

Law Enforcement Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Henry "Emmett" McCracken Jr. Council Chambers, 20
Bridge Street, Bluffton, SC

June 13, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Morrow called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairwoman Jennifer Morrow

George Bailey

Bill O'Toole

Vice-Chair Michael Frazier

Mayra Rivera-Vazquez

ABSENT

Tabor Vaux

Reginald Howard

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. April 11, 2024 Minutes

Bailey made a motion to adopt the minutes as written.

Seconded by Rivera-Vazquez.

Voting Yea: Chairwoman Morrow, O'Toole, Vice-Chair Frazier, Bailey, Rivera-Vazquez

All were in favor and the motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of Department Weapons Policy

Chief Babkiewicz reviewed the changes and answered the questions the Committee had asked at the April meeting. There was a grammatical error on page 23, section E that needed to be addressed. The Committee had no further questions.

b. Review of Disciplinary Procedures Policy

Chief Babkiewicz discussed that a Committee Member had asked at the April meeting if an officer asked, could the officer receive counseling. He stated that the counseling addition was put in the policy.

Vice-Chair Frazier made a motion to approve policies SOP 006 Disciplinary Procedures Policy and SOP 043 Department Weapons Policy as presented.

Seconded by O'Toole.

Voting Yea: Chairwoman Morrow, Bailey, O'Toole, Vice-Chair Frazier, Rivera-Vazquez

All were in favor and the motion passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Awards Selection Policy

Chief Babkiewicz discussed the new categories and the qualifications for each one. The new categories include Rookie of the Year, School Resource Officer of the Year, Supervisor of the Year and Civilian Employee of the Year. The Committee discussed a typo error under item 2, section E.

b. Review of Recruiting, Hiring and Selection Policy

Chief Babkiewicz reviewed the changes to the policy that include updates to sections about tattoos, physical agility testing, retesting and interviews. Many of these changes are bringing the policy in line with policies in surrounding municipalities. The Committee discussed clarifications on a few typos.

c. Review of Arrest Procedures Policy

Chief Babkiewicz reviewed the changes to the policy including updates to sections regarding prisoner control, property, transportation of prisoners, spit masks, medications for prisoners and combative prisoners.

The Committee did not have any questions regarding this policy.

d. Review of Motor Vehicle Stops Policy

Chief Babkiewicz reviewed the policy changes which included updates to motor vehicle searches, vehicle location during stops and vehicle tag information. There was discussion about adding "two officer patrols" to Section C in the vehicle location section.

O'Toole made a motion to approve policies SOP19 Awards Selection, SOP 013 Recruiting/Hiring and Selection Process, 016 Arrest Procedures and 057 Motor Vehicle Stops with the discussed changes.

Seconded by Rivera-Vazquez.

Voting Yea: Chairwoman Morrow, Bailey, O'Toole, Vice-Chair Frazier, Rivera-Vazquez

All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. DISCUSSION

a. Upcoming Events

a. State Accreditation - June 7, 2024

b. BPD Awards Ceremony - June 19, 2024 from 6pm - 8pm

Chief Babkiewicz discussed the reaccreditation meeting that took place on June 7, 2024. The department received accreditation with high standards and many supportive comments.

Chief Babkiewicz discussed the upcoming awards ceremony and invited the committee to attend.

There was discussion about the approved FY2025 budget.

Chief Babkiewicz spoke about a Cypress Ridge incident and what steps the department was taking moving forward. Chairwoman Morrow asked about the department's non-emergency line and how it could be promoted.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Rivera-Vazquez made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Bailey.

Voting Yea: Chairwoman Morrow, Bailey, O'Toole, Vice-Chair Frazier, Rivera-Vazquez

All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.

APPROVED