

Police and Fire Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 2, 2021

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

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Dalecki
- The meeting minutes from the Sept. 30th, 2021 special meeting were approved unanimously (motion by Boldt, 2nd by Rice)
- Citizen Comments and Observations: A UW-P student was present to observe as part of a class project

I. Fire Department Update: Membership Update

- We are currently at 56 volunteers. We added two new volunteers on October 25th.
 - Dylanger Engel, a student at UWP and currently on his home fire department of Wind Lake FD where he joined at 16 and is Certified Firefighter I trained.
 - Noah Brueggeman-Hulse, a student at UWP and currently a CSO for Platteville PD and currently enrolled in entry level firefighter class. He is planning to also be on his home fire department of Lake Delton FD over the summer when back over summer break.

II. Reports of Significant Service Calls

- The fire department responded to 27 incidents in October. We have had 225 calls to date for the year compared to 187 for the same time in 2020 which puts us currently at 38 more calls over 2020 volume YTD. We had a total of 225 calls for the entire year in 2019 and 2020.

III. Information Updates

- Chapter 24 Fire Prevention Ordinance – The updated ordinance has been reviewed by the Plan Commission who provided some recommendations which have been incorporated into the current version and recommended sending to the Common Council for review and approval. The ordinance was reviewed by the Common Council on October 26th as an informational item for their first viewing and will be on the agenda for approval at the November 9th Common Council meeting.
- Fire Service Agreements – We have received signed copies of the updated Fire Service Agreement that the City has with the townships from 6 of 7 townships. The last township is scheduled to have final approval this month.
- Radio System Update – Racom has reviewed the current radio system for the City to include Police, Fire and Public Works. They also reviewed EMS radio system. They have given us some recommendations which will be reviewed in the coming weeks by Police, Fire and Public Works. We then plan to develop a plan to resolve our current issues and plan for the future of our communication needs so that we do not have issues moving forward that hinder our ability to have reliable radio communications. This is critical for responder safety.
- 2022 Budget – We are closing in on finalizing our 2022 operational and capital budgets. The list of capital items appears daunting but we are diligently working to secure grants to subsidize the

costs so we can replace critical equipment like radios, protective gear, air packs, and many aging equipment items.

- Community Events – FD assisted with Halloween events like Candy Parade, Sweet Treats on Main. We are scheduled to participate in the Veterans Day program in City Park with ringing of the bell on the Firefighter Memorial as part of the 100-year recognition of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier memorial. Community events are always a great way to interact with the community we serve.

IV. Personnel Issues/Concerns/Updates

- Nothing at this time.
- Police Department Update: Police Officer applicant Jeremy Tyler is on pace to graduate from the Law Enforcement Academy at SWTC on 11/16 and begin employment with the PD on 11/29; one applicant in the recent hiring process declined further interest in employment with the Platteville PD; Larissa Klemm and Bryce Beauchaine are still in the hiring pool; hiring to fill the 21st officer vacancy has been delayed until approximately mid to late April 2022; Community Resource Officer Josh Stowe has been called to active duty for the Marine Reserves from Nov. 1st to approximately mid to late April 2022; the CRO position will be vacant during Stowe's absence; on-duty patrol officers will continue to have a presence in the schools and Patrol Investigator Tony Vander Velden will handle most of the investigations related to the schools during Stowe's absence; the PD's Accreditation Audit was held on Oct. 5-7th; the PD was found to be in compliance with all of the applicable standards and there were no noted areas of deficiency; a final determination of our accreditation status will be made at the November meeting of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group; meetings are being held to improve the radio communications for City Departments; the High School and UW-P Homecoming parades went well; Sweet Treats on Main St. was well attended and went well; Halloween Trick or Treating went well
- Chapter 24 of the City's Fire Codes was shared and discussed by Fire Chief Simmons. Chapter 24 is pending final approval by the Common Council
- The Commission went into closed session at 5:34 p.m. (motion by Peterson, 2nd by Rice) 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. Specifically, the Commission was to consider the probationary status of two Police Officers. The motion to go into closed session allowed Council Liaison Kopp, City Manager Ruechel and Chief of Police Doug McKinley to remain present during the closed session.
- The Commission returned to open session at 5:38 p.m.
- A motion stating that Police Officer Jarad Bartelt has successfully completed his probationary period with the Platteville PD passed unanimously (motion by Peterson, 2nd by Boldt).
- A motion stating that Police Officer Kevin Murphy has successfully completed his probationary period with the Platteville PD passed unanimously (motion by Peterson, 2nd by Boldt).

- The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m. (motion by Peterson, 2nd by Boldt)

Respectfully submitted,

Doug McKinley
Chief of Police