

## 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, September 14, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., at Ladue City Hall, 9345 Clayton Road and via Zoom.

Present:

Col. William Francis Jr., Chairman  
Ms. Carol D. Gaskin  
Mr. L. Shepley Hermann  
Mr. Stephen Jones  
Mr. John Schaperkotter  
Mr. John Stupp

Also present were Mayor Nancy Spewak, Police Chief Ken Andreski, Jr., Police Captain Brian Dieckmann, Fire Chief Steven Lynn and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Johnson.

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

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of July 13, 2020 were approved upon motion by Commissioner Gaskin and second by Commissioner Jones.

During an opportunity for public comment Mr. Curt Engler, 24 Lorenzo Lane, addressed the Commission regarding support for the Fire and Police Departments and protest response plans.

Chief Andreski presented the monthly NIBRS report, the new reporting style, so there were no comparisons available yet. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of clearance of incidents. The Chief noted that if an incident is cleared in one month it will be reflected on the report the following month, it is not retroactive. Chief Andreski reported that the department had been working through the differences in the NIBRS system and the UCR system and should reflect improvements in the coming months.

Chief Andreski presented a request to add an outer load bearing vest to the department's uniform policy. Officer Jason Balsman modeled the load bearing vest and displayed the components and Sergeant Dennis Pohlmann modeled the existing belt with equipment, while Chief Andreski explained that the load bearing vest incorporated the bullet proof vest and pockets for equipment that is normally worn on the belt, thereby removing the weight of the equipment, anywhere from fifteen to thirty pounds, from the officer's lower back and hips and redistributing it to the torso. By moving some of the equipment to the load bearing vest, the department would be able to offer a safe and healthier alternative to officers. Chief Andreski stated that the department does not mandate the use of body armor but by offering this more comfortable option more officers are likely to purchase the vest out of the \$600 annual uniform allotment. Upon conclusion of his presentation Chief Andreski noted that the firearm and taser would remain in its original position on the belt so no additional training would be needed. Discussion ensued regarding the budget and the process officers use to purchase uniform items.

Upon conclusion of discussion Commissioner Schaperkotter moved endorsement of the Commission for the addition of the external load bearing vest to the Police Department's uniform policy, upon second by Commissioner Stupp the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Andreski next presented a summary of the promotional process recently conducted by the department due to the vacancy created by the resignation of Sergeant Tony Bommarito and anticipated retirement of Lieutenant Ray Hahs in the next few months creating a second vacant Sergeant position. Chief Andreski reported that five officers participated in the process and named the top three candidates; the top candidate being Jason Balsman and second was Jim Gehm. The Chief sought approval from the Commissioners to immediately promote Jason Balsman to Sergeant and to promote Jim Gehm to Sergeant upon the next opening.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gaskin and second by Commissioner Hermann the immediate promotion of Jason Balsman to Sergeant was approved.

Upon motion by Commissioner Schaperkotter and second by Commissioner Jones the promotion of Jim Gehm to Sergeant upon the next vacancy was approved.

Chief Andreski updated the Commissioners on staffing levels, recent hires and the unexpected death of Communications Officer Jason Oesterreicher.

Upon presentation of the 2019 annual report by Fire Chief Lynn there were no questions from the Commissioners.

Chief Lynn reported on a recent significant flooding event water rescue in Foxboro where firefighters dealt with chest deep rushing water and in one home electric current. The Chief reported that eleven rescues took place, with City Hall being designated as a temporary haven for rescued residents. Captain Rose assumed command on scene and the Chief praised the crew for an exceptional job. The Chief reported that the crew would be recognized at a future City Council meeting and the department continued to evaluate their response to determine if improvements could be made.

Chairman Francis inquired about flash flood warning systems for residents. Discussion followed regarding the City's available methods for warning residents including email blasts, Facebook posts, CODE RED notifications and door to door checks in affected areas.

Mayor Spewak and Chief Lynn reported that swift water rescue training was planned for 2020 but was cancelled due to the pandemic. The funding would be reallocated in the 2021 budget.

Chairman Francis directed Chief Lynn to present commendations at Fire & Police Commission meetings as well as City Council meetings and requested that the Chief post on the website, an article about the water rescues and reminder to residents of the reasons the City has the personnel, training and equipment that it has. Mayor Spewak reported on the City's storm water management plan. Chief Lynn commented that in his opinion, in the case of the August flooding event where seven inches of rain fell in a very short period of time, storm water mitigation projects would not have prevented flooding.

A member of the public listening to the meeting via Zoom commented that United States Geological Survey (USGS) offers an early warning system if subscribed to its creek data reports. USGS sends text messages to subscribers when creeks are rising.

Chief Lynn reported that members of the department are being quarantined when a COVID-19 exposure occurs.

Chief Lynn reported that the Fire Department accepted the new ambulance and placed it in service on August 21<sup>st</sup> after completion of a comprehensive training program. The Chief noted that the new ambulance has an auto load feature for the stretcher. Discussion ensued regarding the backup ambulance

and backup pumper, where they are housed and possible options for changing the location.

Chief Lynn reported that a firefighter had resigned, and the department began the testing process for hiring a replacement.

Commissioner Stupp left the meeting.

Chairman Francis advised there were items for discussion in executive session involving employee matters pursuant to RSMo. Section 610.021 (3) (13).

Commissioner Jones moved to go into closed session for discussion of employee matters pursuant to RSMo. 610.021 (3) (13), upon second by Commissioner Hermann the roll call vote there upon was as follows:

Commissioner Francis	"Aye"
Commissioner Schaperkotter	"Aye"
Commissioner Gaskin	"Aye"
Commissioner Hermann	"Aye"
Commissioner Jones	"Aye"

There being five aye votes and zero nay votes the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners, except for Commissioner Stupp who left the meeting, went into closed session at 4:58 P.M. with Mayor Spewak, Police Chief Ken Andreski, Police Captain Brian Dieckmann and Fire Chief Steven Lynn.

The Commissioners returned to open session at 5:59 P.M. with Mayor Spewak, Police Chief Ken Andreski, Police Captain Brian Dieckmann and Fire Chief Steven Lynn.

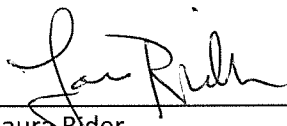
Commissioner Hermann moved endorsement of the Police Chief's proposal to transition the City's current police dispatch services to WCDC, upon second by Commissioner Schaperkotter the roll call vote thereupon was as follows:

Commissioner Francis	"Aye"
Commissioner Schaperkotter	"Aye"
Commissioner Gaskin	"Aye"
Commissioner Hermann	"Aye"
Commissioner Jones	"Aye"

There being five aye votes and zero nay votes the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM upon motion by Commissioner Schaperkotter and second by Commissioner Hermann.

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William Francis, Jr.  
Chairman

  
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Laura Rider  
Assistant to the Mayor/City Clerk