

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Police Merit Commission**  
**January 8, 2024**  
**Regular Meeting**

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Bob Hendrickson

ALSO PRESENT: Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Bigsbee, and Lieutenant Evans

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

Commission President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The election of President of the Police Merit Commission was opened for nominations. Mrs. Gartin nominated Charles Wheeler for President. Mr. Wheeler three times called for any additional nominations. Mr. Wheeler closed nominations for President. Thereupon, Mr. Wheeler, as the only nominee, was elected unanimously by acclamation.

The election of Vice President of the Police Merit Commission was opened for nominations. Ms. Powers nominated Ron Christensen for Vice President. Mrs. Gartin nominated Mrs. Gartin. Commission President Wheeler three times called for any additional nominations. Mr. Wheeler closed nominations for Vice President. By a roll call vote, Mrs. Gartin was elected unanimously.

The election of Secretary of the Police Merit Commission was opened for nominations. Mr. Wheeler nominated Ms. Karen Horth Powers for Secretary. Commission President Wheeler three times called for any additional nominations. Mr. Wheeler closed nominations for Secretary. Thereupon, Ms. Powers, as the only nominee, was elected unanimously by acclamation.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Powers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 11, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christensen. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Police Chief Bigsbee said two merit officers were hired today and sworn in by Mayor Whitfield. Also, two reserve officers were sworn in today.

Lieutenant Evans said Mayor Whitfield swore in Police Chief Bigsbee as Police Chief.

Mr. Wheeler said there will be a special meeting of the Police Merit Commission on February 5, 2024, at 5pm. The February 12, 2024, regular meeting will be cancelled. The next regular meeting is on March 11, 2024, at 6pm.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

---

Charles Wheeler, President

---

Kathleen Walton, Recording Secretary

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