



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Glenda McDonald
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of October 2, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chairman Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Erica George, Commissioner Watkins, Chief Erik Hollowell, Sergeant Feregus, Mayor Glenda McDonald

Opening Remarks

Chairman: Welcome everyone and thank you for everyone being here. We would like to thank the Mayor for being here.

Police Department

Chief: There are two officers are graduating the academy tomorrow. The third officer will take his test next week. Our K9 truck is running again. The chief wants to implement a drag racing detail focusing on Oakland and Woodward.

Chairman: Are we having a problem on Hamilton?

Sgt.: No, we have not.

Chairman: What time of the day is this happening?

Sgt.: It is normally when the shifts change at the factor.

Commissioner Watkins: Do you have any more officers going through the academy?

Sgt.: We are hoping three more go through the academy. If they pass, they will start the academy in January. In the meantime, they would help stay in the office.

Commissioner Curis: Did the city pay for the officer? Did they officers sign a contract to stay in the city?

Sgt.: Yes, the city paid and I believe the contract is for four years. They would pay the city back.

Mayor: If the contract is violated then it goes to the law department to step in even if it has to go to court.

Commissioner Curis: How much is the academy?

Sgt.: I believe it is about \$7,000.

Fire Department

Chief: I attended a roundtable regarding mutual aid. Mutual aid the assistance we receive from Hamtramck and Detroit. Also, we would make rounds to Livonia, Grosse Pointe, etc. Highland Park is not the only city having issues.

Chairman: I thought we would only boarder our city with mutual aid assistance.

Chief: I changed it because I did not agree with it either. If someone needs help then we would come. Now, Ferndale wants to mutual aid with us.

Commissioner Watkins: Do the calls for mutual aid come through the switchboard?

Chief: The call comes in to 911 then dispatch then it gets sorted to a department. As of today, we are at year nine of not a single grievance. We have a community relations officer who is here today. We had one medical complaint regarding a long wait time for medics on the police side. I contacted the company and we will have a meeting next meeting at 11am to discuss the matters.

Chairman: Are we still in search of other EMS and units?

Chief: Eventually, Highland Park is going to have to get back in the EMS business. I know we talked about one year ago. Let's take your plan to the Mayor and discuss it. I would like to task you to write a proposal.

Mayor: We will need a cost analyze with it if we plan to move to do EMS in house.

Chief: There are only five companies in Wayne County which is why they can charge so much. They can still be there and be a backup.

Chairman: What are our statistics?

Chief: As of today, we are at 684 and last month we were at 93. We had an increase in run numbers which we are at 8 runs already this month.

Chairman: What type of fires?

Chief: There were some vacant and occupied homes. We had two car fires.

Chairman: Were they abandoned cars?

Chief: They were stolen.

Commissioner Curis: Are we ready for the Halloween holiday?

Chief: I hope we have a good year.

Public Comments

Chairman: Welcome to Mr. Johnson from Woodward Grill

Johnson: On Woodward, there is speeding down Woodward going like 100 mph. Last minutes, I believe they talked about getting more patrol. Do we have a grant writer to get traffic cameras? I know our police department is limited.

Chairman: We do have cameras around the city. Unfortunately, Director Lackey is not here.

Mayor: We have Block cameras.

Sgt.: We have blue light cameras as well.

Mayor: We have picked up a lot of stolen cars. Yesterday, they were racing and they were getting

Johnson: On Davidson, they go through the red lights and make that left turn.

Mayor: We are writing tickets.

Johnson: Residents using their lawns as driveways, is that an ordinance?

Chairman: If there is no ordinance that they cannot park on it then they can park on their lawn.

Johnson: The shelter on Woodward, we have a lot of homeless people. We have a school near there.

Chairman: I know it is an eye sore, but we need a complaint. The Supreme Court is deemed illegal. We had issues at Commissioner Curis' place. Please have people file complaints.

Johnson: The people are scaring patriots away.

Mayor: We must have signs up that say no loitering or trespassing. There are laws that protect them. I asked the postal office and church about putting up signs too. But no one is putting up the signs.

Johnson: Can we move the people out?

Chairman: We cannot pack them up and move them. Sgt. Can you set up another meeting.

Sgt.: With new state law we must ticket them and not place them in jail. It is frustrating for all of us. We typically can arrest them then they are out the next day.

Commissioner Curis: We need a meeting with Dr. Audi. Maybe he can warn them and maybe we need to have more communication.

Chairman: The goal was to be out of here at a certain time and looking for work.

Johnson: You look at it as a small thing but who wants to move into a city that is casing your place and we are worried about people breaking in your home, etc. We do not want to stop at a gas station.

Commissioner George: I operate a shelter. Providers cannot mandate it. I can see if the Director from DRMM will be willing to attend our next meeting.

Chairman: I would like the chief to reach out to Dr. Audi to see if he can attend the next meeting.

Mayor: We have talked to Dr. Audi and he has tried different things. We have the homeless and returning citizens. He stated he was trying to get out of the homeless business.

Chairman: Can you speak to the Halloween flyer passed out today?

Police Officer: We are trying to do more training, an open house and Halloween activities.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 6:00 pm, In-person and Zoom
cc: City Clerk