

November 2, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 5:35 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Steven M. DeVougas, Chair
Kathryn A. Hein
Ann Wilson
Angela McKenzie

ABSENT: Commissioner: Marisabel Cabrera (Excused)
Fred Crouther (Excused)
Nelson Soler (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Rohlfing, Chief, Milwaukee Fire Department; and Edward Flynn, Chief, Milwaukee Police Department.

The Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 5:04 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Stats. to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over whom the Board has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to wit: promotion of nominees to Detective, appointment of nominee to Database Analyst, and planning for Chief evaluations.

The meeting was staffed by Executive Director MaryNell Regan, who announced that item IV. A. had been removed from the agenda to be held over to the next meeting due to ongoing fact-finding, recently received documentation from the Milwaukee Police Department and the Common Council, and to allow all the Commissioners to weigh in on the item. The Chair opened the meeting with Public Comment.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jimmy Holte expressed his concern with safety in the city. He stated he was robbed on a bus in Milwaukee and is upset that no one is doing anything about it. He wants the Board to ask why he cannot get any help from the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD). He stated there was footage of the robbery that has not been turned over to the MPD by the Milwaukee County Transit System.

Randall Aronson, Block Watch – Sherman Park, addressed the public disinterest in safety on the city roads. His wife and daughter had a tire blow out in front of the third district MPD station. They went in and asked for help but no one there was able to assist them aside from calling a tow truck for them. However, a sheriff's deputy stopped by and helped change their tire.

Steve O'Connell, Block Watch – Grasslyn Manor and SPCA Safety Committee, stated that he and Block Watch are concerned with traffic safety on Capitol Drive and Fond du Lac Avenue. He shared traffic ticket and accident statistics he had found related to Capitol Drive. He asked why only recently there has been any enforcement on these roads. Although he gave credit to the MPD for increasing their presence there, he expressed it is very late in coming. He presented petitions to the FPC, signed by residents of the area, demanding a written plan from the MPD on how it will enforce traffic laws of the city and a monthly record of traffic citations.

Cynthia Greenwood, Coalition for Justice, began by expressing her shared concern over public safety but primarily focused on Mayor Barrett. She stated he has taken a leave of absence and the city is unsafe. She also took issue with a plan to sell Milwaukee's water to Waukesha. She stated she will obtain a permit to protest if violence in Milwaukee does not diminish. She asked why the Mayor can ride Chief Flynn but no one is riding the Mayor. She concluded by calling for a recall of Mayor Barrett.

Barry Givens, Sherman Park Community Association, expressed his concern with traffic safety in Milwaukee. He appreciated that Chief Flynn is enforcing the laws but the city is out of control. He expressed that many of the reckless drivers are driving stolen vehicles without license plates and with illegally tinted windows.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Director presented the following items for approval on the consent agenda. (Detailed information concerning the items can be found under the appropriate regular meeting agenda heading in the minutes.)

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2017
- B. Promotion: Emergency Communications Operator II (Police Dept.)
- C. Appointments: School Crossing Guard (3 positions) (Police Dept.)
- D. Request for Voluntary Demotion of Police Officer
- E. Communication regarding Suspension of Police Officer

There being no objections, all of the items were approved for adoption.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) The following promotion, as presented by Chief Flynn, was approved by the Board:

TO LATENT PRINT EXAMINER, from Forensic Investigator, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective November 5, 2017:

BENJAMIN D. HURLEY.

- b) The following appointment, as presented by Chief Flynn, was approved by the Board:

TO DATABASE ANALYST, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, medical examination, and drug screening, effective November 6, 2017:

MICHAEL MASICK.

c) The Chair made a statement on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Collaborative Reform Initiative. He stated that an internal discussion with the Chair, members of Mayor Barrett's office, MPD, Council President Ashanti Hamilton, and various Fire and Police Commission (FPC) staff took place on November 1, 2017. The meeting was productive and continued to be in line with having the community at large lead the discussion regarding the recommendations and proposed solutions to be put forth to the FPC. At the next FPC meeting another announcement will be made that will address a timeline and plan going forward. He encouraged persons and organizations to contact the FPC office at 414-286-5000 or at fpc@milwaukee.gov and leave their contact information and the capacity in which residents and agencies would like to be involved.

d) The Director issued a response to Public Comments from the last meeting. All three speakers addressed immigration issues within the south side. The Director advised the Board and the residents that the FPC has met with Father Jose and Allie Gardner from Common Ground and is pursuing building a partnership with them to build community relations with their 12,000 membership.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) The Chair stated that the Review of SOP 580 regarding the Ride-Along Program and the BBC Documentary Filming items will be held over until the next meeting.

5. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented a request from Chief Flynn to extend the Detective Eligible List from its expiration date of December 17, 2017 to March 17, 2018, a period of three months. This will allow the Department to fill vacancies until the next exam is ready. Commissioner Hein moved approval of the extension, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion carried unanimously.

b) The Director presented a request from both Chief Rohlfing and the Director to extend the Fire Captain and Fire Lieutenant Eligible Lists from their respective expiration dates of March 3, 2018, and February 18, 2018. Staff recommended that the lists both be extended for a period of eight months from their currently scheduled expiration dates to accommodate the testing schedule. Commissioner Wilson moved approval of the extensions, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

6. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotions, as presented by Chief Rohlfing, were approved by the Board:

TO FIRE DISPATCHER - SENIOR, on a temporary basis for a 60-day period, from Fire Dispatcher, effective November 5, 2017:

BRYCE W. PEPLINSKI; PATRICIA J. SAAVEDRA and MEGAN H. HART.

7. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotion, as presented by Chief Rohlfing, was approved by the Board:

TO DETECTIVE, from eligible list approved on December 17, 2015, effective November 19, 2017:

#58 -- FROILAN A. SANTIAGO.

Note: The Board held over the promotion of #57 – Antonio D. Fitzgerald, pending the resolution of two open items.

b) The Director presented a letter dated October 13, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he nominates Robert M. Malasuk to the exempt position of Emergency Communications Manager in the Police Department, to be effective December 4, 2017. Pursuant to Rules of the Board, final action on this nomination was laid over to permit the nominee to be interviewed.

c) The following promotion, as presented by Chief Flynn, was approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Item B:

TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR II, from Emergency Communications Operator I, effective November 19, 2017:

MATTHEW R. NELSON.

d) The following appointments, as presented by Chief Flynn, were approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Item C:

TO SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD, with effective dates:

MARGARITA BENZO DE RODRIGUEZ (10/12/17), SABRINA M. JACKSON (9/18/17), and IVAN N. RODAS (9/18/17).

e) The following request was previously approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Item D:

The Director presented a letter dated October 19, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he presents a request from Police Officer Angeline White for voluntary demotion to her former position of Custodial Worker II, to be effective November 5, 2017.

f) The following communication was previously received by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Item E:

A letter dated October 25, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he notifies the Board that Police Officer Aileene I. Chovanec has been suspended for ten days for violation of Department Rules and Code of Conduct under an order dated October 25, 2017.

g) The Director presented a letter dated October 25, 2017, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Detective Melanie M. Beasley be extended for a period of 169 days, to begin when she returns from her leave of absence. Commissioner McKenzie moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner McKenzie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 6:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryNell Regan
Executive Director

MNR:REK:rc