

## LADUE BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Ladue Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on Monday, June 10, 2019, at 4:00 p.m., at Ladue City Hall, 9345 Clayton Road.

### Present:

Col. William Francis Jr., Chairman  
Mr. John Schaperkotter  
Mr. L. Shepley Hermann  
Mr. John Stupp  
Mayor Nancy Spewak

### Absent:

Ms. Carol D. Gaskin  
Mr. Stephen Jones

Also present were Police Chief Ken Andreski, Jr., Fire Chief Steven Lynn and Fire Captain Gary Kreitler.

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

The agenda was approved upon motion by Commissioner Stupp and second by Commissioner Schaperkotter.

The minutes of the regular and closed meetings of May 13, 2019 were approved upon motion by Commissioner Hermann and second by Commissioner Stupp.

During an opportunity for public comment none was offered.

Chief Andreski began his report with the police department hiring process and an update on the officers hired thus far to fill three vacant positions noting two officers had been hired. The first was Kelly Hill who graduated in April and the second, Ashlyn Bucher, who graduates on June 20th. The Chief intends to extend an offer later in the week to a third applicant upon completion of testing. Officer Hill was introduced to the Commissioners at the meeting but Ms. Bucher was unable to attend.

The Chief next reported on the promotion of Lt. Brian Dieckmann to Captain to fill the vacancy resulting from Captain McClure's retirement last year.

Chief Andreski moved on to report on a number of recent vehicle thefts in Ladue and surrounding communities. Seven vehicles were stolen, all of which were unlocked and one was used in the commission of a crime. A group of individuals has been targeting unlocked vehicles. Discussion turned to license plate recognition and surrounding agencies that may have it and the estimated cost. The Chief discussed his plan for extra patrols and other measures in an effort to prevent additional thefts. Discussion ensued regarding education efforts to communicate to residents the importance of locking their vehicles and taking keys and valuables out or at least out of sight. It was suggested that an additional email blast be sent to the lane trustees to help get the message out to residents.

Chief Andreski praised the work of Officer Jennifer Hendricks to the Commissioners for her role in the Citizen Police Academy and the overwhelming amount of positive feedback received about her.

There were no questions for Chief Lynn upon the presentation of the monthly report. Commissioner Stupp inquired about the department policy for trees down blocking the road. Chief Lynn explained, if a tree creates a blockage on a road, the department will cut it enough to at least open access to one lane. Then the Department of Public Works will follow up for removal of the rest of the tree.

Chief Lynn presented two student essays that were submitted by John Burroughs students upon completion of 80 hours spent with the fire department as part of an annual senior project. The Chief wanted to share the essays with the Commissioners as he thought they were exceptional.

Chief Lynn introduced Captain Gary Kreitler, Chief Medical Officer, as subject matter expert on the next few agenda items, with the first being the recommendation to enter into a contract for the purchase of a new Advanced Life Support Ambulance. Chief Lynn explained building an ambulance is similar to building a fire truck and estimated six months lead time. The city has an opportunity to gain some additional features at no cost if we allow the new ambulance to be displayed at the annual conference in April 2020. Commissioner Francis inquired about the budget amount and if a down payment is required. Chief Lynn indicated the Finance Director acknowledged the capital budget is capable of handling the total expenditure of \$278,000 in 2020 and no deposit is required, only execution of the contract. The Chief went on to explain the new ambulance will be designed with a lift stretcher. More than one patient may be transported at one time, depending on their injuries, but only one gurney. The new ambulance is just slightly longer than the current ambulance. Discussion ensued regarding the back-up ambulance, trade-in value and safety features. Captain Kreitler noted that safety is a key feature of the new ambulance.

Commissioner Hermann moved endorsement of the purchase of a new ambulance as described by Chief Lynn and Captain Kreitler, provided it meets the budgeted amount in the Capital Fund, with second by Commissioner Stupp the motion passed unanimously.

The Chief presented an overview of the ambulance transport fees, when last reviewed and the recommendation for the maximum allowable rates and presented a table of current rates and proposed new rates and requested endorsement of the Commissioners of the proposed rates which will be presented to the City Council for approval. Discussion ensued regarding definition of services provided, percentage increases and billing.

Commissioner Francis moved endorsement of the adoption of the proposed new ambulance transportation rates as presented by Chief Lynn, with second by Commissioner Schaperkotter the motion passed unanimously.

The Chief presented the next item which was a program that was approved last year but was postponed due to the significant amount of work associated with it. The federal government will reimburse providers for the unpaid Medicaid portion of transport bills. If providers can document uncompensated costs, the federal government will reimburse through the state of Missouri. But, providers must make a payment to the state first; then receive reimbursement. The Chief went on to explain the details of the program, the City's share of the cost and provided an example of the payment schedule. The City's billing company paired with a third party vendor to prepare a cost/analysis report and estimated the City will receive approximately \$40,000-\$60,000 in revenue under the program. The city will contract with the state, not the federal government and can opt out of the program at the expiration of the one year contract.

Commissioner Francis moved endorsement by the Commissioners of the intent to enter into a contract with the state to participate in the program with the qualification that the program be reviewed on an annual basis. Commissioner Hermann moved to add to the motion that the program could be discontinued at the Chief's discretion, with second by Commissioner Stupp the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Lynn reported that he was seeking the endorsement of the commissioners on his intention to begin the accreditation process for the department in 2020, which includes development of a strategic plan, deployment analysis, policy review, staffing analysis and financial outlook and would take about two to three years to complete with approximately \$6,000 initial fee and \$11,000 total fee. The Commissioners discussed the timing, budget and the impacts accreditation may have on the ISO rating and the City's ability to control the size of its department.

Commissioner Stupp moved approval of the idea of accreditation and budgeting for the process, with

second by Commissioner Schaperkotter the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners requested the Chief forward the name of the accrediting agency to them.

The fire on Upper Ladue was discussed and it was noted the source of the fire is undetermined.

The Chief invited the Commissioners to the July Council meeting where he will be recognized for receiving his Executive Fire Officer (EFO) designation.

Discussion ensued regarding the recent consolidation proposal for St. Louis City and County, standards for police agencies and the impact of crime reporting on the region.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM upon motion by Commissioner Schaperkotter and second by Commissioner Stupp.



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William Francis, Jr.  
Chairman



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Laura Rider  
Assistant to the Mayor/City Clerk