

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Police Merit Commission
April 19, 2021
Special Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Wheeler, Gail Gartin and Karen Horth Powers were present

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Robert Crouch and Bob Hendrickson

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: City Attorney Voller

STAFF BY ZOOM: Police Chief Hofmann and Captain Schneider

Commission President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Powers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 8, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gartin. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Police Chief Hofmann requested approval of a proposal for an amendment to the Police Merit Commission Rules. Police Chief Hofmann and Captain Schneider discussed why changes in the rules pertaining to Article II (Member Appointment) and Article IV (Promotions) were necessary. The commissioners discussed each change in Article II. Following discussion, Ms. Powers moved to approve Article II with the changes including Section K (5) which was replaced with H.E.A. No. 1033. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gartin. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief Hofmann and Captain Schneider discussed changes in the language and percentage numbers in Sections B, C and D in Article IV. The changes include:

- Weighting of certain components for the testing process
- A member being promoted to Sergeant must have been a member for a minimum of 5 years.
- A Sergeant being promoted to Lieutenant must have served at the lower rank for at least 2 years.
- The minimum passing score for the written exam is 70% and the minimum passing score for the oral interview is 66.7%.

Following discussion, Ms. Powers moved to approve Article IV with the changes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gartin. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

COMMENTS OF THE POLICE CHIEF: Police Chief Hofmann thanked the commissioners for approving the changes to the commission rules.

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Captain Schneider requested a special meeting to certify the test results for candidates going to the next phase of the 2021 hiring process. There will be a special meeting on Friday, April 23, 2021 at 5 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

Charles Wheeler, President

Kathleen Walton, City Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, with the exception of the motions. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.