

**MINUTES OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION  
MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2024**

4:00 p.m.

*Council Chambers (203 South Farwell Street)*

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Disa Wahlstrand, Stephanie Finn, and David Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT Kimberly Cronk and Selika Ducksworth-Lawton

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Matt Rokus  
Fire Chief Matt Jaggar  
Deputy Fire Chief Tony Biasi  
Human Resources Director Colleen Schian  
Deputy City Attorney Doug Hoffer

The Commission convened in open session at 4:06 p.m. Meeting was called to order by President Wahlstrand. President Wahlstrand asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Police and Fire Commission meetings held on November 16, 2023. No corrections or additions were noted, and the minutes stand approved as circulated.

Chief Rokus provided a personnel update. Since the Commission's September meeting, there has been one Police Officer that has left the Department. A discussion was held regarding the current recruitment process. There are currently five newly hired officers that were sworn in on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All five are currently in the Academy at CVTC with an expected graduation in May 2024. Additionally, the promotion of Sergeant Lambeseder was discussed.

Chief Rokus also provided an operational update. As discussed at the last meeting, the Eau Claire Community Foundation has selected the Eau Claire Police Department as one of the first ever recipients of the William A. Bingham Family Endowment grant. The grant has helped fund a drone that will be used as part of the Eau Claire County Child Abduction Response Team (CART). The remaining balance will be used for mental health initiatives for Police Department employees. The planning for the wellness initiatives is complete and will provide workshops that discuss stress management, resiliency, suicide awareness, and leadership development.

Chief Jaggar provided a personnel update. Currently, the Fire Department has seven openings and six additional openings from the SAFER grant. However, there are currently nine conditional offers of employment, with seven who have satisfied all conditions of employment. The anticipated start date for these new hires is February 12, 2024.

Chief Jaggar also provided an operational update. A discussion was held regarding the current strategic planning of the Fire Department. Additionally, it was noted that all who took the physical fitness test in the Department passed. A discussion was also held regarding the outstanding grievances. Two were recently resolved. It was also noted that each station has had a meeting completed or scheduled to meet with the Chief and his staff to discuss any concerns

they may currently have. The meetings have been said to be very productive and beneficial. Lastly, the new medic unit at station 6 is now active.

A discussion was held regarding the remote attendance options for the Commission. Deputy City Attorney Doug Hoffer discussed the current ordinance and the requirements of holding remote meetings. Based on the discussion and the requirements, it was determined that it would not be a good fit for the Commission due to the quasi-judicial nature and frequently held closed sessions.

The proposed code of conduct that had been circulated prior to the meeting was discussed. No notes or further discussion was needed and a motion was made by Commissioner Finn, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously to approve the code of conduct.

President Wahlstrand asked if there are any future agenda items and none were noted.

At 4:38 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Finn, and passed by unanimous roll call vote to go into closed session to discuss interviews of Fire Fighter candidates held prior to the meeting.

At 4:38 p.m., Chief Rokus, Deputy Chief Biasi, and Doug Hoffer left the meeting.

At 4:45 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Finn, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously to move into open session.

Based on the discussion held and interviews conducted in closed session, a Fire Fighter eligibility list was created. Motion was made by Commissioner Finn, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously, to adopt the new eligibility list, which shall remain in effect until January 18, 2025.

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finn and the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

The next regularly-scheduled Police and Fire Commission meeting is March 21, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelsey Brunner, Police and Fire Commission Secretary.