

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
May 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 Chairperson Thomas Burke

Commissioner's present: Thomas Burke, William Spears, Kelly Petersen, Pastor Marvin Hightower, Barry Anderson and Terry Cooper

Commissioner's Absent: Mickeisha Armstrong

Others present: Senior Human Resources Specialist Debra Bush, Human Resources Director Ed Hopkins, Police Captain John Briggs, Police Officer Chris Collins, Police Officer Ciara Barker, Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger, Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings, Attorney Masum Perkins, Fire Division Chief Ryan Calhoun, Criminal Justice Reporter Zach Roth, Journal Star, and Traffic Safety Engineer Jeff Council

Commission Chairman Tom Burke called the meeting to order.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Kelly Peterson nominated Tom Burke to remain as Chairman; seconded by Terry Cooper; all approved 6-0.

Tom Burke nominated William Spears to remain as Vice Chairman; seconded by Kelly Peterson; all approved 6-0.

Pastor Marvin Hightower nominated Kelly Petersen to be Secretary; seconded by William Spears; all approved 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Burke asked for the approval of the minutes from April 2, 2025 Fire and Police Commission meeting.

William Spears motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 2, 2025; seconded by Terry Cooper; all approved 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. **Request to Promote** – Fire Engineer Ryan Brady to Fire Captain effective March 26, 2025, due to the promotion of Thomas Stimeling to Fire Battalion Chief of EMS
- B. **Request to Promote** – Fire Engineer Ryan Harris to Fire Captain effective March 26, 2025, due to his name being next on the Captain Promotional List
- C. **Request to Promote** – Joshua Maroney to Fire Battalion Chief effective March 26, 2025, due to extended illness of Fire Battalion Chief of EMS
- D. **Request to Promote** – Thomas Stimeling to Fire Battalion Chief of EMS effective March 26, 2025, due to extended illness of Fire Battalion Chief of EMS
- E. **Request to Promote** – Firefighter Anthony Orwig to Fire Engineer effective March 26, 2025, due to the promotion of Fire Battalion Chief Thomas Stimeling
- F. **Request to Promote** – Permanent promotion of Police Officer Timothy Wong to Police Sergeant effective Sunday, April 27, 2025, due to the retirement of Todd Leach

Chairman Burke asked for the approval of the Communications to receive and file.

Terry Cooper motioned to approve Communications A, B, C, D, E, and F as presented; seconded by William Spears, all approved 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Police Officer Ciara Barker passed out the Peoria Police Department April Recruitment Report.

Officer Barker stated that they had 11 Police Recruits graduate from PTI on April 24th and 17 new Police Recruits were sworn in on April 28th.

Officer Barker stated that they will have four Interns that will be starting for the summer, and they had three interns from the spring semester that finished their tie during the month of April.

Officer Barker stated that the interviews were held for the Police Cadets, and they will be hiring three Cadets on May 27, 2025.

Officer Barker stated that they attended the following April Events:

- 4/2 – ICC meet and greet
- 4/25 – Skillbridge USA
- 4/25 – Hiring Expo featuring SWAT (Over 30 people attended this event)
- 4/26 – Autism Awareness and Appreciation Day Event
- Fitness Team 3 times per week – Trying to incorporate yoga and hikes into the program

Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cummings passed out the Fire Department Recruitment Committee Report.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they hired five candidates off of the current list and the graduation is Friday, May 16, 2025, at the Gateway Building.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they will be expanding their apprenticeship program from three to six and that they hired four new Fire Apprentices to start on Monday, June 2, 2025.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that they worked with Community Development for the Great American cleanup on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at various locations.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that the Fitness Team implementation was going extremely well, and the numbers continue to grow.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that the training will expand to utilizing the CPAT setup at the Old Marshalls building with the testing dates being held throughout June.

Assistant Fire Chief Cummings stated that the Networking – Upcoming events were as follows:

- Multi-cultural fair – Saturday, May 10th at the Riverfront Museum
- Air Guard career fair
- Juneteenth booth and recruiting
- Western Illinois University
- Skill USA

Chairman Burke introduced Jeff Council and asked if he would like something to say.

Jeff Council passed out his cards and went over the information as follows:

Roadway Worker and Responder Safety Card

Scene Risk Factor Analysis Checklist: (L.I.S.A.)

- High Speed Roadway
- Live Lane
- Impaired Hours (9pm – 4am)
- Sight Distance (curve, hill)'
- Adverse Weather
- Traffic, Time on Scene

Scene Risk Factors

1. High Speed roadway (87%)
2. Live Lane (63%)
3. Impaired, Drowsy Hours (36% between 9pm – 4am)
4. Reduced Sight Distance due to a curve or hill (23%)
5. Adverse Weather – reduced visibility or traction (17+%)
6. Traffic, Time on Scene

Mr. Council stated that this crash data gives hope and direction for how we can solve and prevent many of these serious and tragic crashes.

Human Resources Director Ed Hopkins stated that Mr. Council would need to go out and see who would best benefit from this information.

Commissioner Kelly Petersen suggested that companies like IDOT, ISP, and insurance companies could possibly benefit from this information.

Mr. Council stated that by attending this meeting, he would get everyone together at one time to discuss the information.

Mr. Hopkins stated that he agreed with Commissioner Petersen that it would be better to contact those organizations who are better equipped to use the information.

Chairman Burke thanked Mr. Council for coming to speak to the Commission.

Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger introduced Division Chief Ryan Calhoun to the Commission. He took the place of Lori Baxter who retired recently from the Fire Department.

B. Review of Fire and Police Commission Rules – Polygraph Examinations

Attorney Masum Perkins passed the polygraph interview questions received from Steve Woody for discussion.

The Commission had a discussion on the polygraph questions and Attorney Perkins will contact Steve Woody to discuss the comments and concerns of the Commission and bring back the results to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Bill Spears moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Kelly Petersen; all approved 6-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Senior Human Resources Specialist

APPROVED:

Thomas Burke, Chairperson

William Spears, Vice Chairperson

Pastor Marvin Hightower, Member

Barry Anderson, Member

Terry Cooper, Member

Kelly Petersen, Member