



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Glenda McDonald
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of January 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm by Chairman Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Brenda Hicks, Commissioner RJ Watkins, Commissioner Curis, Commissioner/Secretary Erica George, Internal Affairs Investigator Lackey, Internal Affairs Investigator Monroe, McMann, Sgt. Baetz

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 16, 2022 were approved.

Open Remark

Chairman: Welcome. We have a few changes. Chief McMann is the interim chief for the police department and Chief Hollowell is interim as well. I am waiting to have a meeting with the Mayor. I did speak with her. At this point, I will wait for direction from her regarding the commission.

Commissioner Hicks: I had a chance to sit in on a couple of interviews with police officers. I did talk with the new Mayor. She did state she wanted the Commissioners wanted to be more involved and she will meet with Chairman Ryan Johnson.

Chairman: I am very optimistic and confident we will be able to be more involved with the new administration. I know the morale of the police department seems to be up.

Commissioner Watkins: What was McMann's previous position?

Chairman: He was a lieutenant.

Police Department

Interim Chief McMann: I have worked with Highland Park since 2007. It is an honor to be the chief and I am really excited about the possibilities for the future.

Chairman Johnson: I have heard nothing but praise since you have taken over as Chief so? I just want to thank you on behalf of the Commission and myself.

Chief McMann: I look forward to share more information with you and work to improve the department. We have managed to transition one of officers from part-time to full-time. We lost him due to competitiveness and since the administration as changed he is ready to come back full time. We are bringing back another former officer who wants to return. We hired a young recruit from the academy who I think has a lot of potential. We are in the process of rebuilding our man power. We want to offer some more services to the residents.

Chairman: I believe you all handle a manner on Moss Street. I believe they're other people involved in the break-ins; do we have any updates on their identity.

McMann: Yes, we did find the other identities of the burglaries. It was community support that helped as well for us to identify them.

Commissioner Hicks: Was he a Highland Park resident?

McMann: No.

Commissioner Curis: Is the academy still charging \$4,000?

McMann: It is closer to \$5,000.

Commissioner Curis: I would like to sponsor a Highland Park resident or nearby areas to sponsor.

McMann: Thank you so much. We do have some grant funds to sponsor people but we appreciate it and will gladly us the support. We had some people turned away from previous staff but I don't want to turn anyone away.

Commissioner Curis: If you can use the money to offset cost we can do that too.

Chairman: We had a program before to help build up our reserve. Are we using that program?

McMann: That program was not accredited. We are going to use a different school and subcontract out to teach the class.

Monroe: I know you mentioned before about morale. I don't think you can ask for a better Chief. If you call him at 3am he will be there. He will tell you when you are wrong and support you when you are right. He was out in the community today and you couldn't ask for a better Chief.

Fire Department

Sgt. Baetz: We have 39 runs for the year so far. There has been a handful of fires.

Chairman: How are we coming with EMS?

Sgt. Baetz: They have been here but I don't have any further information.

Commissioner Curis: Do we know anything else on the engine grant?

Sgt. Baetz: I am not sure but I can leave Chief a note.

Internal Affairs

Lackey: We have a couple of investigations open. There is one complaint regarding force and another one regarding allegations about harassment. That is all I can say about the cases right now.

Chairman: Have you been getting the community complaints?

Lackey: I did pull the Emergency Manager's order and it is up to the Mayor on how it goes but as far as citizens' complaints, I have not seen any.

Chairman: Are the complaint forms still available at the front desk of city hall?

Lackey: Yes and online. We are planning to introduce a resolution in front of counsel. We met with Detroit about efforts of the CADs (Computer Aide and Dispatch) system. The system is about history of a address to help an officer make appropriate decisions. These are cameras placed around the city that have hot list of stolen cars, wanted persons, etc. For example, dumping is an issue in Highland Park so we could add these people on the list and the drag racing issues.

Commissioner Watkins: If a person moves, will it show the new owner?

Lackey: No, the system will not necessarily know if a new tenant is in that address.

Public Comments

Chairmen: We do have a citizen on the call. Thank you for joining.

Angela Thomas: I have no comments just here to listen.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 22, 6:00 pm, Zoom
cc: City Clerk