

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
January 7, 2025
8:30 a.m.
City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Room 404, Peoria, Illinois

ROLL CALL

The Board of Fire & Police Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson William Spears
Commissioner's present: William Spears, Kelly Petersen, Mickeisha Armstrong, Pastor Marvin Hightower and Terry Cooper

Commissioners Absent: Thomas Burke and Barry Anderson

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Captain John Briggs, Police Officer Christopher Collins, Police Officer Ciara Barker, Police Sergeant Brian Richards and Attorney Masum Perkins

Commission Vice Chairman William Spears called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Spears, Vice Chairman stated that the minutes from the December 4, 2024, meeting will be reviewed at the February 5, 2025, Fire and Police Commission meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Chairman Spears read the communication and asked for the approval of the communication.

- A. **Promotion** – Permanent Promotion of Police Officer Jason Leigh to Police Sergeant effective January 5, 2025

Kelly Petersen motioned to receive and file the communications as presented; seconded by Terry Cooper; all approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Officer Chris Collins stated that they will be holding the orientation for Police Recruit candidates on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Peoria Police Department.

Vice Chairman Spears asked if any of the Commissioners would be attending the orientations.

Commissioner Kelly Petersen and Commissioner Mickeisha Armstrong stated that they would come on Wednesday and Vice Chairman Spears stated that he would come on Saturday.

Commissioner Petersen asked that the Peoria Police Department defer their January 2025 Applicant Data information that he has asked for until the next meeting when the Police Chief is present.

Captain John Briggs had the information passed out to the Commission to review for the next meeting and stated that they will defer their report until the February meeting.

B. Fire and Police Commission Rules Discussion

Vice Chairperson Spears stated that they will defer this discussion until the next meeting due to some Commission members and Police and Fire Chiefs not present.

Mickeisha Armstrong moved to defer the Fire and Police Commission Rules discussion until the February meeting; seconded by Terry Cooper; all approved 5-0.

Vice Chairperson Spears asked if there was anything else that needed to be discussed.

Sergeant Brian Richards stated that they sent 11 Police Recruit candidates to the Police Training Institute yesterday and all passed the POWER test on the first day.

Sergeant Brian Richards stated that the 11 consisted of five white males; four African American males; one Hispanic male and one African American female, which is a very diverse group.

Officer Collins stated that at the beginning, six out of the 11 Police Recruit candidates could not pass the POWER test, but with them working with the Fitness Team, they were able to pass the test above the actual requirements.

Officer Collins stated that there are 64 applicants for the new testing cycle for May that have turned all their documents and 21 that haven't submitted their documents.

Officer Collins stated that last week there were 41 applicants that had not submitted their documents, so between the Recruitment Commission and Debra Bush, they were able to contact the applicants and get them to submit their documents.

Attorney Masum Perkins stated that there was a room change for the January 7, 2025, Fire and Police Commission meeting that was scheduled for City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Room 404, but due to a scheduling error, the meeting was moved to City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Room 112.

Kelly Petersen stated there was a great newspaper article published on Saturday, December 29, 2024, on the Police Department that mentioned the Commission and had a picture of Officer Chris Collins. He encouraged everyone to go online and look at the article.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Kelly Petersen moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Terry Cooper; all approved 5-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

William Spears, Vice Chairperson

Terry Cooper, Member

Mickeisha Armstrong, Secretary

Pastor Marvin Hightower

Kelly Petersen, Member