

CITY OF BELLEVILLE
POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2023
MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM 2ND FLOOR CITY HALL
MEETING TIME – 6:00 P.M.

Committee Chair Alderman Johnnie Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:	Johnnie Anthony	Bryan Whitaker	Shelley Schaefer
	Carmen Duco	Dennis Weygandt	Scott Ferguson
	Mary Stiehl		Kara Osthoff

Department Head/Staff:	Police Chief Matt Eiskant	Asst. Police Chief Mark Heffernan
	Fire Chief Lloyd Stinson	

Guest: Michael Hagberg

Minutes:

Alderman Whitaker motioned to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2023, meeting as presented, second by Alderwoman Stiehl. All members present voted – Aye. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

Michael Hagberg: Mr. Hagberg stated he wanted to see the Lift Assist under Old Business so that it can be discussed again. He continued by stating he would also like to know the number of false alarms for properties that the Police Department and Fire Department answer and to initiate a fee if it is a repeated address.

Staff Report:

Police Department:

- 1) Asst. Chief Heffernan requested a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Belleville/Belleville Police and Belle Valley School District 119 to Establish a “Cops in Schools” School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.

Alderwoman Schaefer made the motion second by Alderman Ferguson to approve the request.

Asst. Chief Heffernan stated this is the same agreement that the City has with other local schools, the district will pay 75% of a Ford SUV Interceptor and 75% of the Police Officer’s salary. This will be an 8-hour day for the SRO. In the summer, the SRO comes back to the Police Department. Currently there are five SROs. Alderman Anthony asked if there will be a maximum number of SROs and Chief Eiskant stated no, the City of Belleville Police Department will be partners with the Schools and School Districts. Alderwoman Osthoff ask if any other schools have asked for Officers. Asst. Chief Heffernan stated at this time no.

Members voting aye on roll call: Anthony, Whitaker, Schaefer, Duco, Weygandt, Ferguson, Osthoff, Stiehl (8)

Motion carries.

2) & 3)

Chief Eiskant requested a motion to approve the Appointment of Christopher Vandelinde and Ralph Holmes Sr., as Police Chaplains effective February 22, 2023 at 12:01 a.m.

Alderman Ferguson made the motion second by Alderwoman Schaefer to approve the request.

Chief Eiskant stated that Christopher Vandelinde is a Pastor at Cornerstone Church and Ralph Holmes Sr., is a retired Air Force Master Sgt and attends Redeemers House of Worship. Alderman Whitaker asked if they were going to be used for public involvement at large scenes. Chief Eiskant stated it was quite possible. Alderwoman Schaefer asked if there are any women being considered. Alderman Ferguson agreed that there should be women Chaplains. Chief Eiskant welcomed the idea and added that if they knew of anyone, please send them his way.

All members present voted aye.

Motion Carries.

- 4) Chief Eiskant gave a staffing update and the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 considerations. Currently there are 73 Officers. The Department was looking at a lateral hire but that one fell through. In May with the new Budget, the goal is 78-79 Officers. He would like to increase that amount each year.

Fire Department:

- 1) Chief Stinson requested a motion to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS Master Agreement 2022).

Alderman Whitaker made a motion second by Alderman Ferguson to approve the request.

All members present voted aye.

Motion Carries.

- 2) Chief Stinson stated he will bring the Firefighter Eligibility List to the committee after it has been approved by the Police & Fire Commission.

Chief Stinson stated he has been looking into the Lift Assist issue and had seen some legislation that was in the works regarding charging Nursing Homes and such for the service of Lift Assist.

Alderwoman Schaefer asked that this issue be sent to City Attorney Hoerner for an Ordinance to allow the Fire Department to charge the ambulance companies for Lift Assists. Chief Stinson had queried November and December 2022 and found that in November there were twelve (12) calls for Lift Assists and December there were fourteen (14). The Chief stated he did not want to just stop providing the service because the Fire Department is here to serve the citizens of Belleville. Alderman Whitaker cautioned the Committee as well stating that not assisting the two ambulance services in Belleville could lead to longer wait times for others requesting emergency services. Alderwoman Schaefer stated that is a problem, but not the Fire Department's problem.

New Business:

Alderwoman Osthoff asked for an update on the building that burned down at 4508 West Main Street, had there been any injuries, what caused the fire, when it will be cleaned up etc. Fire Chief Stinson stated that the Arson Dog had been taken through the building but there were no hits, there were no deaths and no injuries. Police Chief Eiskant added that Scott Tyler from Health and Housing will contact the insurance company and start the process of getting it cleaned up.

Old Business:

None.

Adjournment:

Alderwoman Schaefer made a motion second by Alderman Ferguson to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

All members present voted - Aye. Motion passed.

Minutes by: Niccy Cook