

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Police Merit Commission
August 8, 2022
Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Wheeler, Gail Gartin, Bob Hendrickson, and Ronald Christensen

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Horth Powers

ALSO PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Woodruff, and Officer Adam Hazelwood

STAFF BY ZOOM: None

Commission President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 13, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hendrickson and carried 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: Police Chief Woodruff began the meeting with a promotion ceremony for Officer Adam Hazelwood from patrol officer to sergeant. The chief noted that Officer Hazelwood is a true homegrown public safety servant. He began as a young man in the Explorer Cadet Program. Eventually he became a telecommunicator in the 911 Communications Center and a reserve police officer. He joined the Lawrence Police Department as a full-time officer in July 2014. Over the years, he has also served as a K-9 handler, and K-9 trainer after his own extensive training school experience to be certified as a K-9 trainer. He is a Leadership Academy graduate. In his “spare time”, he also works for MSDLT. Sergeant Hazelwood’s record of service reflects all the qualities and experiences that we look for in a successful police officer. He is now taking on what is arguably among the most important positions within any police department: that of first-line supervisor. He is transitioning from “doing” the job, to being responsible for those “doing” the job. Clearly Sergeant Hazelwood is well equipped for success and fully managing his new responsibilities.

City Clerk Kathy Walton administered the Oath of Office for Sergeant Hazelwood.

COMMENTS OF THE POLICE CHIEF: Police Chief Woodruff then reported that two new police officers are graduating from field training in the coming days; two more are completing their training at the Police Academy and are graduating this Friday, August 12, 2022. One additional officer will be sworn in on Friday, August 19, 2022, and two more officers on Monday, August 22, 2022. These are replacement officers for those who have retired. He concluded by

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reminding everyone that Saturday, August 13th is Public Safety Day. The event will run from 10am to 2pm with demonstrations conducted by first responders and, of course, the popular wing-eating contest between the police and fire departments.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 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, except for the motions.