



MENASHA POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Police Commission President Jim Meinke called the meeting to order May 20, 2021 at 4:31 PM, Menasha Safety Building, 430 First Street, Menasha, Wisconsin

Present: Commissioners James Meinke, Jerry Jakubek, Nancy Ball, and Debbie Galeazzi, Chief Tim Styka and Lt. Matt Albrecht

Absent: Trevor Martin

Minutes to Approve: Commissioner Meinke moved to approve the March 26, 2021 draft. Commissioner Ball seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes.

Communications to Receive: None

Action Item: Discussion of probationary status of Officer Jason Fredrickson. The group had discussion about his performance during his probationary period. Commissioner Galeazzi made a motion to grant Officer Fredrickson Full Employment status provided that an update will be provided to the Commission at the next meeting in two months. The motion passed 4-0.

Chief's Report/Discussion with Chief Styka:

Training:

- In-service Training: All sworn personnel (4 hrs)
- Mobile Command Post Training: Aaron Schaefer (1 hr)
- Background Investigations for Police Applicants: Albrecht & Birkholz (12 hrs)
- Investigating and Interpreting Video Recorded Use of Force: Thorn and Lens (8 hrs)
- Rifle Instructor: Lens (20 hrs)
- Basic Cyber Investigations: Heidemann (8 hrs)
- WILEAG Core Assessor and Manager Training: Whitney (16 hrs)
- Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators Conference (16 hrs)
- Two-man Team Tactics: Sawyer (16 hrs)
- 2021 FBI NIBRS Training: Groeschel (12 hrs)

Department Updates:

- Michael Onley, Aaron Schafer, Jason Eake and Brian Van Alstyne are all in solo patrol.
- Sam Vassar has graduated from the academy and is has started his field training this week.
- Maria Taillon has been hired as a Relief Com Tech
- Code Enforcement Specialist Joe Polzien has retired from the City
- Jon Van Schyndel has resigned and is now working full time with the military.
- Police Week Awards: Last week we hosted our annual Police Week Awards. A copy of the awards given out are attached to your documents for the meeting.
- Jason Eake is finishing up his certification as a drone pilot.
- COVID-19 Updates: The Police Department has transitioned to the new rules of requiring unvaccinated people to wear masks. Those that have been fully vaccinated do not.
- Report from Lt. Matt Albrecht on implementation of hybrid patrol vehicles.

Police Week 2021 Awards

Assignment Recognition:

- Officers Kelly Gennrich, Rick Heinen, Kate Oberle, Derrick Rotta and Jason Fredrickson were given their American Flag pin signifying their completion of their probationary period.
- Officer Kelly Gennrich received the Police Training Officer Service Ribbon. This is given to an officer who honorably serves as a member the PTO unit.
- Lt. Adam Schulz received the Instructor Ribbon for serving as a Department Instructor for over three years.
- Lt. Nick Thorn and Inv. Amy Cook received the Crime Scene Technology Ribbon for completing Evidence Technician training and serving in the position for one year.
- Officer Jeff Jorgenson and Officer Shelby Birkholz received the Sensitive Crime Officer Ribbon for serving the department in this capacity.

Years of Service:

- Lt. Joel Nelson 5 years
- Lt. Matt Lenss, Records Clerk Jenny Groeschel and Court Liaison Bev Sawyer 15 years
- Officer Nick Oleszak and Chief Tim Styka 25 years

Teamwork

- 13 team members received an award for their work in assisting a victim of a very severe domestic abuse crime. Officers worked tirelessly to document the extensive crime scene to help hold the suspect accountable for their actions.

- Lieutenants Matt Lenss and Lt. Matt Spiegel and Officers Mike Oney, Jason Eake Brian Van Alstyne and Jason Fredrickson assisted in supporting the law enforcement efforts following the shooting at the Fox River Mall.
- Officers Matt Schanke, Shelby Birkholz, Kate Oberle and Rick Heinen for their compassion and professionalism in dealing with a suicide involving a young member of our community.
- 21 members of the Department received this award for their response, actions at the scene and subsequent investigation of a fire that took the lives of two community members. An incident such as this takes considerable resources to determine what took place and if there is anyone responsible from a legal perspective.
- Lieutenants Nick Thorn and Joel Nelson, Inv. Amy Cook, SRO Denton Heidemann, CLO Nick Oleszak and Officers Sara Swenson, Rick Heinen and Jason Fredrickson for their work in investigating a complex stabbing incident.

Unit Citation Award:

- Officer Dan Hoernke and Officer Shelby Birkholz for being one of the first responding officers to the Fox River Mall shooting. They, along with dozens of other officers, worked to secure the scene and assist those immediately impacted by the incident.

Civilian Recognition Awards

- Anna Pressley: Ms. Pressley was driving across the Racine Street Bridge on August 13, 2020 when she noticed there was a man standing on the water side of the railing over the dam. She called 911 and kept the person calm until officers arrived. The officer and Ms. Pressley were able to have the person come back over the railing without incident where he was then brought to the hospital for assistance.
- Caleb Lyons: It is often said that the job of a police officer is 24/7. On September 15, 2020 Officer Lyons was off duty at a business in Menasha trying to locate some personal property that had been taken. A person entered the store with an axe and was threatening store employees. One of our officers arrived on scene and worked to deescalate the situation. The male subject then made a move for the axe and struck the officer in the face. A struggle then ensued and without hesitation Officer Lyons stepped in to assist in gaining control of the subject. His assistance helped to end the situation quicker and with no major injuries to anyone involved.

Above and Beyond Award

- In police work a person really does not know what will happen on a daily basis. This is not only true for the officers, but all of our team members. On August 9, 2020 PSP Mary Janssen was working the night shift when a man came into the lobby of the police department. He said he needed some help and then proceeded to pull a large knife that he was concealing out and placed it up to his neck threatening self-harm. PSP Janssen was able to summons assistance and

then spoke to the person keeping him calm. In fact, she was able to get the person to turn the knife over to her, prior to the officers making contact with him. The person was given further assistance to help him deal with the mental health crisis he was in.

Exceptional Performance in the Line of Duty:

Officer Derrick Rotta is the officer who responded to the man with the axe call listed above. Officer Rotta slowed things down and deescalated the situation. As things calmed down, the subject unexpectedly made a move toward the axe and punched Officer Rotta in the face as he was going for the axe. Officer Rotta, and other community members, were able to take the subject into custody without any serious injury to anyone involved.

Motion to adjourn: At 5:28 pm Commissioner Galeazzi made the motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Commissioner Ball and approved 4-0.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 15, 2021 starting at 4:30 pm. Menasha Safety Building, 430 First Street, Menasha, Wisconsin.

Menasha alderpersons occasionally attend meetings of this body. It is possible that a quorum of Common Council, Board of Public Works, Administration Committee, Personnel Committee, may be attending; however no official Action of any of these bodies will be taken.

Menasha is committed to its diverse population. Our non- English speaking population or those with disabilities are invited to contact the acting Chief of Police at 967-3500 at least 24-hours in advance to ensure special accommodations can be made.