

Police and Fire Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2022

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

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Dalecki
- The meeting minutes from the regular meeting of the PFC on January 4, 2022 were unanimously approved (motion by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rice).
- There were no citizen comments or observations.
- Fire Department Update:

**I. Membership Update**

- We are currently at 49 volunteers. This number continues to decline from year to year as calls for service continue to increase. We feel that the last 2 years during the COVID-19 pandemic have had an impact in our ability to recruit and interact with our community as we have in the past. We are hopeful that we will be able to recruit more aggressively over the next two years to at least plateau our number of volunteer firefighters.

**II. Reports of Significant Service Calls**

- The fire department responded to 20 incidents in January. FD response summary is as follows:

Fires.....	4
Vehicle Crashes .....	2
Gas Odor/CO Alarms.....	5
Alarm System Activation.....	9

**III. Information Updates**

- Radio System Update – Racom will be working over the first week in February to replace worn out and damaged equipment with the antenna system on the City’s radio system. We are hopeful this will give some improvement to the radio system but will not know how much the faulty parts were having in radio reception until they are replaced. This is not a permanent solution to the problems, so we continue to work with the radio vendors and Grant Co. Sheriff to work towards a permanent solution.
- RFP for Professional Design Services for Fire Station – Chief Simmons has been working with City Manager Ruechel and other department heads to review and develop an RFP for Professional Design Services for a fire station. City Manager Ruechel created the draft document and then shared the document for review to create a draft that will be presented to the City Council in February. A copy of the RFP will be shared with the Commission members once approved by the Common Council.

- FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grant – Chief Simmons has been working with Grant County Emergency Management to write and submit a FEMA AFG grant for new portable radios. Our current portable radios are over 15 years old and no longer supported by Motorola. We submitted a 95%/5% cost share grant in the amount of \$212,850.00 for 45 new portable radios. The anticipated award notification dates are between April 30, 2022 and September 30, 2022.
- Volunteer Firefighter Service Award Program – Chief Simmons has been working with Bill Kloster in reaching out to our local legislature representatives to attempt to have them review the State’s length of service program for volunteer firefighters. The program is a recruitment/retention program to support City/State funded length of service retirement benefits to volunteers. The program currently has an age cap at 60 years of age and we would like to see that increase to at least the Federal Social Security Full Retirement Age which is currently 67. We will be attending some listening sessions for the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District over the next couple of weeks to discuss this issue.

#### **IV. Personnel Issues/Concerns/Updates**

- Nothing at this time.
- **Police Department Update:** The PD’s annual report has been completed and emailed to the City Manager, the PFC Commissioners, local media and it has been posted on the PD website. Josh Stowe, the PD’s Community Resource Officer will be returning early from his deployment with the Marines. He is expected to return to duty in mid to late February. Preventive maintenance is being done on the City’s radio equipment. A new Telecommunicator has been hired and he is due to start work in late February. Discussions have started on the City’s camera system upgrades. This will be an extensive project to update existing cameras in and around the PD and throughout the city. A recent incident in which a Platteville Police Officer discharged his duty weapon and killed an aggressive dog was discussed. The incident is being reviewed by an outside agency and then an internal review to ensure policy compliance will be completed. A Face Book post was completed shortly after the incident occurred to mitigate rumors and misinformation regarding what took place.
- The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug McKinley  
Chief of Police