

MERRILLVILLE METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES
Merrillville Town Hall, 7820 Broadway

October 6, 2023

Regular Meeting called to order at 2:05 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: William Poling – Police Commissioner Chairman, Present
Petar Dragojevic – Police Commissioner Vice Chairman, Present
Michael Rich – Police Commissioner, Absent
Thomas Pawlak – Police Commissioner, Absent
Gene Ward – Police Commissioner, Present
Michael Deppe – Police Commission Attorney, Present
Josh Gonzales – Assistant Chief of Police, Absent
Konstantinos Nuses – Chief of Police, Present
Lori Sanfratello – Chief’s Executive Director, Present

A quorum is present.

Commissioner Poling asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and remain standing for invocation.

ITEM I Motion was made to accept the minutes of the Police Commission Meeting dated September 8, 2023, as presented.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to accept September 8, 2023, minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, “Aye.”
All replied, “Aye.”

Commissioner Poling stated, “Opposed, same sign.”
Commissioner Poling stated, “Motion carries.”

ITEM II STATISTICS REPORT

The Chief presented the August 2023 Monthly Statistical; 87 State Reports; 508 Total Citations; 3 Adult Arrests; 2,558 Total Case Reports; 1 Homicide; 15 Domestic Battery; 13 Weed Citations; 20 Dog Citations.

ITEM III

LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Poling read a letter of Commendation from the Administration.

On September 15, 2023, Officers were dispatched to the 2500 Block of West 60th Drive for a suicidal subject. Per the call notes, a 39-year-old male said he was going to hang himself and was sending pictures of the rope to a friend. The caller also advised the male was intoxicated.

Upon arrival Corporal Ervin, Officer Wright, and Officer Osborne observed the male subject run inside the front door. Officers could then hear the male subject in the garage walking and moving things around. Officers attempted to convince the subject to come outside, however he refused and kept threatening to hang himself. Due to the continued threats to harm himself Officers made entry into the residence through the unsecure front door. Upon entering the garage they observed the male subject with a rope fixed to the ceiling hanging around his neck. The male subject then stepped off a stool in an attempt to take his life. Corporal Ervin, Officer Wright, and Officer Osborne quickly made their way to the subject and supported his body to relieve pressure around his neck. Officer Osborne then was able to cut the rope with his knife. The male subject and officers fell to the ground. Officers were able to gain control of the subject and have him transported to Southlake Methodist Hospital.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to award Cpl Ervin, Ofc. Wright, Ofc. Osborne the Meritorious Police Duty Commendation and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

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

Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries."

Commissioner Poling read a letter of Commendation from the Administration.

On September 21, 2023, officers were dispatched to Economy Inn in reference to a carjacking. During the incident the victim was knocked to the ground and had their arm run over by the vehicle while the suspect was fleeing. Officer Philip Mason went straight to the scene to investigate the incident and began relaying pertinent information to other officers. Corporal Bradley Ervin utilized this information and located the vehicle in the 9100 Block of Mississippi Street.

Corporal Ervin then initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle at which time the suspect fled. The pursuit continued south on Mississippi Street to eastbound on 101st Avenue. The vehicle came to a stop in the 4400 block of east 101st Avenue where the suspect bailed on foot and ran into a wooded area. Corporal Ervin continued to pursue the suspect on foot where he was able to order the suspect out of the woods and was taken into custody.

Corporal Ervin's observations, perseverance, and diligence led to the recovery of a stolen vehicle and apprehension of a suspect who also had several outstanding warrants. It is recommended Corporal Ervin be awarded a Level III Commendation for a successful act involving personal danger performed in the line of duty. In addition, it is recommended Officer Mason be awarded the Excellent Police Duty Commendation for an intelligent act materially contributing to a valuable Police accomplishment for his fast response to the victim and quickly communicating the details over the air.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to award Cpl Ervin a Level III Commendation, and Ofc. Mason Excellent Police Duty and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries."

Commissioner Poling read a letter of Commendation from the Administration.

On September 25, 2023, officers were dispatched to the 6600 Block of Pennsylvania Street in reference to a Domestic Battery. Upon arrival officer could hear a female yelling for help from inside the

home. The scene was determined to be an active barricaded subject with a hostage. Due to the prior knowledge of male suspect from officers on scene the Merrillville Tactical Apprehension Squad (MTAS) was activated.

MTAS Crisis Negotiators arrived on scene lead by Detective Garza and began several hours of communication with the suspect. Detective Garza and Officer Osborne were able to work together to negotiate the release of the female party. After further continued hours of communication it was determined MTAS Operators would have to motivate the suspect to surrender beginning with the use of chemical munitions and a distraction device.

Detective Garza clearly and effectively communicated to the suspect that his time to voluntarily surrender had ended and the conditions within the residence would quickly become uncomfortable due to the release of the chemical munitions. Detective Garza and Officer Osborne were able to coach the suspect into peacefully surrendering by exiting the residence where he was taken into custody by MTAS Operators.

The training and experience of our MTAS Crisis Negotiators resulted in a peaceful end to a very tense situation where the suspect and victim made it out of the home unharmed. It is recommended Detective Garza and Officer Osborne receive the Excellent Police Duty Commendation for an intelligent act materially contributing to a valuable Police accomplishment.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to award Det Garza and Ofc Osborne with the Excellent Police Duty Commendation and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

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

Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."
Commissioner Poling stated, Motion carries."

ITEM IV

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

ITEM V

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Poling read Resolution 1016 Approving Employment of a Probationary Patrolmen Troy Allen effective from and after 12:01 AM, September 25, 2023. This position will be for the duration of a one-year probationary period from this date and that the rate of pay will be set by the Chief of Police for the first year of employment.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to accept Resolution 1016 and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Nuses take a roll call vote.

Chief Nuses took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Rich, Absent
Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"
Commissioner Poling, "Aye"
Commissioner Pawlak, Absent
Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

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

Commissioner Poling read Resolution 1017 Approving Employment of a Probationary Patrolmen Kraig Caridine effective from and after 12:01 AM, October 9, 2023. This position will be for the duration of a one-year probationary period from this date and that the rate of pay will be set by the Chief of Police for the first year of employment.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to accept Resolution 1017 and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Nuses take a roll call vote.

Chief Nuses took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Rich, Absent
Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling, "Aye"
Commissioner Pawlak, Absent
Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

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

Motion was made to Expire the Emergency eligibility list.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to Expire the Emergency eligibility list and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Hearing none, Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Nuses take a roll call vote.

Chief Nuses took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Rich, Absent
Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"
Commissioner Poling, "Aye"
Commissioner Pawlak, Absent
Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

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

ITEM VI

ADJOURNMENT

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

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Adjourn."

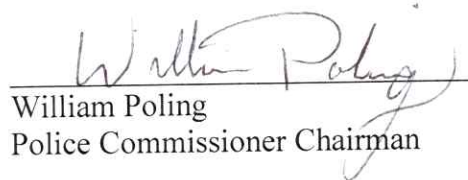
Commissioner Poling stated the next regular meeting will be Friday November 3, 2023, at 2:00 P.M.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at
2:24pm

Passed and adopted on this 3rd day of November, 2023



Lori Sanfratello
Chief's Executive Director
Police Commission Recorder



William Poling
Police Commissioner Chairman