

POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 26, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Dave Gough at 6:00 PM. Present at roll call were: Dave Gough, Dennis E. Murphy and Stuart Vamstad. Excused absence: Janet West and Brian Bennett. Also present were: Mayor Dave Breunig, Jason King, Steve Messner and Phil Risseeuw.

Motion by Murphy second by Vamstad that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Vamstad second by Murphy to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning the resignation of Steve Messner from this Police Officer Position. A copy of an email from Officer Messner was distributed to those present at this meeting. The email states his last full working day will be January 30, 2016; however using his accumulated vacation time and comp time; his last official day with the City will be February 26, 2016. Officer Messner then stated it was a privilege working for the City of Darlington. He also stated it was time for him to move on. Officer Messner then stated he has personal issues with Chief King and Sergeant Ruesga; and Sheriff Gill did not recruit him. Officer Messner was then thanked for his service. After discussion and consideration, motion by Gough second by Murphy to accept the resignation of Officer Messner with February 26, 2016 as his last official day with the City. Motion carried.

Discussion was also held with Chief King concerning the employee turnover in his department. Chief King stated he had an exit interview with Officer Messner, and he was willing to share that information with the Police Commission in closed session at a future meeting of this committee. Chief King stated he does not think he or Sergeant Ruesga has done anything wrong. Mayor Breunig stated he and Commission Chairman Dave Gough have discussed holding exit interviews with police officers who are leaving employment with the City. Officer Messner then left the meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning the process for hiring a new Police Officer. Chief King distributed an advertisement for the position to those present, for review and approval. Jason stated he would place this advertisement on the Wisconsin Law Enforcement network website, and also contact employment representatives at UW-Platteville and SW Wis. Technical College. Chief King stated employment applications will be accepted until 5:00 PM on February 16, 2016. The applications will then be reviewed by all members of the Darlington Police Department; and they will select five to seven applicants for the Police Commission to interview. After discussion and consideration, motion by Gough second by Murphy to approve the process for hiring a new Police Officer as presented. Motion carried.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Gough second by Vamstad to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseeuw, Clerk-Treasurer