

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Thursday, March 8, 2018. This meeting was adjourned from Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Commissioners Darlene Battle, Douglas Benedetto, Robert Conforti, Angelo LaMonica and Glenn McLeod. Commissioner Richard Zaharek was absent. Also present were Police Chief Michael Maniago, Fire Chief Gary Brunoli, Traffic Unit Officer Steven Pisarski, Campion Ambulance Director of Operations Fred Rosa, and Director of Economic Development Erin Wilson.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PINNING CEREMONIES

FF Andrew Corjulo was presented a Meritorious Service Award from his Battalion Chief and Fire Chief Brunoli.

Deputy Chief David Tripp was sworn in by Mayor Carbone. His pin was presented to him by his son.

Assistant Chief of Training and Safety Robert Shopey III was sworn in by Mayor Carbone. His pin was presented to him by his wife.

Lt. Randall Chesanek was sworn in by Mayor Carbone. His pin was presented to him by his wife.

Mayor Carbone announced that the presentation of awards to Fire Prevention Poster Contest winners has been tabled to the next Regular Board of Public Safety meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular meeting held January 3, 2018.

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special and Telephonic meeting held February 8, 2018. Commissioner Benedetto abstained.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

Mr. Gino Reginatto stated his concerns regarding traffic and sidewalk safety in the City and commended the Police Department and new Street Department leadership for a job well done.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Carbone recessed the meeting at 6:59 p.m. to allow for the award and pinning ceremony recipients and their guests to exit the auditorium.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Carbone reconvened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

FIRE CHIEF BRUNOLI'S REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept Fire Chief Brunoli's Reports. Commissioner Benedetto asked Chief Brunoli about the status of a fire truck that had been experiencing engine problems and Chief Brunoli stated that the truck is back in service with all issues taken care of.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Deputy Fire Chief's Reports.

TRAINING OFFICER TRIPP'S REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept Training Officer Tripp's Reports.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Emergency Management Reports.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Marshal's Reports.

POLICE CHIEF MANIAGO'S REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept Police Chief Maniago's Reports.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS UNIT REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept Officer Pisarski's Traffic Operations Unit Reports.

EMS PROVIDER ACTIVITY REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS Provider Activity Reports.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGETS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to table the review, discussion, and/or vote on Public Safety Budgets until the Budget Subcommittee receives and reviews Chief Maniago's and Chief Brunoli's revised budgets.

FIELD STREET PARKING

Director of Economic Development Erin Wilson requested that parking meter rates on Field Street be reduced to \$1/hour and days of enforcement be reduced to Monday through Friday only, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., stating that the previously anticipated traffic and impacts on Field Street have not happened and the City has received many grievances from the public regarding current parking rates and enforcement in this area.

Commissioner Benedetto made a motion to reduce parking meter rates on Field Street to \$1/hour and days of enforcement to Monday through Friday only, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Conforti seconded this motion.

Commissioner McLeod recommended that the Board wait to reduce parking rates and enforcement on Field Street until the current budget season is through.

Ms. Wilson said that the revenue gained from these parking meters has been minimal.

Officer Pisarski stated that since August, when the Field Street meters were put in, the department has generated \$2,000 in fines and \$3,700 in revenue. He added that eliminating enforcement in this area on Saturdays would be inconsistent with rest of the City, where parking is enforced Monday through Saturday. Officer Pisarski informed the Board that it would cost \$1,700 to re-program each machine.

Commissioner Benedetto stated that fines from the parking meters are restricting the businesses in the area.

Ms. Wilson explained that the reason for having meters is not to generate revenue, it is to manage parking and informed the Board that tenants and business owners have called and complained to City Hall.

Commissioner LaMonica expressed support for lowering the Field Street parking meter rate.

Commissioner McLeod made a sub-motion to reduce the parking meter rate on Field Street to \$1/hour and to make the enforcement schedule consistent with Main Street and the rest of the City. Commissioner Battle seconded the motion and the Board approved with four in favor and Commissioner Benedetto opposed.

The main motion failed with Commissioner Benedetto in favor and four opposed.

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF

Mayor Carbone informed the Board that after going through Management Resolution terms, the Chief has agreed that he would like to withdraw his request for consideration of establishing a contracted position for Deputy Chief at this time and let the position go as Management Resolution.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to table the discussion of Chief Maniago's request to create a contracted position for Deputy Chief.

BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPTS.

On a motion by Commissioner Battle, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Volunteer Fire Departments.

Drakeville Volunteer Fire Department reported that it has one Firefighter attending Firefighter 1 School.

Torrington Volunteer Fire Department reported that it has one Firefighter attending Firefighter 1 School as well.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Chief Brunoli announced that next Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. there will be Fire Service Coordination meeting at Fire Headquarters.

BUSINESS BY MAYOR AND BOARD MEMBERS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public Safety.

Commissioner LaMonica congratulated all of the evening's recipients of awards and promotions.

Commissioner Benedetto asked Chief Maniago what the criteria was for the Deputy Chief position, from the application process to the first interview.

Chief Maniago stated that he was not involved in the development of the criteria and that he will have the

Director of South Central Criminal Justice Administration of CT (SCCJA) contact Commissioner Benedetto to provide a complete rundown and answer any questions.

Commissioner Benedetto asked what the criteria was in the beginning when Chief Maniago set the position.

Chief Maniago explained that he did it in conjunction with the Personnel Director and the requirements included five years as a Lieutenant and a Bachelor's degree.

Agenda Item Addition: Deputy Police Chief Hiring Process

Commissioner Benedetto posed a recommendation to table the filling of the Deputy Police Chief position for six months.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted to add an agenda item to the agenda for the purposes of discussing the delay of filling the position of Deputy Police Chief with three votes in favor and two (Commissioners Conforti and McLeod) opposed.

Motion Failed: Deputy Police Chief Hiring Delay

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board considered delaying the Deputy Police Chief hiring process.

Commissioner Conforti expressed his opposition to the motion saying that the Deputy Chief position has been in the budget for a long time and he does not think it is worth the risk of losing current candidates by pulling the position temporarily.

Commissioner McLeod expressed his opposition to the motion saying that the timing is wrong.

Commissioner LaMonica stated that he does not believe the position needs to be filled and expressed concern regarding the Board's lack of involvement in the hiring process for the Deputy Police Chief position.

Commissioner Benedetto agreed with Commissioner LaMonica's remarks, stating that there are a lot of command staff on duty during the day shift.

Commissioner Battle expressed opposition to the motion saying that the City should go through with the hiring process.

Mayor Carbone called the motion to a vote and the motion failed with two votes in favor (Commissioners Benedetto and LaMonica) and three opposed.

Accidental Discharge

Commissioner Benedetto requested clarification from Chief Maniago regarding an alleged shooting of an officer in the Police Department.

Chief Maniago explained that there was an accidental discharge with a pepper ball gun involving two police officers. He added that an internal investigation revealed that the victim was inaccurate in what he said initially, which resulted in an eight-day suspension and removal from the SRT Team.

Board Involvement in Public Safety Hiring Process

Commissioner McLeod requested additional Board involvement in the hiring of Public Safety personnel.

Mayor Carbone explained the importance of privacy for many of the applicants who are currently employed elsewhere and wish to keep their application private.


Chief Maniago stated that he would be okay with inviting personnel subcommittee members in to finalist interviews.

Commissioner Battle expressed her support for the Board being more actively involved in the hiring process of Public Safety personnel and congratulated those who have been promoted.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK