



City of West Allis

7332 W. National Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

Meeting Minutes

Board of Police and Fire Commissioners

*Commissioner Donald Nehmer, President,
Commissioner Amy Heron, Vice-President,
Commissioner Fred Mikolajewski, Secretary
Commissioners David Princeton and Kurt Kopplin*

Thursday, August 20, 2015

6:00 PM

West Allis Fire Administration

REGULAR MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Nehmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Don Nehmer, Amy Heron, Fred Mikolajewski, David Princeton and Kurt Kopplin

Also Present: Fire Chief Steve Bane, Deputy Chief Jay Scharfenberg and Battalion Chief Dan Levenhagen – Fire Department; Police Chief Charles Padgett, Deputy Chief Chris Botsch, Deputy Chief Robert Fletcher and Captain Steve Beyer – Police Department; Rebecca Grill, Chief Administrative Officer – City of West Allis; Bridget Kennedy, Recording Secretary

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Kopplin and seconded by Commissioner Princeton to approve the July 15, 2015 Special Meeting and Closed Session Minutes and the July 16, 2015 Closed Session and Regular Meeting Minutes.

D. POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Overtime Comparison

Captain Steve Beyer submitted the Overtime Comparison Report.

Ct. Beyer noted that the command staff continues to monitor OT daily and review OT reports and information to ensure compliance and awareness of staffing issues.

CT. Beyer stated that OT times as it relates to State Fair will be shared with the Commissioners at the September meeting.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

2. Police Department Financial Report

Captain Steve Beyer submitted the Police Department Financial Report.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

3. Statistics

Captain Steve Beyer submitted the Statistics report.

Ct. Beyer briefly discussed with the Commissioners some of the statistic increases, to include a slight rise in vehicle thefts and juvenile arrests to-date.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

4. Discussion: Recent Pursuit Incidents

Captain Beyer led a discussion regarding the West Allis Police Department's car pursuit policy. Ct. Beyer stated that the department's car pursuit policy is in line with other agencies and while it is important to apprehend those criminals fleeing police, the safety of citizens and officers is most important. Ct. Beyer stated that a car pursuit is warranted if a violent offense had been committed, such as a car-jacking incident and with commanding officer consent for misdemeanors and felony offenses on a case-by-case basis. Ct. Beyer also stated that many of the cars involved in these types of dangerous pursuits are stolen thus the process to identify and apprehend the offenders is difficult. Ct. Beyer noted that many of the stolen cars are also used as rolling drug cars and he stated that a meeting has been scheduled with HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) and others to discuss strategies to combat this growing problem.

Commissioner Nehmer requested that the Commission Board be kept up-to-date on the progress made regarding the rolling drug cars and discussions with HIDTA.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

5. Residency Waiver Request – Officer

Chief Padgett presented a request from Officer Kurt Beier regarding a special residency waiver to move beyond the department's residency parameters.

Chief Padgett stated that Officer Beier has a special needs child and Officer Beier believed that the Slinger School District has a program to meet the needs of his child more so than those schools within the current residency parameters.

Commissioners stated that the information provided by Officer Beier did not provide a clear, concise and compelling argument regarding the superiority of the Slinger School district special needs program vs. West Allis School district program. Commissioners further noted that the residency parameters are dictated by the Police Union and as such, should be enforced appropriately.

A motion was made by Commissioner Princeton and seconded by Commissioner Kopplin to deny the resident waiver request submitted by Chief Charles Padgett on behalf of Police Officer Kurt Beier.

The motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 0

No: 5, Commissioners Nehmer, Heron, Mikolajewski, Princeton and Kopplin

6. 1st Shift Activity Report

Deputy Chief Robert Fletcher submitted the 1st Shift Activity Report prepared by Captain Rob Navarrette.

DC Fletcher stated that a July initiative for the 1st Shift Officers focused on homeowner safety, specifically garage doors that had been left open and were unattended. DC Fletcher noted that this initiative resulted in 28 incidents in which officers took some type of action relating to an open door issue.

DC Fletcher also stated that the 10-day Beer Garden event held at the Greenfield Park was well attended and no major problems were noted.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

7. 2nd Shift Activity Report

Deputy Chief Robert Fletcher submitted the 2nd Shift Activity Report prepared by Ct. Chad Evenson and Lt. Nick Pye.

DC Fletcher briefly discussed briefly a rash of car-jacking incidents that took place on Sunday, July 19th – 2 in West Allis and 1 in West Milwaukee. DC Fletcher stated that the parties involved had been arrested later the same day.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

8. 3rd Shift Activity Report

Deputy Chief Robert Fletcher submitted the 3rd Shift Activity Report prepared by Ct. Christopher Marks.

DC Fletcher stated that in early July, a traffic stop resulted in a short car pursuit before the suspect's vehicle was slowed by stop sticks. DC Fletcher stated that after the suspect's car stopped, the suspect fled on foot thru a residential area and was in hiding. DC Fletcher stated that Corporal McNally and K9 Diesel tracked the suspect who was eventually located hiding in the storm cellar of a residence.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

9. Criminal Investigations Unit Activity Report

Deputy Chief Robert Fletcher submitted the Criminal Investigations Report prepared by Captain Barry Waddell.

DC Fletcher stated this unit continues to work on track a car theft group known as the "Tint Window Crew." He also noted that recently a sub-group of this crew has emerged and call themselves the "Cut Throat Mob." DC Fletcher noted that both crews are highly dangerous and are known to be heavily armed.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

10. Sensitive Crimes Activity Report

Deputy Chief Robert Fletcher submitted the Sensitive Crimes Activity Report prepared by Lieutenant Jessica Johnson.

DC Fletcher was pleased to share with the Commissioners that many sensitive crimes cases have come to trial and resulted in sever prison sentences for all those involved in these crimes.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

11. Tavern Violation Report

Deputy Chief Robert Fletcher submitted the Tavern Violation Report prepared by Lieutenant Jessica Johnson.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

12. Communications Activity Report

Deputy Chief Chris Botsch submitted the Communications Activity Report prepared by Lieutenant Christopher Beldin.

DC Botsch stated that discussions continue regarding the P25 Digital Radio Upgrade as well as the new 911 telephone system.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

13. Community Services Bureau Report

Deputy Chief Chris Botsch submitted the Community Services Bureau Report prepared by Lieutenant Jeff Nohelty.

DC Botsch stated that the 2015 National Night Out event was very well attended and the dunk tank, featuring Fire Chief Bane and Police Chief Padgett, was a success. He noted that money raised will be utilized to help fund the programs the Community Services Bureau provides to the citizens of West Allis.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

14. Crime Analyst Report

Deputy Chief Botsch submitted the Crime Analyst Report prepared by Crime Analyst Chrisie Hunter as well as the corresponding police bulletin sheets.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

15. Traffic Report

Deputy Chief Chris Botsch submitted the Traffic Report.

DC Botsch briefly discussed a significant crash incident, which resulted from a pursuit initiated by Milwaukee Police Department, which took place on July 27th. He stated that the vehicle in question was stolen and had been involved in an incident earlier in the day. DC Botsch noted that the driver of the car became trapped after the crash and was extricated by Milwaukee FD and the other suspects fled on foot. DC Botsch stated that all suspects were eventually located and arrested by MPD.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

16. Training Report

Deputy Chief Chris Botsch submitted the Training Report prepared by Captain Ron Versnik and Sergeant Archie Dunbar.

DC Botsch stated that it is anticipated that on September 14th, five (5) of the recent recruit candidates will begin their training with the department. DC Botsch also noted that next recruitment process opened for application acceptance on August 17th and is open until September 18, 2015.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

17. Sick & Injured Report

Deputy Chief Chris Botsch submitted the Sick & Injured Report.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

18. Firefighting Activity Report

Assistant Chief Jay Scharfenberg submitted the Firefighting Activity Report as well as the corresponding quadrant maps.

AC Scharfenberg stated that the property value to date is quite high and this is due to the fire at International Autos earlier in the year as well as two (2) fires that occurred in high value homes in West Allis.

AC Scharfenberg then reviewed the two fires that were presented in the Firefighting Activity Report. AC Scharfenberg stated that both of these fires happened at approximately the same time and illustrated the need for and success of the shared services concept with Milwaukee Fire and other participating fire departments.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

19. Fire Department Financial Report

Assistant Chief Jay Scharfenberg submitted the Fire Department Financial Report.

AC Scharfenberg stated the overtime budget has exceeded the budget by approximately 50%, however he noted that the five new recruits have recently been added to a regular 24 hour shift and it is anticipated that this will help mitigate that number from increasing more. However, all other budgets are in line, if not under budget, to-date.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

20. Training Activity Report

Assistant Chief Jay Scharfenberg submitted the Training Activity Report prepared by Deputy Chief Joe Levenhagen.

AC Scharfenberg stated that DC Levenhagen instituted a mandatory training session for all current Equipment Operators/Acting Equipment Operators. AC Scharfenberg stated that this training required EOs and Acting EOs to practice driving skills as well as pumping and aerial operations. AC Scharfenberg stated that the driving course contained various configurations set up to test driving skills when navigating the apparatus around cones.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

21. Fire Prevention Activity Report

Assistant Chief Jay Scharfenberg submitted the Fire Prevention Activity Report prepared by Deputy Chief Mason Pooler.

AC Scharfenberg stated that route inspections year-to-date are ahead vs. 2014 and overall total activity of inspections has also increased. AC Scharfenberg credited DC Pooler and Lt. Dombrowski for the streamlining of the department and helping to make the Fire Inspectors more efficient and effective when performing fire inspection duties.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

22. Emergency Medical Services Activity Report

Chief Steve Bane submitted the EMS Activity Report prepared by Assistant Chief Kurt Zellmann.

Chief Bane noted that call volume is up approximately 12% and stated that the department is currently on track to have over 9000 runs by the end of the year. He noted that mutual aid continues to increase as well, however, it is anticipated that with the roll-out of the CAD system, the numbers should decrease and normalize.

Chief Bane also reviewed some of the July Highlighted EMS calls.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

23. Emergency Medical Services Revenue Report

Chief Steve Bane submitted the EMS Revenue Report prepared by Assistant Chief Kurt Zellmann.

Chief Bane stated that to date, EMS revenue is approximately \$200,000 ahead vs. last year.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

24. Sick and Injured Report

Chief Steve Bane submitted the Sick & Injured Report for the month of July.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

25. Master Plan Performance Snapshot

Chief Steve Bane submitted the Master Plan Performance Snap shot.

Chief Bane noted that the recording of the call processing times continues to be high and Chief Bane indicated that with the rollout of Pro Q&A, albeit given a learning curve, he is hopeful this program will help with correcting the call processing time issue.

The Commissioners had no additional questions or comments and the report was placed on file.

26. Request for Approval: Equipment Operator Eligibility List

Chief Steve Bane submitted the recently established Equipment Operator Eligibility List for approval. Chief Bane stated that this list was established in compliance with current department orders and the process was overseen by DC Joe Levenhagen. Chief Bane stated that if approved, this list will be effective for two (2) years, expiring at 0800 hours on August 21, 2017.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikolajewski and seconded by Commissioner Kopplin to approve the EO Eligibility List as presented above by Chief Bane.

The motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 5, Commissioners Nehmer, Heron, Mikolajewski, Princeton and Kopplin
No: 0

27. Request for Approval: Promotion to Equipment Operator

Chief Steve Bane stated that with the retirement of EO Mike Becker, he is submitting for approval, the promotion of Firefighter Brandon Foley to Equipment Operator. Chief Bane stated that FF Foley joined the department in August of 2005 and finished first on the EO promotional list recently established.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikolajewski and seconded by Commissioner Heron to approve the promotion of FF Brandon Foley to Equipment Operator as presented above by Chief Bane.

The motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 5, Commissioners Nehmer, Heron, Mikolajewski, Princeton and Kopplin
No: 0

F. POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

28. Discussion: Performance Review Implementation Schedule

Commissioner Nehmer led a review discussion on the implementation of the suggested PFC Agenda Format introduced at the July Police & Fire Commission meeting.

Commissioner Nehmer asked for feedback from the Chiefs regarding a workable and attainable implementation timeframe of this new format. Chief Bane stated that the reporting systems currently utilized for data collection are currently in the process of being upgraded, and it is not expected to be complete until the end of the year. Chief Bane noted that it would make the change to the new format difficult at this time due to this changeover and ensuring that glitches, etc., have been addressed properly. Chief Bane and Chief Padgett both suggested that the new format be implemented after the first of the year.

Commissioner Nehmer stated that he would like both departments to begin the process of changing over their reports to the format previously discussed and it was agreed that the new performance based format agenda would be introduced at the February 18, 2016 Police & Fire Commission Meeting.

G. CLOSED SESSION

NONE SCHEDULED

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Public Meetings

All meetings of the West Allis Board of Police and Fire Commissioners are public meetings. In order for the general public to make comments at the meetings, an individual should schedule an appearance with the President of the Board, or with the appropriate Chief, otherwise, the meeting is a working session for the Commission itself, and discussion by those in attendance is limited to Board members, the Mayor, alderpersons, staff and others that may be a party to the matter being discussed.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The City of West Allis does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, age, marital or veterans' status, sex, national origin, disability or any other legally protected status in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in, its services, programs or activities.

American with Disabilities Act Notice

Upon reasonable notice the City will furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and to enjoy the benefits of a service, program or activity provided by the City.

Limited English Proficiency Statement

It is the policy of the City of West Allis to provide language access services to populations of persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) who are eligible to be served or likely to be directly affected by our programs. Such services will be focused on providing meaningful access to our programs, services and/or benefits.