

CITY OF DALTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

The regular meeting for the Public Safety Commission was held today in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Present were Chairman Bill Weaver, Commissioners, Luis Viamonte, Truman Whitfield, Anthony Walker via Zoom live, Fire Chief Todd Pangle, Police Chief Cliff Cason, Councilmember Annalee Harlan, and City Attorney Gandi Vaughn. Commissioner Terry Mathis was absent.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Truman, the Agenda was amended to reflect the following changes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

- Item #1 “Old Business” will become Item #2 on Agenda
- Item #2 “Personnel Matters will become Item #1 on Agenda
- Under “Old Business” add “Committee Assignment”
- Under Fire Department add Item #14 “Approval of new fire truck”

PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. Police Department – New Employee Confirmations

On the motion of Commissioner Whitfield, second Commissioner Viamonte, the Commission approved the following personnel as new Dalton Police Officers. The vote was unanimous in favor.

- Charles E. Walker
- Zachary C. Bell

2. Police Department – Employee Promotion Confirmation

On the motion of Commissioner Whitfield, second Commissioner Viamonte, the Commission promoted Officer David J. Saylor to the rank of Sergeant. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Police Department – Traffic Officer of the Year Award

Police Chief Cliff Cason presented the Traffic Officer of the year award to Officer Justin Smith. The Commission congratulated him on receiving the award and thanked him for his continued service to the safety of the public.

OLD BUSINESS

Comments by Commissioner Viamonte & Commissioner Walker – Study on college courses and programs for first responders with Dalton State College (Informational)

Commissioner Viamonte updated the Commission with regards to the progress being made in developing a program in conjunction with Dalton State College for the City’s first responders, with regards to further continuing education. Commissioner Viamonte and Commissioner Walker contacted Dalton State College President, Margaret Venable and other various staff members to get a better understating of programs available.

Commissioner Viamonte said it his understanding that at the present time, there is a survey will be conducted with first responders of the Fire and Police Department to gauge interest in furthering their education. Commissioner Viamonte and Commissioner Walker both believe having a program in place would help recruitment, retention, reward the first responders, boost up engagement, and boost the employee’s working environment.

Chairman Weaver thanked the Commissioners for their report and will look forward to additional reports in hope of developing the program.

OLD BUSINESS

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Comments by Jason Parker on POAB + GFPP and Tuition Fund Program

Chairman Weaver asked City Administrator Jason Parker to update the Commission on the progress being made with regards to the approval and funding by the City Council on the Peace Officer's Annuity and Benefit Fund program (POAB) and the Georgia Fire Fighter Pension Fund (GFPP). In addition, to also update the Commission on the City of Dalton Tuition Fund Program.

City Administrator Jason Parker stated the City Council is currently evaluating the City's Defined Contribution Plan providers to ascertain if other providers can manage the plan better, in addition to reviewing the POAB and GFPP. Parker stated that although it is a different program and not connected, he believes it's relatable and hopes the City Council comes to a decision at an October 2020 Council meeting.

City Administrator Parker reported on the City's Tuition Fund Program stating the City currently budgets \$15,000.00 per year for tuition reimbursement and only \$5,000.00 gets used typically. Parker stated he believes there is a lack awareness of the program and its availability to City employees. The Commission stated they do not think the \$1,000.00 tuition reimbursement per year per participant has kept up with rising costs of tuition. City Administrator Parker stated that he would relay the message to the City Council in support of raising it, if he could demonstrate the demand for it from participants by enrolling in the program. The Commission thanked Jason Parker for his report.

Committee Assignment / Appointment

Chairman Weaver would like to create a Committee to review data already available to the Commission with regards to the types of emergency calls, and how they compare to other municipalities, counties, and the state. Chairman Weaver further mentioned he would like the report back by no later than November. The Committee would consist of Council member Harlan, Fire Chief Todd Pangle, and Commissioner Viamonte.

On the motion of Commissioner Walker, second Commissioner Whitfield, the Commission created the Committee. The vote was unanimous in favor.

MINUTES

The Commissioners were presented written copies of the regular called meeting minutes of August 25, 2020. On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Walker, the minutes were approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Crime and Crash Statistics for August 2020

Police Chief Cliff Cason presented the Crime and Crash Statistical Reports for the month of August, 2020, and gave a written and oral summary. As noted in the written summary, Chief Cason reported the rate of Year to Date Part I crimes is down by 18.1% when compared to the same month in 2019. Chief Cason further reported that during the month, there were 95 non-private property crashes and stated injury crashes increased from July 2020.

On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Walker, the report was approved. The complete report in its entirety is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Financial Statistics for August 2020

Police Chief Cliff Cason presented the Financial Report for all divisions within the Dalton Police Department for the month of August, 2020. Chief Cason reported that the department expended 63.4% of their 2020 budget and are 3.2% under budget, and on track for the fiscal year.

On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Whitfield, the financial report was approved. The complete report in its entirety is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Written Directives

Police Chief Cliff Cason presented the following directives for approval:

- 2.4 Oath of Office and Code of Ethics
- 2.10 Complaint Review Policy
- 2.19 Vehicle Assignment
- 2.22 Accident Review Procedure
- 2.24 Use of Computers, Phones, and Related Technology
- 7.4 Criminal Investigations Organization and Administration

On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Whitfield, the Commission adopted the following Written Directives. The directives are a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Statistical Report – August 2020

Fire Chief Todd Pangle presented the August 2020 Statistical Report to the Commission. Chief Pangle outlined details of the complete report that included the Incident Type Report, Dollar Value Saved & Loss Analysis, NFPA Fire Experience Survey, Incident List by Incident Number, Training Division Monthly Report, Fire Safety Division Monthly Report, Engine Company Pre-Plan Updates, and the Inspection Summary.

On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Whitfield, the Commissioners approved the August, 2020 Statistical Report for the Fire Department. A copy of the report outlining all incident values is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Monthly Financial Report – August 2020

Fire Chief Todd Pangle presented the Financial Report for the month of August 2020 to the Commission. Chief Pangle stated the department is .7% under budget for the month and on track for the fiscal year.

On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Walker, the Commissioners approved the Financial Report for the Fire Department. A copy of the report is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Breathing Air Compressor Fill Station Recommendation

Fire Chief Todd Pangle presented a bid quote for approval to purchase a “Breathing Air Compressor Fill Station” in the amount of \$58,349.10. On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, Commissioner Whitfield, the Commission approved the purchase. A copy of the bid packet is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Standard Operating Procedures - SOP Reviewed

On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Walker, the Commission approved the following S.O.P reviews. The vote was unanimous in favor.

- S.O.P – FO-14 Mayday Procedures
- S.O.P – FO-16 Emergency Evacuation

Sutphen Fire Truck Purchase Approval

On the motion of Commissioner Viamonte, second Commissioner Whitfield, the Commission supports approval by the Mayor & Council to purchase of a Sutphen Heavy Duty 75’ Mid-Mount Aerial Ladder Truck. The approval was unanimous in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, on the motion of Commissioner Walker, second Commissioner Whitfield, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Bill Weaver, Chairman

ATTEST:

Anthony Walker, Secretary