



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

We Are One Community

Glenda McDonald
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of October 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chairman Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Brenda Hicks, Commissioner RJ Watkins, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Erica George, Internal Affairs Investigator Lackey, Chief McMann, Chief Hollowell, Sgt. Fegreus

Approval of Minutes

Chairman: The minutes of August 2, 2023 were approved.

Opening Remarks

Chairman: This is our first in-person meeting since COVID. Welcome back. The chiefs, Lackey and sergeants are doing a great job.

Police Department

Chief McMann: we have been discovering a lot of misinformation going around on social media platforms regarding negative response times, arrest, if people were charged correctly, etc. The message I want to get to the community is rather than post something please reach out. You are welcome to come in and we sit down and talk. I rather have factual information shared than misinformation. This misinformation is a setback for us as we have tried to build a relationship with the community. We do have an officer still suspended without pay. We are seeking criminal charges and subcontracted out so that is still pending. WE are working diligently to engage in community events. We want to be accessible and enjoy the community in a social setting. We did recently hire a compliance clerk. He is a Highland Park resident. He has been helping in our lien compliance and been a great asset. We are doing renovations in the building. We recently partnered with Toys for Tots. They will have a hub out of this building. They will distribute toys in the community. The residents in the different organizations had to go to Oakland County to participate but now they can come to highland Park. I think our kids in Highland Park have been neglected so I am excited to participate.

Commissioner Curis: Are the Toys for Tots leasing the space?

Chief: It is just an agreement, but we do have an insurance policy. They would use the parking lot to distribute their toys. It will be communities in the area. I believe this could be a great thing and they no longer have to go to Oakland County.

Commissioner Curis: When do they start?

Chief: They are here now. They collect toys year-round.

Commissioner Watkins: Are these new toys?

Chief: Yes. They separate the toys by gender and age.

Chairman: Is it possible to get the statistics each month so we can advertise it publicly so that may help with the misinformation.

Chief: Yes, Dir. Lackey is working on a public portal. We do not have anything to hide. We want to put the good and bad out. We have switched computer systems, so it has taken a little longer. We want to be completely transparent. We are moving to data driven policing to provide resources to hot spots.

Fire Department

Chief: I feel the same way about the misinformation on social media. We are not merging with Hamtramck. We have a new candidate at OCC. I have eight full timers that went through a course. Barber School went through a tour of the fire station. We started our bags for Halloween. The city council and Mayor approved an admin vehicle.

Chairman: Are we doing any mutual aid?

Chief: Yes, Hamtramck. The mutual aid agreement has been active for ten years with Hamtramck and Detroit. We run more with Hamtramck now and it is more cost effective.

Chief: <most of the public does not understand that if Hamtramck or Highland Park needs help the other party could help and it is a common practice.

Chief: It is best for assistance.

Commissioner Watkins: Do we have a count of our mutual runs?

Chief: Yes, I can provide that. We have made more runs to Hamtramck than they have made for us. My numbers were low on the record. It reflects 1 week. From Sept. 24-Oct. 1, we had one building fire, we had a smoke scare, false alarms and special residents.

Internal Affairs

Dir. Lackey: We are into the IA Pro program. We had 12 use of force reports which is required by officers who must take a person into custody. We had an early warning flag which tells us if we need to address officers. These reports are reviewed by a supervisor. We had 6 citizens' complaints. Absences for work were 19 in total. Of that category we had an early warning flag on one staff member that was dismissed. There were 10 supervisors' investigators which are demeanor complaints. These are supervisor issues. We had one accommodation award. This award is for officer that are awarded for going above the call of duty, but we should have more. Administrative investigations have been dealt with either by the Commissioner or admin. We had 3 crashes. We had 2 off duty officer shootings that are being handled by a third party. It looks like these shootings will be justified.

Commissioner Watkins: The supervisor had complaints?

Dir. Lackey: No, they had complaints submitted or complaints they wrote. I received a complaint that is not an IA issue so we will turn it over to the appropriate staff.

Commissioner Hicks: What is the status of the shooting.

Dir. Lackey: One is being handled by the state. This case seems to be justified. I cannot go into detail due to it be an on-going investigation.

Commissioner Curis: Who is handling the 6 citizens complaints?

Dir. Lackey: The supervisor is handling one.

Commissioner Curis: Can we get copies? Also, I would like to recognize the officers in police and fire for going above and beyond.

Chief: WE have got away from it but we use to have award ceremonies. The new software allows us to track the good and bad. We have so many officers putting their life on the lines and we can track it better. There are many complaints that were a misunderstanding of the law. Once we explain we have documented things to communicate to the citizens. We typically get citizens to dismiss. I think citizens appreciate the follow up. I reach out personally at times.

Chairman: Dir. Lackey this program seems to be working well.

Public Comments

Chairman: Are

Taylor Stafford: Recently, I live on Farrand Park Street. A neighbor came to the house and asked if they see a company dumping nearby. Another neighbor told them to call the police. The neighbor did not want to call the police. A police officer did come and witnessed the dumping. The police stated they would be given a warning.

Chairman: Was the company still there and did they receive a ticket?

Stafford: The company was still there, and they did not receive a ticket. The truck was taking the stuff out the house.

Chief: Is the debris still there and what address?

Stafford: He packed the items, and I am on 206 McLean.

Chairman: Do you know if the tenant was evicted?

Stafford: No, the person bought the home.

Chief: This happened a couple days ago, and the individual has been cited. He tried to bury the trash. There is a court date.

Stafford: The hole he dug, he put a pipe in it and the debris has been there a long time.

Chief: The individuals had stated they were burying it on their property. We did tell them it is a violation of the city's ordinance.

Chairman: They were ticketed and have a court date.

Chief: Yes, the grey area is they're occupying their own property. If they were dumping on another property, then we could cite them for other things. They will be required to clean up the debris.

Stafford: They have a lot of trees still there. I am not sure if he owns the three lots there.

Chief: I am not sure, but I do know he recently purchased property. I will get your information and follow up.

Chairman: Thank you for coming in and I am glad to get this cleared. As you can see the chief and police have addressed the information.

Closing Remarks:

Chairman: There are no closing remarks.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 6:00 pm, Zoom
cc: City Clerk