

POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

June 17, 2020

10:00 A.M.

IN ATTENDANCE: George E. Kennedy – Police Commissioner Chairman
Robert Peter Guip – Police Commissioner
Gene Ward – Police Commissioner
Konstantinos Nuses – Assistant Chief of Police
W. Luther Cuttino – Chief of Police

Commissioner Kennedy asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and to remain standing afterwards for the invocation by Chaplain Randy Scott and a moment of silence in memory of Ryan Askew, retired Sheriff's Officer killed at Community Hospital in Munster, IN.

ITEM I Motion was made to accept the minutes of the Police Commission Meeting dated February 7, 2020 as presented.

Commissioner Guip made a motion to accept February 7, 2020 minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Kennedy stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Motion carries unanimously."

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the Police Commission Meeting dated February 25, 2020 as presented.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to accept February 25, 2020 minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Guip.

Commissioner Kennedy stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Motion carries unanimously."

ITEM II STATISTICS REPORT

The Chief of Police presented the January 2020, February 2020, March 2020, and April 2020 Monthly Statistical Reports.

ITEM III LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Cuttino presented letter of retirement from Sgt. Gurgevich.

Chief Cuttino presented letter of resignation from Officer Mason.

Chief Cuttino presented a letter from Detective Commander Rice to recognize Detective Van Rite for a Job well done. Detective Van Rite was awarded with the Meritorious Police Duty.

Chief Cuttino presented a letter from Detective Commander Rice to recognize Sgt. Croarkin, Ofc. Reid, Ofc. Minchuk, Ofc. Stanek, Ofc. Novak, Ofc. Solis, Ofc. Enyeart, Ofc. Meyer, Det. Van Rite, Det. Paunicka, Det. Buck, and Det. Vasel for actions related to “Shots fired” on 5/27/2020 and the ensuing investigation.

Commissioner Kennedy reviewed a letter from NWI Law Enforcement Academy announcing the temporary closure of the Academy due to the coronavirus. The academy has since reopened.

Commissioner Kennedy reviewed a letter from US Department of Justice – Marshals Service thanking the Department for their participation in Operation Relentless Pursuit. Det. Sgt. Gurgevich’s efforts were specifically mentioned.

ITEM IV OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Kennedy reviewed specific of the Town Council’s Temporary Order restricting the authority of the Police Commission with the Commissioners before moving to New Business.

ITEM V NEW BUSINESS

Chief Cuttino read Resolution 966 Approving the removal of Probationary Classification of Corporal for Gary Henry, Jr., Matthew Vasel, and Kevin Furman effective from and after 12:01 AM, June 8, 2020.

Commissioner Guip made a motion to accept Resolution 966 and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Kennedy said that since this removal of probationary classification did not include a promotion that it should not be considered in violation of the Temporary Order for the Town council.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy, "Aye"

Commissioner Guip, "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Chief Cuttino read Resolution 967 Approving the removal of Probationary Classification of Sergeant for Joshua Gonzales and Barry Clanton effective from and after 12:01 AM, June 8, 2020.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to accept Resolution 967 and was seconded by Commissioner Guip.

Commissioner Kennedy said that since this removal of probationary classification did not include a promotion that it should not be considered in violation of the Temporary Order for the Town council.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy, "Aye"

Commissioner Guip, "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Chief Cuttino read Resolution 968 promoting Probationary Patrolman Nicholas Write, to Second Class Patrolmen effective from and after 12:01 AM, June 16, 2020.

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Commissioner Guip made a motion to accept Resolution 968 and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Kennedy said that since this resolution included a promotion that it could be considered in violation of the Temporary Order of the Town Council. However, after discussion of the necessity of this promotion, it was decided to go forward with the vote and bring resolution 968 back to the Commission's first meeting after July 1, 2020 for confirmation.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"
Commissioner Kennedy, "Aye"
Commissioner Guip, "Aye"
Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Chief Cuttino and Assistant Chief Nuses requested that the Commissioners defer the Amendment of General Order 27.4 until after July 1, 2020. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to the request.

Motion was made to expire promotion list.

Commissioner Guip made a motion to accept the motion and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"
Commissioner, Guip "Aye"
Commissioner Kennedy "Aye"
Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Motion was made to begin the process for a new promotion list effective July 1, 2020

Commissioner Ward made a motion to accept the motion and was seconded by Commissioner Guip.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner, Guip "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Motion was made to expire the current Police Officer hiring list.

Commissioner Guip made a motion to accept the motion and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner, Guip "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Motion was made to begin accepting applications for an Emergency Hiring Process.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to accept the motion and was seconded by Commissioner Guip.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Cuttino take a roll call vote.

Chief Cuttino took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner, Guip "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Chief Cuttino Reviewed their thoughts on developing a "Reserve Program" for Merrillville. Research is being done and policies and procedures are being drafted to support the program.

Commissioner Kennedy reviewed correspondence from Council President Bella suggesting joint meetings be held 3 or 4 times a year to increase communications between the Police Commission and The Town Council. After discussion, Commissioner Kennedy was authorized to meet with Chief Cuttino and President Bella to discuss the idea in more detail and bring back suggestions for consideration.

Commissioner Kennedy expressed the gratitude and thanks from the Merrillville Police Commissioners for Retired Chief Petruch for more than 40 years of service with the department. His dedication to both the Police Department and the Town of Merrillville are to be commended and will be remembered.

ITEM VI

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guip made motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Kennedy stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."

All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Adjourn."

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.