



# CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp  
Mayor

## BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS Minutes of April 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm by Chairman Napoleon.

### Roll Call:

**Present:** Chairman Napoleon, Commissioner Hicks, Commissioner Curis; Secretary Erica George, Deputy Chief Tolbert, Charles Lackey, Chief Coney, Lt. Hollowell

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 27, 2019, were approved.

### Police Department

Deputy Chief Tolbert: "Previously in this meeting, the lawsuit matter was discussed. Once the lawsuit is complete, I will talk to the commission about the whole matter."

Commissioner Hicks: "At what point is it with the litigation?"

Tolbert: "If it is a trial, the civil trial would be in the next 2-3 months. There are some motions to dismiss everything."

Chairman Napoleon: "Is there any type of settlement?"

Tolbert: "The amount was so large that the city said no. We have upcoming events. May 18<sup>th</sup> we will go out to tag blight issues such as cars. We will give a week for citizens to remove the property then ticket the owners. We are still looking at the city's ordinance for vehicles on private property."

Chairman Napoleon: "I suggest taking a look at the zoning ordinance."

Tolbert: "We reinstated the animal control. We are getting with the court to make sure we are writing tickets that align with the municipal code. As of this year, we only have two dogs registered."

Chairman Napoleon: "Do we have an ordinance that citizens must register their dog and especially pit bulls?"

Tolbert: "Yes, there is an ordinance that says you cannot put a ban on breaded dogs like pit bulls. So, we will say vicious dogs."

Chairman Napoleon: "I am sure we will find an ordinance to define vicious."

Commissioner Hicks: "Where would you house them?"

Tolbert: "In negotiation now with Detroit to house them. We have talked to the Michigan Humane Society and Detroit to try and figure out where we can put stray dogs. We do not want to get into housing them."

Commissioner Hicks: "At what point will you start finding citizens who are not registered?"

Tolbert: "We are in that process now. If we catch a dog with the owner that is not registered we will give a warning then tickets. We will have 150 free chips to give to identified owners but we can not require people to have chips unless we make it an ordinance."

Commissioner Curis: "If they put a chip in their pet then are they registered?"

Tolbert: "That is the idea. First, warning is to get a chip then issue a ticket if they do not comply."

Commissioner Hicks: "If they move with the license go with them?"

Tolbert: "No, they have to register their dogs in each city."

Commissioner Curis: "Can the chips go with them?"

Tolbert: "Yes, that is universal. Another matter we are working on partnering with Detroit is for prisoners to go straight to Wayne County. Also, we are looking into scheduling software. Right now, we schedule at the officers availability. We want officers to work here as their primary job and not secondary especially since we have raised wages. We will base it off of seniority to be assigned shifts. For example, we have people working on Wednesday where we do not need that many officers but we are operating on employees telling us their availability to work then we schedule them."

Chairman Napoleon: "Do you have 3 shifts?"

Tolbert: "We work 12 hour shifts."

Chairman Napoleon: "Many of the officers are here to maintain credentials so if they can not abide by the schedule you give three warnings and let them go."

Tolbert: "We want to change the culture. We are collaborating with the fire department to have us out at the block club meetings and meeting the citizens. Eventually, we want to put someone in the shopping strip by Tim Hortons from blue light. Also, we just met about the Michigan Week Parade. They are looking at 100 participants on Hamilton. I have a request in to Home Land Security to be on the safe side as well as the command post."

Chairman Napoleon: "Will the department have added man power?"

Tolbert: "Yes, we will use reserves. The 1.4 miles they travel will take about 1 ½ hour so we will need to block streets and tail the parade. Police week will be May 12-15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a luncheon for Mother at the Recreation Center. We will have a balloon release and other activities. On Tuesday from noon – 2:00 pm, we will have a chiropractor and other sponsors."

Commissioner Curis: "What annual dollar amount for tickets are coming into the city?"

