

The Board of Fire and Police Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE – Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:02 am in City Hall, Conference Room 209, 730 Maine St, Quincy, IL 62301.

ATTENDANCE-

- **PRESENT IN PERSON:** Commissioner Barry Cheyne (Chair), Commissioner Angela Caldwell, Commissioner Mike McLaughlin (via cell phone-but was not allowed to be a voting member due to being out of town per Legal Counsel Ryan Schnack and Chairman Cheyne), Legal Counsel Ryan Schnack, and Jennifer Kerker (Secretary)
- **MEDIA PRESENT:** Mike Sorenson and David Adams were in attendance beginning at 10:46 am.
- **ALDERMEN PRESENT:** None
- **PUBLIC:** None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The Commissioners reviewed the January 14, 2025, regular session minutes. Cheyne moved to approve. Caldwell 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 23, 2025, special meeting minutes. Caldwell moved to approve. Cheyne 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 28, 2025, special meeting minutes. Caldwell moved to approve. Cheyne 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 29, 2025, special meeting minutes. Caldwell moved to approve. Cheyne 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 30, 2025, special meeting minutes. Caldwell moved to approve. Cheyne 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the February 4, 2025, special meeting minutes. Caldwell moved to approve. Cheyne 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 14, 2025, executive session minutes. The date listed in the minutes is to be changed from January 15th to January 14th. Cheyne moved to approve. Caldwell 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 23, 2025, executive session meeting minutes. Cheyne moved to approve. Caldwell 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 28, 2025, fire executive session meeting minutes. Cheyne moved to approve. Caldwell 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 29, 2025, fire executive session meeting minutes. Cheyne moved to approve. Caldwell 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the January 30, 2025, fire executive session meeting minutes. Cheyne moved to approve. Caldwell 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the February 4, 2025; fire chief candidates executive session meeting minutes. Cheyne moved to approve. Caldwell 2nd. Motion carried.
- The Commissioners reviewed the February 4, 2025, executive session meeting minutes starting at 3:45 pm. Cheyne moved to approve. Caldwell 2nd. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Invoice from All Purpose Polygraph for firefighter candidates Stegeman and Vandermaiden, and police officer candidate Schutte, totaling \$525. Motion by Cheyne. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Invoice from Schmiedeskamp for Tuley investigation in the amount of \$294. Motion by Cheyne. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.

- Invoice for A-1 Security for keys to be made for file cabinet in the BFPC office in the amount of \$21. Motion by Cheyne. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Invoice from the Quincy Herald Whig for \$60.89 to post notice of the changes to the Rules and Regulations. Motion by Cheyne. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Invoice from Garvey's for an older invoice with the small order fee being marked through, as the city does not pay this fee. Excluding the fee, the total was \$27.17. This is for a box of file folders and staples. Motion by Cheyne. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Invoice from Garvey's for paper clips and gray pocket file folders in the amount of \$44.84. Motion by Cheyne. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Invoice from the Quincy Country Club for the meet and greet with the fire chief finalists in the amount of \$304.80. Motion by Cheyne. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Invoice from Schmiedeskamp for Tuley, \$672., and invoice for Hickey, \$4.221. Total is \$4,893.00. Motion by Cheyne. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Budget Review – current year, Cheyne noticed one page was missing. We are at 44% spent.
- Budget Review – for next year's budget. The proposed budget is \$71,263.

Cheyne moved to suspend and enter into the Police and Fire executive session at 9:27 a.m. regarding personnel matters regarding the Open Meetings Act of 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and Litigation Matters Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act of 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Second by McLaughlin. Motion carried.

Cheyne moved to end the executive session and resumed the regular session at 10:03 am, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act of 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). McLaughlin second. Motion carried.

Attendees: Commissioners Cheyne, McLaughlin (via cell phone), and Caldwell, Chief Adam Yates, Deputy Chief Mike Tyler, Legal Counsel Ryan Schnack and Commission Secretary Kerker for resumption of the regular meeting session.

Quincy Police Department (QPD) Police Chief Adam Yates

- Chief Yates provided an overview of his monthly report.
- Chief Yates advised that they budgeted for a second K-9.
- Chief Yates provided an update regarding the Onsite ILEAP accreditation. They will receive the official word in April.
- Chief Yates provided an update on driving while license suspended.
- Commissioner Cheyne asked that the last three on the police list have backgrounds completed if they have not been already accomplished.

Chief Yates and Deputy Chief Tyler departed the meeting at 10:34 am.

At 10:46 am, Fire Chief Vahlkamp, Mike Sorenson (Quincy Herald Whig) and David Adam, (Muddy River News) joined the meeting. Others in attendance at this time included Commissioner Cheyne, Commissioner Caldwell, Secretary Kerker, Legal Advisor Ryan Schack, and Commissioner McLaughlin (via phone).

