

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Police Merit Commission
October 17, 2022
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Hendrickson

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton and City Attorney Kaitlin Voller

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Woodruff, Officer Brian Sharp, and Sergeant Brandon Raftery

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 August 8, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gartin and carried 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Police Chief Woodruff discussed changes in the language in Article I, Section G (7). The changes include:

(7) Amendments to the Rules. Amendments to the rules shall take effect **thirty (30) days after their adoption if copies have been furnished to all members of the department within that period. Otherwise, they do not take effect until copies are furnished to all members of the department.**

Following discussion, Ms. Powers moved to accept the amendment to Article I, Section G (7) with the changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christensen. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

Police Chief Woodruff, Sergeant Raftery and Mr. Wheeler discussed changes in the language in Article II, Sections A (1) – (18), G (2), and I. These changes enable flexibility to recruit and be competitive. Sergeant Raftery, President of FOP Local 159, said the FOP worked with the membership and support the amendments. Following discussion, Mrs. Gartin moved to accept amendments to all sections and subsections of Article II. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christensen. By a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

Police Chief Woodruff requested the Police Merit Commission to allow the Professional Standards Division Commander to act as the agent for the Police Merit Commission during the 2022 hiring process. Mrs. Gartin moved to approve Captain Schneider to act as the agent for the Police Merit Commission for the 2022 hiring process. The motion was seconded by Ms. Powers and carried 4-0.

Police Chief Woodruff requested approval to designate Fire and Police Selection, Inc. (FPSi) as the professional service company for written and oral interview for the 2022 hiring process. Ms. Powers moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christensen and carried 4-0.

Police Chief Woodruff requested approval for the Police Aptitude and Character Test (PACT) be adopted as the aptitude test for 365 days at the time of first written exam is administered. Mrs. Gartin moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christensen and carried 4-0.

Following discussion, Mrs. Gartin moved to cancel the regular meeting on November 14, 2022, at 6pm and schedule a special meeting on November 21, 2022, at 6pm to address the hiring process. The motion was seconded by Ms. Powers and carried 4-0.

PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: None

COMMENTS OF THE POLICE CHIEF: Police Chief Woodruff recognized members of the committee who updated the hiring process and amendments to the commission rules. He commended the committee for all their hard work.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 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.