



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of July 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chairman Napoleon.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Napoleon, Commissioner Watkins, Commissioner Curis; Secretary Erica George, Sgt. Brian Jeffrey and Charles Lackey

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 19, 2019, were approved.

Police Department

Lackey: "Deputy Chief Tolbert resigned for personal reasons. We expect a replacement in the next week or two. We selected a company yesterday and the system should be installed three weeks after we are awarded and approved by Council."

Chairman: "Is this 24 hour monitoring and what is the funding?"

Lackey: "Yes, the system will have 24 hour monitoring and funded. Also, we passed the Lien audit for the first time in 13 years. This system checks our I.T. system, users trained, log-ins, etc. This is the second municipality I have seen that turned around. We identified six sites for blue light in Highland Park and Ecorse and will provide funding since this will be the first systems. We plan to have this all installed by August 1st. Each blue light will get P.A. systems so we can communicate. We will also allow residents to let us know if they want a part of their personal security to be connect which will send a signal to our main system."

Commissioner Curis: "Do you have signage?"

Lackey: "No, we are looking for blue lights to purchase but want to order in bulk. We have our three 2020 Explorers, which two are here in Michigan. And waiting for dealer to drop them off."

Chairman: "Who puts in lighting for the vehicles?"

Lackey: "ABS installs the lighting. National Night Out is still going on. We are close to finalizing the jail deal with Wayne County. Hopefully, in the next 60 days we can finalize but for now we are taking prisoners downtown. We will no longer use the jail in Highland Park and the officers will do the processing. Our warrant submittal must be updated by Wayne County but it is approved. We can track our cases."

Chairman: "Can everything in the warrant packet be sent via computer?"

Lackey: "Yes. Witness statements can be scanned in. We are the first municipality to do this. Detroit wants to implement this as well."

Chairman: "All warrants such as misdemeanors can be submitted?"

Lackey: "Yes."

Commissioner Curis: "I live outside of here and typically if you live in the city you normally will not get a ticket. What can we do for citizens in Highland Park?"

Lackey: "It is no written rule that we can write and it is discretionary by officers but we do try to not give tickets. We train on the spirit of the law. We try not to compound the problems and give citizens an opportunity. Also, E-ticketing will probably start on Monday which those go straight to the court."

Chairman: "Only traffic officers?"

Lackey: "No, everyone. Traffic officers have been using E-ticketing for three years now. We did start enforcing the new scheduling system. We had to work out some of the bugs."

Chairman: "I think this should be enforced because we are keeping the police working."

Lackey: "Yes, if people are calling off excessively then we will follow-up with disciplinary actions. Lastly, IPro is the system we are purchasing."

Chairman: "This is a good software to track citizens' complaints. Who enters data?"

Lackey: "Supervisors will enter it only. We did have a couple officers that resigned."

Commissioner Watkins: "We have had stand-offs lately. What can a police and fire commissioner do in these situation?"

Chairman: "You can be in a safe are or possibly the command post."

Lackey: "We could not speak on it in the radio. You can do a ride along but we want to keep everyone safe."

George: "We did have comments posted on Facebook about the Police and Fire Commission regarding a lot but one point made was the minutes and agendas not being posted."

Lackey: "Yes, I saw it too. The minutes and agendas must be posted like any public meeting."

George: "I have emailed all 2019 minutes and agenda to city clerk Breen and Mayor's assistant Harlin. I have not heard back from Green but I did email her stating we meet every third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Fire Station unless otherwise informed. A standard message to the community regarding our meeting dates, times and location can be posted on the website. I will forward the approved June minutes to the city clerk as well."

Commissioner Curis: "Let's invite them to the meeting."

Commissioner Watkins: "We are all appointed by Mayor but Detroit has to be elected?"

Chairman: "We are selected by the Mayor but Detroit's charter changed so they are now elected."

Commissioner Watkins: "Can we recommend an officer be fired?"

Lackey: "Any police or fire fighter can appeal decisions made based on employee conduct to the Police and Fire Commission which is on their letter. One officer appealed to the commission which you all went with the Chief's decision."

Watkins: "How did the marijuana question get on the ballot?"

Lackey: "The judge approved marijuana dispensaries to be put on the ballot, which allows them to possibly open the business in the city but they have to be licensed through the state to properly open up a dispensary. The state has not come up with set laws."

Commissioner Watkins: "Do you think Highland Park will past the ballot?"

Lackey: "Yes, which opens it up for others who want to open the business."

Chairman: "For example, if I wanted to open a business, I would go to council for approval which they can deny."

Lackey: "Unless the judge states differently."

Fire Department

Sgt. Jeffrey: "We had 58 runs and 16 of those runs were good structure and a few car fires. We had 3 commercial buildings on Hamilton."

Chairman: "Were the buildings vacant?"

Sgt. Jeffrey: "Yes."

Chairman: "Do you think it was an insurance job?"

Sgt. Jeffrey: "Not sure. Investigations are being completed. West Bloomfield Township is donating another truck."

Commissioner Curis: "How do we thank them?"

Sgt. Jeffrey: "I know the Chief went on air to publically thank them. We went to Greater Philadelphia Tabernacle Church for a community event. Also, Chief is going to allow Wayne County Emergency Management team to pass out donated filters at the Fire Station on Friday, Saturday and next week."

Commissioner Watkins: "How many filters were donated?"

Sgt. Jeffrey: "I believe about three thousand."

Commissioner Curis: "Should the filters come from the meter?"

Chairman: "I believe the filters will be for the bathrooms, etc."

Lackey: "They said they have more than enough for citizens."

Sgt. Jeffrey: "We are setting up a fire presentation for the community which the date is TBD. We are still replacing smoke detectors and batteries."

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 6:00pm, Training Room, Fire Station

cc: City Clerk