Quincy Fire Department (QFD) Fire Chief Bernie Vahlkamp

- Chief Vahlkamp provided details regarding his monthly report.
- This was Chief Vahlkamp's last meeting due to his retirement.
- Chief Vahlkamp said QFD just wrapped up their first year of their personal development program and tests were done last week.
- Chief Vahlkamp advised that Lieutenant Matt Reynolds is leaving the department on February 24th, so he put in a request for the position to be filled.
- Commissioner Cheyne advised that the two firefighters' applicants that are now being screened are Kyle Vandermaiden and Andrew Stegeman, and this week they will go through the last two requirements.

Commissioner Cheyne relayed to Chief Vahlkamp that if these two applicants pass and are offered positions, a start date will need to be identified. Chief Vahlkamp said February 24th or earlier would be the start date.

- Chief Vahlkamp believes that the next fire chief will most likely be #13, he looked back to 1873.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Cheyne went over suspense report. The next project coming up will be the annual report.
- Laptop Conversion – Secretary Kerker advised that she and Commissioner Cheyne should have laptops available to them today.
- Records Retention – Secretary Kerker is continuing to work on this. Her next step is to find out the amount of data is on the iCloud for meeting minutes, as well as how far back (years) they were saved.
- Cheyne advised the firefighter promotional assessments were on January 15th and 16th and interviews completed on January 28th and 30th, interviews were completed. The written test will be on April 2nd.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cheyne advised that Ryan Schnack was asked to review the Senate Bill 2778, police officer veteran application which essentially means that any military member who has been honorably discharged from the services can apply at any time to be a police officer with the county. This only applies to county deputy sheriff positions, not municipalities. An age was not listed in the bill. Cheyne advised the current requirement allows a police officer to apply up to age 35 plus the number of years they served on active duty.
- Cheyne made a motion to approve Firefighter Zelton Crose for the promotion of lieutenant of the Quincy Fire Department effective February 25, 2025. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Cheyne made a contingency employment offer based on successful candidate screening and a date to be negotiated with the Quincy Fire Department for candidates Kyle Vandermaiden and Andrew Stegeman. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Cheyne noted that the Quincy Police Department will have the Cops and Fire coming from the Naperville area for the assessment evaluations of six QPD candidates on the afternoon of the February 20th and the morning of the 21st. Interviews will be conducted for all Lieutenant candidates (6) and Sergeant (11) as part of the process on March 4th-6th.
- Cheyne made a motion to approve his travel to Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 2nd and March 3rd for the purpose of administering a Sergeant Promotional test to Eric Cowick who is currently deployed to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Officer Cowick is unable to return to Quincy during the testing period and can't travel more than 250 miles from his deployed location. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Cheyne made a motion to place Officer Zachary Tuley on Administrative Leave without pay from the period of February 12, 2025 to March 10, 2025. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Cheyne made a motion to initiate a status of hearing and review of Charge 25 on March 10, 2025, at 8:30 am. subject to and coordination with all parties. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Cheyne made a motion that on March 11, 2025, at the regular Fire and Commission Meeting at 9:15 am., that we provide status of order update on Officer Zachary Tuley's case. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Cheyne made a motion to offer approval for the withdrawal of the lawyer support of Jason Jording for Officer Zachary Tuley and that the commission receive and file the request. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Cheyne made a motion to approve the continuance of Officer Zachary Tuley's case for hearing status and status update on March 11, 2025. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.
- Cheyne advised that the Rules and Regulations have been put out to the public for review. No comments were received back, nor were there any requests to review the document. These Rules and Regulations have had the proper coordination and review with both the Quincy Police Department and Quincy Fire Department. Cheyne made a motion to approve the final version of the Rules and Regulation of the Board of Fire and Police Commission and that they be adopted as of February 11, 2025. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.

At 11:11 am, Deputy Chief Salrin joined the meeting.

- Cheyne made a motion to appoint Deputy Chief Steven Salrin to be the next Chief of the Quincy Fire Department effective March 1, 2025. Second Caldwell. Motion carried. Cheyne explained that the next step will be to place this appointment on the city council agenda for February 18th at which time it will be formally announced at the city council meeting. Cheyne explained that on March 1st, Salrin will be able to select his deputies and the ordinance states that he (Salrin) will bring that to the Board to get their consent. The negotiation of the salary will be done with HR and the Mayor. Cheyne recommended scheduling a meeting on March 4th for Salrin to express his plan. QPD interviews will be held on that date, as well.

Cheyne made a motion to adjourn the Board and Fire Police Commission Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 11:28 am. Second Caldwell. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kerker

Secretary, Board of Fire & Police Commission

Audio dated 02.11.25