



Police and Fire Commission Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2023

ABSTRACT/SYNOPSIS OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF THE POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WHITEWATER, WALWORTH AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES, WISCONSIN

Audio of this meeting can be accessed on the City of Whitewater web site at <http://www.whitewater-wi.gov/AgendaCenter>

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call – Support Services Manager Sabrina Ojibway called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Jerry Grant, Beverly Stone, Mwita Binagi, Marissa Aranda, Tom Miller

Members absent: None

Also present: Police Chief Daniel Meyer, Fire Chief Kelly Freeman, Captain Adam Vander Steeg, Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Dion and Support Services Manager Sabrina Ojibway

- II. Election of Police & Fire Commission Officers - Ojibway called for nominations of the Chair of the Police and Fire Commission. Stone nominated Grant with a second from Aranda. Ojibway called for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

Ojibway called the roll for a vote on the appointment of Grant for the Chair of the Police and Fire Commission:

AYES: Grant, Stone, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The vote reflected that Grant was the next Chair of the Police and Fire Commission. Ojibway turned the meeting over to President Grant.

Grant asked for nominations for the Vice Chair of the Police and Fire Commission. Aranda nominated Binagi with a second from Stone. Grant called for any other nominations for the Vice Chair of the Police and Fire Commission. There were no other nominations.

Ojibway called the roll for a vote on the appointment of Binagi for the Vice Chair of the Police and Fire Commission:

AYES: Grant, Stone, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The vote reflected that Binagi was the next Vice Chair of the Police and Fire Commission.

Grant asked for nominations for the Secretary of the Police and Fire Commission. Binagi nominated Aranda with a second by Miller. Grant called for any other nominations for the Secretary of Police and Fire Commission. There were no other nominations.

Ojibway called the roll for a vote on the appointment of Aranda for the Secretary of the Police and Fire Commission:

AYES: Grant, Stone, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The vote reflected that Aranda was the next Secretary of the Police and Fire Commission.

- III. Approval of Minutes from March 8, 2023 – On a motion by Binagi with a second by Aranda the minutes were approved by a voice vote.

AYES: Grant, Stone, Binagi, Aranda

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: Miller

ABSENT: None

- IV. Citizen Comments - Grant read the following disclaimer: *“No formal Police Commission action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three to five minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however citizens may speak to those issues at the time the Police Commission discusses that particular item.”*

There were no citizen comments.

V. New Business

A. Recognition of Police & Fire Commission Member Service to the City of Whitewater.

1. Police Chief Meyer presented Dennis Knopp with a plaque recognizing his ten years of service on the Police and Fire Commission.

B. Police Chief's Report

1. Personnel Update:

- a. Patrol Officers Ryan Aldrich and James Garcia started on April 11, 2023.
- b. Dispatcher Kyliegh Jeffords started with the department on April 17, 2023. This leaves the department with one dispatcher vacancy to fill.
- c. April 17-21 was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.
- d. April 26th was Administrative Professionals Day.

2. Training Update:

- a. Department-wide Legal Update training was provided by Walworth County District Attorney, Zeke Wiedenfeld, April 17th – 19th.
- b. Lt. Nick Borchardt provided active threat training for City Library staff on April 28th.

3. Community Engagement Update:

- a. Civilian Gallantry Award: On April 25th, the PD presented John's Disposal employee, Peter Miller, with the Civilian Gallantry Award for his prompt action

to aid an endangered 2-year old on April 4th. While on his route, Peter located the child walking alone near the intersection of Hyer Ln. and Yoder Ln. during a hailstorm. Peter immediately recognized the danger the child was in, took the child into his truck and contacted the police department.

- b. An immigration guide has been created by Christopher & De Leon Law Office and published to the City website in an effort to provide resources to our population from Central America.

4. Equipment Update:

- a. The department purchased a fentanyl hood that was put into service on April 21, 2023. The hood is designed to draw air away from officers and through a filter while testing unknown substances to increase officer safety.
- b. Officers now have now been issued epaulette mounted Guardian Angel Lights as of April 19, 2023. The lights are designed to make officers safer by making them more visible and by providing them with better lighting in low-light situations. Guardian Angel Lights also have IR technology that make officers much easier to locate while utilizing drones.
- c. On May 9, 2023, first shift officers will begin a trial of three Getac body-worn cameras. Whitewater PD's Axon body camera contract expires at the end of 2023, so the department is working to test out and get quotes for potential alternatives to Axon.

