



Police and Fire Commission Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2021

ABSTRACT/SYNOPSIS OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF THE POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WHITEWATER, WALWORTH AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES, WISCONSIN

Audio of this meeting can be accessed on the City of Whitewater web site at <http://www.whitewater-wi.gov/AgendaCenter>

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call – Support Services Manager Sabrina Ojibway called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Members present: Glenn Hayes, Jerry Grant, Beverly Stone

Members absent: Mwita Binagi

Also present: Chief Aaron Raap, Captain Vander Steeg and Support Services Manager Sabrina Ojibway

- II. Election of Police & Fire Commission Officers - Ojibway called for nominations of the Chair of the Police and Fire Commission. Grant nominated Hayes with a second from Stone. Ojibway called for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

Ojibway called the roll for a vote on the appointment of Hayes for the Chair of the Police and Fire Commission:

AYES: Hayes, Grant, Stone

NOES: None

ABSENT: Binagi

The vote reflected that Hayes was the next Chair of the Police and Fire Commission. Ojibway turned the meeting over to President Hayes.

Hayes asked for nominations for the Vice Chair of the Police and Fire Commission. Stone nominated Grant with a second from Hayes. Hayes called for any other nominations for the Vice Chair of the Police and Fire Commission. There were no other nominations.

Ojibway called the roll for a vote on the appointment of Grant for the Vice Chair of the Police and Fire Commission:

AYES: Hayes, Grant, Stone

NOES: None

ABSENT: Binagi

The vote reflected that Grant was the next Vice Chair of the Police and Fire Commission.

Hayes asked for nominations for the Secretary of the Police and Fire Commission. Grant nominated Stone with a second by Hayes. Hayes called for any other nominations for the Secretary of Police and Fire Commission. There were no other nominations.

Ojibway called the roll for a vote on the appointment of Stone for the Secretary of the Police and Fire Commission:

AYES: Hayes, Grant, Stone

NOES: None

ABSENT: Binagi

The vote reflected that Stone was the next Secretary of the Police and Fire Commission.

- III. Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2021 – On a motion by Grant with a second by Stone the minutes were approved by a voice vote.

AYES: Hayes, Grant, Stone

NOES: None

ABSENT: Binagi

- IV. Citizen Comments - Hayes read the following disclaimer: *“No formal Police Commission action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three to five minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however citizens may speak to those issues at the time the Police Commission discusses that particular item.”*

There were no citizen comments.

V. New Business

A. Chief’s Report

1. Personnel Updates:

- a. One month prior, Detective Derrick Schleis resigned to take a job with the State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue.
- b. Both civilian Community Services Officers, Sullivan Bradley and Kyle Casasola put in their resignations. Bradley will be attending the police academy at Blackhawk Tech and Casasola accepted an offer of employment with De Forest Police Department.
- c. Officers Blake Dorman and Brandon Taylor successfully completed their probationary periods.
- d. Officer Michele Martin was selected as one of only two female Wisconsin law enforcement officers to receive the annual Wisconsin Association of Women Police Merit Award.
- e. On April 14th, 2021 the Whitewater Police Department welcomed a full time Embedded Community Crisis Liaison courtesy of a pilot program which Walworth County Health and Human Services is spearheading. This professional has provided on-site crisis services and increased access to mental health and substance abuse services. This position has increased the department’s efficiency in response to these types of calls for services and related needs within the community while decreasing the demands placed upon officers. Whitewater Police Department is very fortunate and appreciative to be one of only two police departments within Walworth County to be selected for this program and to have Ms. Amanda Akridge as their assigned Community Crisis Liaison.

- f. The Whitewater Police Department underwent a once-every-three-years accreditation assessment conducted by five assessors from the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG). Their exit interview revealed that they found the police department to be in compliance with 230 of the 242 required standards. Twelve standards were not applicable to the agency by function. The WILEAG team will be recommending to the WILEAG board that the agency be reaccredited. If approved for re-accreditation in August, it will be Whitewater Police Department's 7th accreditation cycle-the second most of all law enforcement agencies in the State.
 - g. Due to the fact that the K-9 Unit is not tax payer funded, efforts were made earlier this year to begin fundraising in an effort to purchase a replacement K-9 Unit squad car. The current squad is the original squad purchased in 2014 when the Whitewater Police Department first established a K-9 Unit. With much assistance from individuals, businesses and a community fundraising group (the Law Enforcement Training Team Southeastern Wisconsin – LettsewK9 Foundation), it is anticipated there will be the ability to fund this purchase by late next year.
2. Miscellaneous Personnel Training Update:
- a. Multiple police K-9 Unit trainings – Officers Stuppy and Swartz and K-9 Tilla.
 - b. Evidence Technician training – Officer Taft.
 - c. Special Events Team (SET) training with Walworth County law enforcement partners.
 - d. Drug Recognition Expert training – Officer Boro.
 - e. Peer Support Team training – numerous sworn and civilian members.
 - f. Standard Field Sobriety Test training – numerous sworn members.
 - g. Police Records Redaction training – some sworn and civilian members.
 - h. Tactical Response Instructor training – Lieutenant Borchardt and Detective Hintz.
 - i. Managing Police Records training- some sworn and civilian members.
 - j. Interview and Interrogation Training – Officers Brock and Beecroft.
 - k. Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training – Officers Stuppy and Beecroft.
 - l. Instructor Development Course – Deputy Chief Meyer and Officer Boro.
 - m. Legal Update training – all sworn members.
 - n. WILEAG Assessor training – Captain Vander Steeg.
 - o. School Resource Officer training – School Resource Officer Martin.
 - p. Sensitive Crimes Team training – several sworn members.
 - q. Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) training and qualification – all sworn members.
 - r. Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) training – all sworn members.
 - s. International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) training – several sworn members.
 - t. Firearms training and qualification – all sworn members.

