



**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF WAUPUN POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION**  
**Waupun Safety Building – 16 E. Main Street, Waupun WI**  
**Tuesday, August 26, 2020 at 4:30pm**

*Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at 920-324-7915.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting convened at 4:35 p.m. by PFC President in the Waupun Safety Building.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: John Bett, Carole Cronin, Zak Dickhut, Tara Rhodes, Michael Thurmer, Nancy Vanderkin (City Council Liaison).

Members absent (excused): N/A

Also present: WPD Chief Scott Loudon, WPD Deputy Chief Jeremy Rasch, WFD Chief BJ DeMaa.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes from the June 23, 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve by J. Bett (C. Cronin second; all in favor). Minutes approved as presented.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE WAUPUN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WAUPUN FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WFD Chief BJ DeMaa provided the following update(s):

- **Staffing:** Three firefighters that will complete their probationary period at the end of August. All 3 have completed the requirements to move to regular status.
- **Strategic Plan:** Gaps exist in four areas: 1) daytime response levels of firefighters (currently 8.7 responders/industry standard is 18); 2) fire inspectors (we have gone from 5 down to 2 due to medical issues and job changes. It takes ~2 years and 60+ hours of school for train new inspectors.); 3) Fire Officer development (changes to SPS 330 now require additional 40+ hours of training for firefighters to promote to officer positions). There is also little pay difference (~\$200) between the Officer and Firefighter positions; and, 4) workload for 2 FT staff members is no longer sustainable. It is important to note that as training requirements increase, firefighters receive no compensation for extra training they attend.
- **Sustainability:** Continue to work on the fire district consolidation with a focus on concluding current conversations with the townships and examining regional opportunities to ensure sustainability of the city's fire and emergency response services in the future.
- **Community Preparedness:** Current Emergency Operation Plan is weather-focused and does not prepare the City for emerging risks that are seen across the state and country (i.e. pandemics, mass casualty incidents, active threats, civil unrest, etc.). Emergency Management Institute visit in 2021.
- **Emergency Medical Service (EMS):** Gaps exist in EMS service as current funding levels do not secure the needed number of ambulances to provide adequate coverage. This will likely lead to conversations around a First Responder group.

WPD Chief Scott Loudon provided the following update(s):

- **Kenosha:** Chief Loudon participated in EPS to help get support (need mobile/patrol officers); WPD does not have staff to send; Kenosha has closer alternatives (National Guard now involved). Concern with reaction when investigation is not complete. Situation is affecting morale and decreasing interest in pursuing a law enforcement career. We are small, safer community so we may benefit from transferring officers.
- **Service Calls:** Similar to last year; reminder with COVID there is an overall decrease.
- **Truck-N-Show:** No injuries and very few arrests; city is addressing the black marks on Brandon street.

- **Pursuit:** Recent short-pursuit in Waupun (Main to Bly Streets) resulting in charges; person involved was not from Waupun. Noted a trend that people are not stopping for law enforcement.
- **Budget:** Considering purchasing body cameras for 2021; looking into grant funding for the cost of \$17,000-\$20,000; and would require Council approval. Commission discussion around liability resulted in a formal motion to support WPD: Motion by Z. Dickhut. to explore the purchase of body cameras (C. Cronin second; all in favor). Additional purchases planned include two squad cards, Evidence Room software, general equipment replacements (vests, tasers, squad items, etc.).
- **Cyber security:** Transition/upgrades through FDL County have resulted in increased security and lowered costs (bulk purchasing, lower service call fees).
- **K9 Brat Fry:** September 4 & 5, 9:00am to 2:00pm at Piggly Wiggly
- **Training:** WPD is holding a Fall and Spring inservices; 24 hours of training per year is required. Due to COVID, many in-person sessions offered by others have been/will be canceled.

Chiefs DeMaa and Loudon and M. Thurmer plan to present John Forsythe with recognition plaque.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Waupun Police and Fire Commission adjourned in closed session under Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the WI Statutes to discuss Police Department staffing.

(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Motion to go into Closed Session at 5:11pm was made by J. Bett (second by T. Rhodes; all in favor).

#### **OPEN SESSION**

Open Session was reconvened under Section 19.85(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes at 5:21pm after motion from T. Rhodes (second by C. Cronin; all in favor).

#### **ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

None.

***No Public Participation after this point.***

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS AND GATHERING INVOLVING THE POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION**

Next Commission meeting to-be-determined.

If necessary, please send any agenda requests to Chiefs BJ DeMaa or S. Loudon so appropriate preparation(s) can be made.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:28pm made by C. Cronin (second by M. Thurmer; all in favor).

Respectfully submitted,  
Tara Rhodes, Secretary

*Cc: Commission members; WFD Chief; WPD Chief, Deputy Chief & Admin./Records; City of Waupun Mayor, Administrator / Director of Economic Development & City Clerk.*