

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Police Merit Commission**  
**November 13, 2023**  
**Public Assembly Room**  
**Regular Meeting**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Hendrickson

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Bigsbee, Deputy Chief of Police Cline, and Lieutenant Evans

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

Commission President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS: Ms. Powers recognized Clerk Walton for her many years of service to the Police Merit Commission and thanked her for her dedication to all the citizens of Lawrence. Mrs. Gartin echoed those sentiments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting on October 19, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gartin and carried 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Lieutenant Evans requested to certify the top three (3) candidates with the highest scores for Sergeant: Candidate ID #0529, Candidate ID #0532, and Candidate ID #0366 as submitted. Mr. Christensen moved to certify the candidates with the 3 highest scores for Sergeant. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gartin and carried 4-0.

Lieutenant Evans recommends the promotion of certified Candidate ID # 0529 (Officer Mateo Agresta to the rank of Sergeant effective December 24, 2023. Mrs. Gartin moved to promote Officer Mateo Agresta to the rank of Sergeant. Ms. Powers seconded the motion and carried 4-0.

Lieutenant Evans reviewed the proposed edits to Merit Commission Rules (Article II Member Appointment – G. (1)).

Article II G. (1) rule regarding the Physical Agility Test standards. Removing the word (Exit).

Physical Agility Test. The Commission adopts the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy physical fitness standards as the minimum standard for applicants. These physical fitness standards do not discriminate on the basis of sex and reflect the essential functions of the job. These standards may be amended from time to time. An applicant must meet or

exceed the physical fitness exit standards in existence at time of application to be eligible to take the aptitude test and be considered for employment.

Following discussion, Mrs. Gartin moved to approve the proposed edits to the Merit Commission Rules. Mr. Christensen seconded the motion and carried 4-0.

Lieutenant Evans requested approval to begin the LPD hiring process, Session 2023-5. Ms. Powers moved to approve the request. Mrs. Gartin seconded the motion and carried 4-0.

Lieutenant Evans submitted 6 vacancies within the Lawrence Police Department, therefore the Chief of Police Curtis Bigsbee is requesting those said applicants having the highest score (in order) and are still of “good character” be given a conditional offer of employment. If said applicants pass an updated background investigation and pass all requirements of the INPRS 1977 Fund, those said applicants become Probationary Officers to fill 3 of 6 vacancies within the Department. Mrs. Gartin moved to approve the request as submitted. Mr. Christensen seconded the motion and carried 4-0.

Ms. Powers moved to approve the 2024 meeting schedule. Mrs. Gartin seconded the motion and carried 4-0.

PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: None

COMMENTS OF THE POLICE CHIEF: Police Chief Bigsbee thanked the commission for approving the changes to the merit commission rules. He went on to assure the members of the commission that their work this evening would make a big difference in the effectiveness of the hiring process. He also reported that the Administration will provide a \$10,000 signing bonus to Tier I applicants with at least 3 years of service. There also will be a \$5,000 Tier I signing bonus for those applicants with fewer than 3 years of service. He then thanked Deputy Chief of Police Cline, and Lieutenant Evans for their hard work on the hiring process to fill vacancies within the police department. He concluded by thanking Clerk Walton for her efforts during many years of service.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

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Charles Wheeler, President

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Kathleen Walton, City Clerk

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.