

Police and Fire Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2022

Attendance: Deborah Rice, Tim Boldt, Jason Thompson, City Manager Adam Ruechel, Fire Chief Ryan Simmons, Chief of Police Doug McKinley, Absent-Vikki Peterson, Will LeSuer, Council Liaison Kathy Kopp

- The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by President Boldt
- The meeting minutes from the November 1, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved. (motion by Rice, 2nd by Thompson)
- There were no citizen comments or observations but there were two college students in attendance for a University class project
- Fire Department Update:

I. Membership Update

- We are currently at 54 volunteer firefighters. I do foresee several retirements in the next year. I am anticipating we will lose between 10-12 volunteers in 2023 due to retirements and members moving out of the area.
- As you can see, volunteers continue to decline and we need to do everything we can to keep our existing firefighters and recruit new volunteer firefighters.

II. Reports of Significant Service Calls

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

Fires.....	5
Vehicle Crashes	3
Gas Odor/CO Alarms.....	5
Alarm System Activation.....	4
EMS Lift Assist	0
Other	3

III. Information Updates

- Fire Station Project Update – Since our last meeting, a contractor has been hired to complete a geotechnical study of the site. Site soil borings have been completed and we are waiting to receive the geotechnical report of the testing. Also, Five Bugles Design made a presentation to the Common Council on the concept design for the new fire station. This included the general layout of the building with a high level estimate of the costs. The estimated cost for the facility with a basement is approximately \$16 million.

The Common Council approved the concept design and authorized Five Bugles Design to begin the Schematic Design phase of the project. This phase is where the building design really begins as they will begin actually designing walls, hallway, doorways, windows, etc. They anticipate to have the Schematic Design completed by mid-January 2023.

- Mobile Radio CIP Update – We are still awaiting the radios as they have not been received by the vendor as of yet. We have worked on developing the new radio programming so it will be a quick turnaround once we receive the radios.
- Radio Repeater Update – The capital project cost for a new radio repeater was approved by the Common Council for 2023. We are working with the vendor to begin the process of ordering the equipment as well as coordinating the project with the Grant County Radio Tower project.
- New Equipment Received – Our firefighter corporation recently received some grants for two equipment projects they were working on. They purchased us (8) new hydrant valves at a cost of approximately \$3100 and also purchased us Seek Thermal Imaging cameras to improve firefighter safety. We now have (36) of these personal thermal imaging cameras that allow our volunteer firefighters to have increased safety and awareness while in smoke and limited visibility conditions while fighting structure fires. In 2020, the corporation purchased (12) Seek cameras at a cost of approximately \$7500 and this year they purchased an additional (24) cameras at a cost of approximately \$14,000. All these equipment purchases are a result of fundraising, grants, and donations they receive to support the fire department.

IV. Personnel Issues/Concerns/Updates

- Nothing at this time.
- Police Department Update:
 - Larissa Klemm graduated from the SWTC LE Academy and she has started her 16-week FTO process
 - Pilar Magana is working in a solo capacity as a part-time Telecommunicator
 - Our other part-time T/C candidate did not pan out and they resigned. We are currently in the midst of another hiring process
 - Ofc. Simeon Morell and Ofc. Jeremy Tyler assisted with evacuating a resident from an apartment fire above Brothers tavern
 - Sgt. Matt Froiseth has completed a 3-week management course sponsored by the FBI. This is part of our commitment to getting new supervisors to management training to help them in their new roles.
 - The City camera project is in a holding pattern due to supply chain issues. We are waiting on the arrival of the computer server which will be the backbone of the entire system
 - Funding has been secured for the installation of 2 new radio consoles in 2023. These will replace 2 aging and outdated radio consoles.
 - Ofc. Jake Brown is currently attending Defensive And Arrest Tactics (DAAT) instructor training. This will give us a second inhouse expert/instructor to assist Ofc. Nate Auz
 - We are in the process of finalizing officer and Dept. Staff annual evaluations

- We are holding 2 training days for the sworn staff of the PD. Topics include Flock-license plate recognition cameras, new drug field test kits, Mantis training on our new firearms simulator, and Accreditation documentation
- Officers provided pedestrian assistance at Katie's Garden for Santa's arrival on Dec. 2nd
- Rumor has it that 2 celebrity crossing guards-one from the North Pole and one from Mt. Crumpit above Whoville will be assisting the PD later this month.
- The Commission went into closed session at 5:35 p.m. per WI Stat. 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. The motion to go into closed session allowed City Manager Ruechel and Chief of Police McKinley to remain during the closed session. The motion passed unanimously. (motion by Thompson, 2nd by Rice)
- During the closed session the Commission heard information related to the probationary status of a Police Officer
- The Commission returned to open session at 5:41 p.m. (motion by Rice, 2nd by Thompson)
- The Commission took action and unanimously approved a motion stating that Ofc. Jeremy Tyler has successfully completed his probationary period with the Platteville Police Department (motion by Rice, 2nd by Thompson)
- The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m. (motion by Rice, 2nd by Thompson)

Respectfully submitted,

Doug McKinley
Chief of Police