

CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING - CHIEF OF POLICE INTERVIEWS MINUTES

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 1:00 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers, 7358 Market St., Mackinac Island, Michigan

I. Call to Order

Mayor Doud called the special meeting to order at 1:00 pm

II. Roll Call

PRESENT

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| - Richard Chambers | - Anneke Myers |
| - Tom Corrigan | - Lindsey White |
| - Steven Moskwa | - Jason St. Onge |

VI. New Business

- Mayor Doud welcomed Officer Miedzianowski and noted that the City had also received an application from Ryan Schiller, but he rescinded his application prior to this meeting due to family matters.

Interview Questions:

- 1.) What are your plans to work with other law enforcement agencies in the area to continue to build relationships with those agencies? Examples: Mackinaw City PD, St. Ignace PD, Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, and MSP?
 - o Would like to meet and do more one on ones with other agencies
 - o Work with Island EMS & Fire – how can we make things better collectively
 - o Reach out to surrounding areas – mutual training – comradery is very important
- 2.) MIPD works with many departments and agencies (City of Mackinac Island Department Heads, M.I. Fire Dept, EMTs, Medical Center, MMR, and Cloverland Electric). Give an example of a time when you worked in a multi-agency operation and how you worked through limitations and issues that may have arisen.
 - o SWATING – bomb threats (takes multiple agencies to get through this process). Used to dealing with multi-jurisdictional situations
 - o Brings you back to creating good relationships with other agencies to make working together an easier process.
- 3.) The Mackinac Island Public School is a very important part of your year-round community. In the winter, snowmobile safety is very important with the students. How would you work with the students and faculty?
 - o Snowmobile safety – educate and meet with the kids prior to the season starting
 - o Schedule safety session with the superintendent and bring in other agencies to participate in educational outreach
 - o Day to day – try to stop in around lunch and attend sports games - good to show the kids in school support
- 4.) Give an example of a time when you were wrong, and what you did to make it right.
 - o Recently caught a grammatical error in a case report that had already been submitted to the court. Had to amend and resend the document, then call the court and apologize
 - o Mistakes are needed to create lessons - how can you become a better person from your mistakes?
- 5.) Give your synopsis of a working chief in a small-town police department.
 - o A very busy person. There is a lot of pride taken in the position. Helping your team and being a good leader – gain respect from being out working with the rest of your department. Meeting your own obligations and how to prioritize them.
 - o Realize that I will need to pull back from street and escort hours at times
 - o Will need to learn how to balance those more “fun” jobs with tasks and duties that need to be completed. Checking phone messages and emails every morning and afternoon to keep in contact.
- 6.) A business owner comes into your station, says, “Officer Smith has been a real pain in my side. Why is he picking on me and my business”? Your answer is?
 - o Ask that person to speak with him privately – chances of knowing the person (due to being a small town) are high
 - o Ask for their version of the story and find a solution from there

- 7.) One of your officers doesn't seem to be pulling his/her weight. How do you motivate a two-year veteran to get out there? How do you motivate a 15-year veteran to be the best he/she can be?
- A lot comes down to personality and what point of their career they are in
 - Personality – no two people are the same. If I notice a change, would take them aside and see how things are going in their life – see if things can be improved
 - Older officers – look at their personal life, are they still enjoying their job? Burnout can be a real issue in any position. Help them focus on getting the most out of their job.
- 8.) The Mackinac Island Police Department is unique, with 5 year-round officers and 4 seasonal officers. You have 3 year-round officers with many years of experience and seniority. As the chief, what is your vision for the department?
- Safety – should always have 2 or 3 officers on shift
 - Have personally been in situations here where a serious call comes in and he is the only one on shift – makes serving the community more difficult
 - Rotate shifts to make things work – have personally switched shifts (night & day) to make schedules work, and would be willing to continue to do that
 - More active at school – safety, security
 - Churches – safety & security
 - Would help appoint and train security teams for each church
 - Training is very important. The more the better
 - Some can be done on line, but a lot has to be done in person
 - Employee evaluations – what is working for us? what can be done better?
- Myers inquired – being hired from within the department (like with the previous Chief) and looking at staffing and how to proceed – how many officers do you want for the winter?
- Position being vacated should be backfilled – Gruits's position was never filled, which leaves the need to fill two (2) positions
- 9.) What are your thoughts and or experiences with protests? Do you have any experiences with protests that have turned from peaceful to not peaceful? How would you deal with such a situation on Mackinac Island?
- Do have previous protest experience.
 - Would work with surrounding agencies to resolve the issues at hand
 - Identify & work with the “leader” of the protest
- 10.) We have traffic problems during the busy season in multiple areas. The chief and officers need to be visible on the streets. You would have to work with M.I. Carriage Tours/M.I. Service Co. and other businesses to correct the problems. Another traffic problem is people walking in the street because we don't have cars. How would you work with all parties and direct your officers to correct these issues?
- Handle situations as they arise
 - Would work directly with Mackinac Island Carriage Tours & Mackinac Island Service Company
 - Town – would try to have the Public Safety Assistants and Officers throughout to handle issues
 - Had many times this summer where officers were tied up in the office more than usual and not out on the street
 - Would like to have more seasonal officers / staff to serve and protect Mackinac
 - Would like to plan for more staff for summer 2026
- Councilman Moskwa referenced “right wheel to the curb” – how would you handle resolving carriages not adhering to this / blocking the flow of traffic
- Would reach out to carriage companies to work towards a resolution
 - Would like to have officers attend some of the company's trainings to see how things are taught and to also help educate the new employees on how the Police handle things on their end
- Walking in the street
- Over the summers, have talked with different cultures and seems to be partly a cultural problem, but also a lack of education / awareness
 - Would be helpful for the boat lines to make announcements when coming in to harbor
 - More signage coming off the boats
- 11.) Part of the Chief's duties is enforcing zoning and building rules and regulations. Also, the police chief/fire inspector/building inspector complete housing inspections and escorts for motor vehicles. Would you be comfortable working on these programs?
- Absolutely. Currently work with these agencies at this time and have a system that is working pretty well.

