

POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Dave Gough at 6:00 PM. Present at roll call were: Dave Gough, Janet West, Stuart Vamstad, Dennis E. Murphy and Brian Bennett. Absent: None. Also present were: Mayor Dave Breunig, Don Osterday, Cindy Corley, Jason King, Tony Ruesga and Phil Risseeuw.

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

Under comments of citizens present, Stuart Vamstad was welcomed back as a member of the Police Commission; and Rodger Fisher was thanked for his years of service on the Police Commission.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning possible revisions to the Police Department operator license screening guide. A copy of the current guide was included in the agenda packet. Chief King explained this guide is used to evaluate applicants for operator licenses within the City of Darlington. Recently an operator license applicant was denied an operator license based on this guide. The denial was appealed to the City Council, and some Council members felt the guide should be reviewed. The recent denial was based on a municipal code disorderly conduct citation. John Sonsalla arrived at the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Discussion items included the following:

- Should municipal code violations be included in this guide, or only criminal offenses?
- How many times per year someone is denied an operator license? It was reported over the past twenty years; approximately 5 people have been denied an operator license.
- If an applicant is denied an operator license they can still work at a licensed establishment, however they cannot work by themselves.
- Several comments were made by those present regarding this matter.

After discussion and consideration, motion by West second by Bennett to leave the operator license screening guide as is. Motion carried. Steve Pickett arrived at the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Discussion was then held concerning the resignation of Eric Longseth from his Police Officer position. Chief King reported Eric has resigned his position, and has accepted a position with the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department. Due to his accrued vacation and comp. time, he has already left the department. After discussion and consideration, motion by Vamstad second by Murphy to accept the resignation of Eric Longseth from this Police Officer position effective immediately. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning the replacement of Officer Longseth. Chief King reported two options are available. We can advertise for the position or promote an officer from the part-time officer list. Discussion was then held concerning the pros and cons of each alternative, and the current part-time officers available for promotion. After discussion and consideration, it was the consensus of those present to consider the promotion of a part time officer to full time officer status; however that matter was not on the agenda for this meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning the proposed 2016 Police Department budget. A preliminary copy of the proposed budget was included in the agenda packet. An updated budget worksheet was distributed to those present at this meeting. The updated budget included the actual health insurance costs, which were received from the Department of Employee Trust Funds yesterday. The proposed budget calls for total revenues of \$21,120.00 and total expenses of \$494,973.66; and outlay requests of \$12,000.00 for Police Outlay and \$1,000.00 for DARE Outlay. Dale Wiegel, Walter West, Larry Wedig and Roger Liddicoat arrived at the meeting at 6:52 PM.

Chief King presented the proposed budget and answered questions regarding the information included in the budget worksheet. Chief King stated the budget includes the 2.0% wage increase for the Chief and Secretary that was authorized by Mayor Breunig; includes the 3.0% wage increase for Police Officers that was approved in the Police Union Contract; and results in a 2.8% expense increase which is within the 3.0% increase also authorized by Mayor Breunig. A new squad car has been ordered, and the \$12,000.00 in the Police Outlay is for new equipment for the new squad. After review, discussion and consideration, motion by West second by Vamstad to recommend to the Finance and Personnel Committee the approval of the proposed 2016 Police Department budget as presented. Motion carried.

The next meeting of this Commission was then scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 6:00 PM. There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Vamstad second by Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseeuw, Clerk-Treasurer