

Police and Fire Commission
Monday, April 20, 2026, 5:00 PM
City of Dodgeville Fire Station
Dodgeville, WI

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Tom Demuth called to order the Meeting of the Police and Fire Commission at 5:23 PM on Monday, April 20, 2026 at the City of Dodgeville Fire Station.

Roll call, the following persons were Present: Marie Fralick, Mike Humke, Tom Demuth, Mary McKinley, Ken VonRueden. Also present, Chief Brandon Wilhelm and Chief Brian Whitehouse.

II. CONFIRMATION AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW

Posted Friday, April 17, 2026.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **MOTION** to approve minutes as written for January 19, 2026 Meeting. Motion made by Mike Humke. Second by Ken VonRueden. Motion passed 5-0
2. **MOTION** to approve minutes as written for January 29, 2026 Special Meeting with the correction that description and possible approval of Chief of Police, Lieutenant, and Sergeant positions were tabled until next meeting. Motion by Mary McKinley. Second by Mike Humke. Motion passed 5-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS

3. ***Dodgeville Fire Department 1st Quarter Report 2026*** was presented by Chief Brian Whitehouse.

*Fire Department received approval from City to move forward with the purchase of combination pumper/tanker to replace current tender #9. Budget line item is \$160,000. pursuing a used truck.

*Membership at 35 with one (1) member at Entry Level fire training through SWTC (to be completed January, 2026), one (1) member completing Certified Firefighter Training course and testing. Interview will be scheduled for applicant who is presently on the Cobb/Eden Fire Department.

*Activities include: (1) continue to work on potential site for fire training tower on North end of Dodgeville; (2) controlled burns wrapping up; (3) preparations for 2026 Open House beginning, co-inside with Fire Safety Week in October.

7. MOTION to approve ***Dodgeville Fire Department Officer Certification Log*** made by Mike Humke. Second by Ken VonRueden. Motion passed 5-0

Chief – Brian Whithouse

1st Asst Chief – Jeff Halverson

2nd Asst Chief – Kent Kitelinger

1st Caption – Jay Oxnem

1st Lieutenant – Brad Godfrey

2nd Lieutenant – Josh Garvey

Driver/Mechanic – Richard Oxnem

4. Dodgeville Police Department 1st Quarter report 2026 was presented by Chief Brandon Wilhelm.

* 1st Quarter 2026 Calls for Service, 695 compared to 688 in 2025. Arrests in this year are 34 compared to 14 in 2025, a 142% increase. OWIs doubled, as well as resisting/obstructing and battery charges. Citations rose 33%.

* Flag Holders at crosswalks have been updated.

* Ordinance updates prohibiting Ebikes in parks and on sidewalks, nuisance abatement if citizens fail to comply, and sale of Delta 8 and Delta 10 products to people under 21 years.

* City of Dodgeville approved the hiring of two (2) Officers with Academy training. New hires hopefully sworn in June 2nd Council Meeting before beginning training on June 8th. State funds cover lodging and meals during the 4-month training.

* Provided security for No Kings Rally, attendance approximately 400 people.

5. Dodgeville Police Department – 2025 Annual Report was presented by Chief Brandon Wilhelm, City Council Briefing Sheet

*Officers responded to 4,217 calls in 2025, a 14% increase from 2024. Disturbance calls up 70%. Multiple categories reached five (5) year highs.

* Major Homicide Investigation in July, 2025. Rapid Interagency coordination involving 50 personnel, suspect was apprehended within 12 hours.

* Staffing Challenges. The Department currently was operating with 8 Officers, a Lieutenant, and the Police Chief. Recruitment and staffing are a State wide and National issue.

*Recruit Sponsorship Program. New agreement with Teamsters Local 120 allows the city to sponsor recruits through the Wisconsin Police Academy. This agreement helps expand future hiring opportunities.

* Technology Improvements. 2025 first full year of using Zuercher reporting system, improving data sharing, expanding documentation and increasing efficiency in report writing.

* Officer Wellness Program. Formal wellness initiative including annual wellness days, mental health consultations and fitness incentives.

*Equipment and Fleet Modernization. New duty handguns with optics, patrol rifles, simulation training. Additional hybrid squad vehicle,

*Community Event Support. Provided planning, staffing and traffic control for numerous large community events.

*Strong Crime Clearance Rates. Outperforming National averages with a 59% overall clearance rate. Property clearance rate 43% rate, crimes against persons 72% clearance rate.

Future Priorities. Goals: expanding cameras, implementing digital forensics software (grant), pursuing WILEAG accreditation standards, evaluating addition of patrol officer.

V. OLD BUSINESS

8. Review of finalized Police and Fire Commission By-Laws

- [Final By-Laws PFC.pdf](#)

Motion made by Mike Humke to approve the Final By-Laws PFC. Second by Ken VonRueden. Passed 5-0

9. Review and possible approval of position descriptions for Chief of Police, Lieutenant, and Sergeant

- [Chief of Police description 2026 rec 041726.pdf \(0.09 MB\)](#)

No changes

- [Police Lieutenant - 26 rec 041726.pdf \(0.09 MB\)](#)

ACCEPTABLE EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:

3. At least five years of experience in the law enforcement field with at least one year of progressively responsible managerial and/or supervisory experience

- [Police Sergeant - 26 rec 041726.pdf \(0.10 MB\)](#)

ACCEPTABLE EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS: The following elements serve to identify the required acceptable experience and qualifications: 1. Criteria established by the Dodgeville Police and Fire Commission. 2. Two-year Degree from an accredited College or a combination of post-secondary education and 5 years Law Enforcement experience. 3. Certification by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board, or ability to obtain certification. 4. The City of Dodgeville will give preference to police officers having three years of sworn experience who are currently employed by the department.

Motion made by Mike Humke to approve Chief of Police, Lieutenant, and Sergeant job descriptions with the above-mentioned changes. Second by Ken VonRueden. Passed 5-0

VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION 10.Consideration of adjourning to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(f), which permits convening in closed session for the consideration of financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems, or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, specifically for the purposes of considering police officer disciplinary data.

Motion made by Mike Humke to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(f), which permits convening in closed session for the consideration of financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems, or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, specifically for the purposes of considering police officer disciplinary data. Second by Ken VonRueden. Roll Call vote: Tom Demuth – Yes, Ken VonRueden -Yes, Mary McKinley – Yes, Marie Fralick – Yes, Mike Humke – Yes. Motion passed 5-0

VIII. OPEN SESSION

11. Motion to reconvene to Open Session. Motion by Mike Humke to reconvene to Open Session. Second by Ken VonRueden. Motion passed 5-0

12. No action needed as a result of Closed Session.

IX. NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting, July 20th, at 5:00 p.m at the Dodgeville Fire Station.

IV. NEW BUSINESS, Recognition

6. Recognition of PFC member service to the City of Dodgeville. The Dodgeville Police Chief on behalf of the City of Dodgeville, Police and Fire Commission wished to recognize Marie Fralick for her service to the Dodgeville community and to Thank her for 10 years of service on the Police and Fire Commission. A Commemorative gift to be presented.

X.ADJOURN

13.Motion to Adjourn made by Marie Fralick at 6:19 pm. Second by Mike Humke. Motion passed 5-0

Respectfully Submitted by Mary McKinley