

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

Commissioners Present: Sharon Dornfeld, Chairperson; Issy Caporale, Secretary; John Frey; Ralph Money;
Absent: Marcie Coffin
Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz, Major Shawn Platt

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Chairperson Dornfeld

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2024 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Frey seconded the motion. **All in Favor Minutes of the November 14, 2024 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.**

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2024 Police Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the Motion. **All in Favor. Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Police Commission Special Meeting accepted as written.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Plan Review – 34 Halpin Lane**

Jake Muller presented the plans for 34 Halpin Ln at the December 12, 2024 Board of Police Commissioners meeting. The Board of Police Commissioners have the following comments on the proposed plans:

- A sidewalk shall be installed on the east side of Prospect Ridge and extend to its intersection with Governor Street (north side). A crosswalk shall be installed connecting the new sidewalk with the existing sidewalk on the north side of Governor Street.
- Discernable boundaries shall be present between the school property/parking area and public parking area. The purpose of this is to clearly delineate the two properties.

B. **Proposed Temporary and Limited Development Moratorium**

The Board of Police Commissioners takes no position on the merits of the proposed Moratorium but advises that the Town has received the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant which will study traffic and pedestrian safety in Ridgefield. This study will be taking place during the time frame in which the moratorium is proposed.

C. **Approval of Capital Budget**

Chief Kreitz reviewed the proposed Capital Budget and answered questions

D. **Approval of Operating Budget**

Chief Kreitz reviewed the proposed Operating Budget and answered questions. Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to approve the Capital Budget and the Operating Budget as presented by Chief Kreitz. Commissioner Money made the motion and Commissioner Frey seconded the motion. **All in Favor**

E. **Annual PC Meeting Schedule Approval for Submission to Town Clerk**

Commissioner Money made a motion to accept the Police Commission Attendance Schedule for 2024 and the Police Commission Meeting Schedule for 2025. Commissioner Frey seconded the motion. **All in Favor**

4. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

- Voicemail** There was no voicemail for the month of November.
- Written Correspondence** There was no written correspondence for the month of November.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Hiring Update**

Major Platt stated the next Probationary Police Officer will be sworn in December 20 at 10:00 at police headquarters.

B. **Public Safety Building Update**

Chief Kreitz stated minor changes were made to the over-all plan of the public safety building. The next meeting with the working group is scheduled for December 18.

C. Uniform Discussion

A new style pant for patrol was presented by Sgt. Lou Geller and P.O. Brian Kay. The police officers answered any questions the police commission had. It was determined that additional officers would try out the pants. The commissioners liked the pants that were presented.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Training/PR Report

The following report was submitted by Capt. Jeff Raines, Division of Professional Standards.

Ridgefield Police Department Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report November 2024

Training Attended:

Nov 15: Detective DuBord and Detective Ryan attended Rapid DNA training at POSTC.

Nov. 18: Officer Pagliuco attended Search & Seizure training at the Ansonia Police Department.

Nov. 18-20: The entire department was re-certified in De-Escalation, Taser, Handcuffing, Baton and OC. The instructors were Lieutenant Durling, Sergeant DiFalco, Sergeant Geller and Sergeant Van Wattum.

P/R Events:

Nov. 8: Officer Ekstrom and Officer Kay were recipients of the 2024 AAA Traffic Safety Hero Award. Captain Fowler attended and accepted a Silver Award that was presented to the department.

Dec. 5: Captain Raines and Officer McMahon accepted a plaque at POSTC in regard to the department's Accreditation status.

Upcoming Events: There are no events planned for the month of December.

A total of 13 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

A. Department Stats

Chief Kreitz stated the total number of incidents for the month of November 2024 was 1,527. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion on the Major's position which will be vacant upon Major Platt's retirement on 12-30-2024. Commissioner Caporale made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:19pm. Commissioner Money seconded the motion. All in Favor

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:40pm. It was noted for the record that no motions were made and no votes were taken during Executive Session.

Commissioner Money made a motion asking unanimous consent to support the Chief's appointment of Captain Nick Fowler to become the Executive Officer of the Ridgefield Police Department and hold the rank of Major; both effective on December 30, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Caporale. All in favor Congratulations to Capt. Nick Fowler.

The Board of Police Commissioners thank Major Platt for his 29 years of service and state the following: Major Shawn Platt is recognized and will be remembered for placing citizen safety first every day, creating a work culture and set of values second to none, building up and advocating for department officers and employees, seeking and achieving excellence at all times, sharing words that provoke, challenge and give comfort, and generally policing with passion and excellent judgment.

Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission meeting at 8:48pm. Commissioner Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,
Issy Caporale, Police Commission Secretary
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