- u. Intoximeter Test training – Officer Taylor.
 - v. Homicide Investigation and Scene Management training – Detective Lieutenant Brandl and Detective Hintz.
3. 2022 and 2023 Police Department Budget Update:
- a. The City of Whitewater is moving to a two-year budget cycle for 2022 and 2023. Chief Raap expressed appreciation that for 2021, the City Manager, Finance Committee and Common Council did not make any cuts to the Personnel Budget. However, the Operational Budget did receive a cut. Chief Raap noted that it is more common among law enforcement agencies of all sizes that 90% of a police department budget should be allocated to personnel, leaving 10% for operational costs. Whitewater Police Department has faced a decline in the percentage of their budget allocated to operational needs, dropping from 7.53% in 2008 to 3.77% in 2020. Chief Raap will be working with the City Manager and elected city leaders later in the year as the police department budgets for 2022 and for 2023.
4. City Crime and Disorder During the COVID-19 Pandemic:
- a. The 2020/2021 COVID-19 pandemic presented an incredibly unusual situation when comparing 2020 and early 2021 data against 2019 and prior years' data. Nearly every single crime and disorder category, along with citations issued, were notably down in 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. The Whitewater Police Department's Communication Center handled 4,257 fewer calls for service in 2020 than in 2019 (15,687 compared with 19,944). The Whitewater Police Department expended 1,211 fewer hours of overtime. There were 16 more domestic abuse calls for service in 2020 than in 2019. Beginning with the second quarter of this year, the department has seen a notable return to normalcy as it relates to calls for service and proactive policing within the city.
5. Community Engagement Update:
- a. One of the primary goals of the Whitewater Police Department during the pandemic was to guard against the erosion of police/community relations, especially in light of greatly reduced interactions and annual involvement in community events. The Whitewater Police Department has returned to normal levels of community engagement in the past three months.
 - b. Participation in the 4th of July Festival to include the parade, the Miss Whitewater pageant, the classic car show and general patrol during the run of the carnival
 - c. Participation in the 2nd Annual Fairhaven Senior Services Parade and assistance with traffic control.

- d. School Resource Officer Food Drive. SRO Martin participated along with other Walworth County law enforcement agency SROs.
 - e. A visit from and PD tour for Girl Scout Troop 7639.
 - f. Whitewater High School Spring Fling event.
 - g. Fairhaven Senior Services' Cycling Without Age program.
 - h. Whitewater Summer School's Dog Days event.
 - i. Numerous visits to the police department from people and groups during National Police Week in May.
 - j. Officer presentations to school groups.
 - k. Chief Raap and the command staff contributed to pertinent local news stories.
 - l. Earlier in July, the Whitewater Police Department hit a milestone on their social medial page by reaching more than 5,000 followers. On their Facebook page, they regularly share crime and safety tips, crime alerts, community outreach events, police department employee spotlights, weekly service summary data, law enforcement specific Black History Month spotlights, lost pet announcements, job opening announcements, severe weather alerts and anything law enforcement related and applicable to the city.
- B. Adjournment to Closed Session, to Reconvene per Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1)(C) *“Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.”*
- 1. Item to be Discussed: Interview of Nominated Detective Candidate
- On a motion from Stone with a second from Grant, the Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 7:00pm.
- AYES: Hayes, Grant, Stone
NOES: None
ABSENT: Binagi
- 2. Reconvene into Open Session
- Hayes reconvened into open session at 7:31pm.
- 3. Announcement of Recommendation to the Chief of Police Concerning Promotional Nomination:
- Hayes entertained a motion that the Police and Fire Commission of the City of Whitewater recommend to Chief Raap that Justin Brock be promoted to the rank of Detective within the City of Whitewater Police Department. Motion was moved by Stone with a second by Grant.

VI. Future Commission Meeting Dates – The Police & Fire Commission plan to meet on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 6:30pm.

VII. Future Agenda Items

None

VIII. Adjournment -On a motion by Grant with a second by Stone the Commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Hayes, Grant, Stone

NOES: None

ABSENT: Binagi

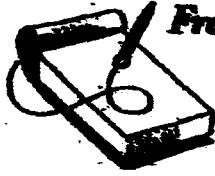
The Commissioners adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabrina Ojibway

Support Services Manager

7-27-2021



From the desk of

BEVERLY J. STONE

PFC adjourned & recessed session &
act of promotion of patrol officer to detective, 6:15 p.m.

Members present: Hayes, Hunt, Stone

Member absent: Beraja

Staff present: Chief Rapp, Lt. Van Dusen, Sabrina
Opbway.

Motion to approve promotion of Officer
Justin Beck to detective. Carried unanimously by
Hayes, Hunt, Stone.

Return to regular session 7:30 p.m. to announce
decision.

Respectfully submitted.

Beverly Stone, Esq.