concerns/Updates

- Nothing at this time.
- Police Department Update: Community Resource Officer Josh Stowe recently presented to the Platteville School District. He outlined what was accomplished in year one of the CRO program and he outlined the goals in year two; the PD had a mock accreditation audit on Aug. 25th which went well and the actual accreditation audit will take place on Oct. 5-7; an audit of the PD's property room was recently done and it revealed an accuracy level of 98% which is above the required 95% accuracy level; the UW-P students are back and making their impact felt throughout the City; a meeting with the bar owners is scheduled for 9/14; one person is still progressing through the PD's Police Officer hiring process; City Departments are dealing with radio communication issues: work continues on the PD budget; an update and expansion of the City's cameras is being discussed; and on Sept. 20th a new part-time Telecommunicator will start work.
- The timeline for the current Police Officer hiring process was discussed. Applications are being accepted until 9/10/21. Interviews, physical agility testing, and testing will take place on 9/18 and 9/20. Interviews with the PFC will take place on 9/30 starting at 5:30 p.m.
- The PFC went into closed session per Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c)-Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. This was done via unanimous vote (motion by Peterson, 2nd by King) and the motion allowed Kopp, Ruechel and McKinley to remain during the closed session.
- The Commission heard information related to the probationary status of a Police Sergeant
- The PFC returned to open session at 5:47 p.m.
- A motion passed unanimously stating that Sergeant Matt Froiseth has successfully completed his probationary period (motion by Boldt, 2nd by Rice).
- The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m. (motion by Peterson, 2nd by King)

Respectfully submitted,

Doug McKinley
Chief of Police