Tolbert: "I have someone preparing that for me now. The ticket fines go to general funds."

Commissioner Curis: "I would like to see if someone owns their own home can we give 60-90 days to remove blight?"

Tolbert: "That is no problem. The problem is abandon properties."

Commissioner Curis: "Have we reached out to Detroit Council Martha Scott to assist with the collaboration with Detroit?"

Tolbert: "We have no problem receiving help."

## **Fire Department**

Chief Coney: We sent out a well-being checklist to seniors about who lives in the homes, smoke detectors, etc. We have been receiving feedback and maintenance 3 smoke detectors. This helps us get more information on the citizens. Again, we give out free batteries. When the weather breaks we will go to different gas stations and pump gas to get in the community and know the citizens. We do have our doorbell installed that citizens can push if there is an emergency. We had a guy having a heart attack and no one recognized until looking at the camera screen. We

revised on an as needed basis to cut down on the wear and tear of trucks making runs to Detroit and Hamtramck. Also, we want to partner with Hamtramck and possibly Detroit to have events that raise money to go to families in need.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Will the proceeds be split between Highland Park and Hamtramck?”

Chief Coney: “Yes and we would rotate cities. I talk to a guy in Royal Oak that thought it was a good idea for us to come together. I have been strict about eating habits in the fire department. The fire fighters have been doing well. I start training at 6:00 am. The police are welcomed to join as well.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Do you have any equipment?”

Chief Coney: “We have 1,000 pounds in weights, pull up, dips, ropes, treadmill, etc. I make it mandatory each day they work out for 1 hour 6 days a week. One guy said he lost 50 pounds.”

Tolbert: “Did you have a fire fighter taken to the hospital?”

Chief Coney: “Yes, I think it was stress. I took him to the hospital and they will keep him overnight.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Do you have annual checkups?”

Chief Coney: “Yes. Now, I have their heart rates checked after every fire. Also, we will have another safety week for citizens to make sure everything is working in their homes. We have a ride along class and we charge a fee. We have had fire fighters from Texas and Maryland come to ride. One guy stayed a week and we housed him here.”

Tolbert: “We just met with the Explorer Program for kids’ ages 13-18 years old to have training in law enforcement sponsored by Highland Park and under the Boys Scout umbrella.”

Commissioner Hicks: “How many students can apply and how?”

Tolbert: “We are looking for 20 students. We will talk to schools and the Boys Scout. We will do a survey of 16-18 year olds who are interested in this field and possibly require essays.”

Chairman Napoleon: “Do we have any commission affairs? If not, I wrote a letter for Erica to be compensated.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Is this amount for just meetings?”

Chairman Napoleon: “We can make the dollar amount 200.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Ok.”

Tolbert: “On Channel 7, an officer, not related to the city, was involved in a shooting. Detroit is handling it. Our reserve was working in a bar and fired shots at a women’s car who is now being charged for fleeing. After the reserve officer shot at the car it was reported that a Detroit police officer shot at him.”

Lackey: “The lady said it was a Detroit police officer but the news story has not yet shown Highland Park.”

Commissioner Curis: “How many homeowner groups in the city?”

Tolbert: “We met with a few of them so I am trying to find out. The last time they said 7 or more.”

Commissioner Curis: “The politicians would know. I think we should have a member of the block clubs come to our meetings.”

Chairman Napoleon: “Letters should be sent out to all of them.”

Commissioner Curis: “I think even if we have one block club member here to hear their concerns or feedback will be good.”

Tolbert: “I will invite someone for the next meeting.”

Chief Coney: “Connecticut and Tennyson is having a clean-up and I can tell them.”

Commissioner Curis: “I think we should have a letter sent out on a letterhead.”

Chairman napoleon: "We will meet here next month?"

Lackey: "Yes, we are meeting here because we do not always have coverage at City Hall. We do have a few citizen complaints as well."

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 6:00pm, Training Room, Fire Station

cc: City Clerk