- 12.) In the summertime, the Police Department is very busy, and in the off-season, we transport senior citizens daily. Can you adjust to the different seasons on Mackinac? Do you plan any changes for the senior transport for the upcoming season?
- Do have some ideas that he would like to see implemented
 - Would like to speak with other department members on how last year went – look at the internal end and see if any improvements can be made
 - To implement change, would approach the Public Safety Committee – this is what I’m seeing, this is how I think things could be changed or done better
 - Program will always be evolving and changing
 - Believes there is room to extend the hours in the winter to help the community, but with a balance of certain things not being tolerated
- 13.) Describe your views on training and how you would accomplish this, given the small department. Are you cross-trained in fire or EMS?
- Not trained in either, but currently work close with those agencies
 - Would like to do more cross training with mock scenarios
 - Training in general
 - The Department does some training online when they can to save money, but off-sight / in person trainings are good for many reason – especially for networking between departments and agencies
- 14.) Please describe how you plan to communicate with the Mayor and Council?
- Utilize Mayor Doud as a supervisor – constant conversation is necessary
 - Weekly discussion is important, especially between Mayor & Chief
 - At least a monthly report with Council
 - Mayor Doud noted that the Department of Public Works provides weekly reports to the Council – this would be helpful from the Police Department as well
- 15.) Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
- Would love to still be working at the Mackinac Island Police Department as I really enjoy the Island
 - Enjoy the tourism and interacting with the visiting public
- 16.) What are your plans to rein in the abuse of and reckless usage of E-Bikes?
- Biggest thing is more staff – can’t be everywhere at once
 - Timing is a big issue, you never know where they will be
 - Visibility – need more officers to do this effectively
 - Councilwoman Myers noted that this matter requires serious attention. Mayor Doud and the Council members get a lot of complaints from tourists and locals alike
- 17.) How will you patrol the following areas for speed and E-Bikes recklessness: Market Street, Main Street, Annex Road, Cadott Ave, Shepler’s Corner, and Doud’s Corner?
- Need more staff during the summer months to police these things effectively
 - Cannot assign PSAs to this task as they do not have the authority to issue citations
 - Midge noted that PSAs are a benefit when things are going “normal” however this year having been an abnormal year with higher amounts of office work, seasonal officers would be more beneficial.

Electric Bikes:

- Councilman St. Onge inquired about Officer Miedzianowski’s thoughts on impounding electric bikes with throttles?
 - If the ordinance is enforceable, we do our job. If there is an issue, reach out to attorney Evashevski and possibly even a magistrate or judge to see if it is permissible
 - Do you think the e-bike ordinance provides that an officer can impound a parked bike with a throttle?
 - Need to have a conversation with attorney Evashevski to go over specifics - there will always be officer discretion, there are always variables to each situation
- Councilwoman Myers noted that the Council has been in conversation about amendments to the electric bike ordinance based on some changes with the supreme court rulings - are you open to working with the attorney and Council on this?
 - Officer Miedzianowski responded that he would be very open to working on this
- Mayor Doud inquired if Officer Miedzianowski has had experience dealing with the press and having to make statements on behalf of the department and City?
 - Yes. Have done some for the City of Mackinac Island already, as well as other entities

- Mayor Doud asked Office Miedzianowski’s thoughts on communicating with businesses about their employees and the use of electric bikes
 - o Officer Miedzianowski responded that he felt that attending employee orientations would be very helpful
 - o Councilwoman Myers suggested reaching out to HR departments to educate ahead of time for incoming employees
 - o Officer Miedzianowski noted that he had some other ideas regarding this and would like to review them with attorney Evashevski to see if they would work

- Officer Miedzianowski commented that the Police Department does try hard to get a handle on this issue, but timing is always an issue

- In closing, Officer Miedzianowski noted that his leadership style focused on problem solving and collaboration with other agencies.
 - o Constantly working with budgeting and keeping track of numbers and spending within the department
 - o Adapting as a leader is extremely important
 - o Has many goals that he would like to see the department reach going forward

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion made by Myers, seconded by Moskwa, to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 pm.
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, White, St. Onge

Margaret M. Doud, Mayor

Danielle Leach, City Clerk