5. Planning/Events:

- a. The last quarter involved multiple tragic calls/investigations including a suicide as well as the investigation of the deceased newborn at Twin Oaks. Chief Meyer publicly praised staff for their dedication and excellent work in those difficult cases.
- b. Spring Splash occurred on April 22nd. PD staff made 54 arrests including 5 criminal traffic arrests. The department saw a reduction in more serious calls and overall, it was a successful event from a law enforcement perspective.
- c. The WPPA union is working through the collective bargaining process.

C. Fire Chief's Report

1. Personnel Update:

- a. Paid on Call EMT Evan Gibson has submitted a letter of resignation. He has completed medical school and is continuing on with his career.
- b. Lieutenant Justin Sachse has requested, and been granted, a six month leave of absence. He has also resigned his position of Lieutenant and will be serving as a line firefighter upon his return.

2. Eligibility List Update:

- a. Interviews will be held in the future for the Lieutenant/Captain eligibility list.

3. Training Update:

- a. The Whitewater Fire Department recently completed their Wildlife Recertification by conducting live burns in the Industrial Park, allowing members to utilize their skills and maintain proficiency in suppression equipment. The live burns also allowed for the observation of fire growth and development.

4. Community Engagement Update:

- a. Since the last meeting Whitewater Fire Department has participated in Spring Splash, International Children's Day at Lincoln Elementary School and an Easter egg hunt in Twin Oaks.
- b. Assistant Fire Chief Dion spoke of the recent unfortunate passing of several retired Firefighters. The family of Scott Oldenburg has donated funds to Whitewater Fire Department in his memory. Plans are to purchase a fire extinguisher training prop which will include an engraving of his name. The fire extinguisher prop will be utilized as an educational tool that will benefit the department's response area in the years to come.

D. Adjournment to Closed Session, to Reconvene per Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1)(C) *"Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility."*

- 1. Item to be Discussed: Presentation of EMT/Firefighter Candidates for Certification
- 2. Item to be Discussed: Presentation of EMT/Firefighter Candidates for Promotion
- 3. Item to be Discussed: Interview of Patrol Officer Candidate

On a motion from Miller with a second from Binagi, the Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 7:25pm.

AYES: Grant, Stone, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

E. Reconvene into Open Session

On a motion from Binagi with a second from Miller, the Commissioners reconvened into open session at 8:13pm.

AYES: Grant, Stone, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

1. Announcement of Recommendation Concerning Whitewater Fire Department Hiring Process:

On a motion from Stone with a second from Binagi the Commissioners moved to approve the appointment of Mikayla Fehl to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic, effective March 26, 2023. This appointment is subject to the successful completion of a 12-month probationary period.

AYES: Grant, Aranda, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

On a motion from Stone with a second from Miller the Commissioners moved to approve the appointment of Riley Walters to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic, effective March 29, 2023. This appointment is subject to the successful completion of a 12-month probationary period.

AYES: Grant, Aranda, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

On a motion from Stone with a second from Aranda the Commissioners moved to approve the appointment of Sean O'Flanagan to the position of Firefighter/EMT, effective April 3, 2023. This appointment is subject to the successful completion of a 12-month probationary period.

AYES: Grant, Aranda, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

2. Announcement of Recommendation Concerning Whitewater Fire Department Promotional Process:

On a motion from Stone with a second from Aranda the Commissioners moved to approve the promotion of Jacob Maas to the position of Lieutenant, effective April 6, 2023. This appointment is subject to the successful completion of a 12-month probationary period.

AYES: Grant, Aranda, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

On a motion from Miller with a second from Aranda the Commissioners moved to approve the promotion of James Lewis to the position of Lieutenant, effective April 6, 2023. This appointment is subject to the successful completion of a 12-month probationary period.

AYES: Grant, Aranda, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

3. Announcement of Recommendation Concerning Whitewater Police Department Hiring Process:

On a motion from Aranda with a second from Binagi the Commissioners moved to approve the appointment of Derek Johnson to the position of Patrol Officer for the City of Whitewater Police Department

AYES: Grant, Aranda, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

VI. Future Commission Meeting Dates – The Police & Fire Commission tentatively plan to meet on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 6:30pm.

VII. Future Agenda Items

None

VIII. Adjournment -On a motion by Miller with a second by Stone the Commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Grant, Stone, Binagi, Aranda, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Commissioners adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabrina Ojibway

Support Services Manager