

LADUE BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Ladue Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., at Ladue City Hall, 9345 Clayton Road and via Zoom.

Members Present via Zoom:

Col. William Francis Jr., Chairman
Mr. L. Shepley Hermann
Mr. John Schaperkotter
Mr. Stephen Jones

Members present at City Hall:

Ms. Carol D. Gaskin
Mr. John Stupp

Also present via Zoom were Mayor Nancy Spewak, Police Chief Ken Andreski, Jr., Captain Brian Dieckmann, Fire Chief Steven Lynn, and Assistant Chief Johnson. Ms. Laura Rider, Assistant to the Mayor/City Clerk, was present at City Hall via Zoom.

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

The agenda was approved upon motion by Commissioner Schaperkotter and second by Commissioner Herman.

The minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting were approved upon motion by Commissioner Stupp and second by Commissioner Hermann.

During an opportunity for public comment none was offered.

Chief Lynn presented the monthly report and noted the continued trend of decreasing calls for service and was uncertain how calls would be affected in 2021. The Chief reported that more house fires typically occur in winter months but estimated that calls for service would still remain below average. The Chief stated that there has always been a consistent increase in calls over the past five years with 2020 being an anomaly.

Discussion ensued regarding the changing landscape for medical treatment and how that would present in the future with the potential for more virtual medical treatment visits and who will respond to calls for service. When asked if the Fire Department was tracking COVID related calls the Chief reported that they are tracking COVID related calls in NFIRS and Patient Care Report (PCR) with notes regarding the initial impression and follow-up from the hospital. Upon inquiry regarding which apparatus was dispatched when responding to a call Chief Lynn stated that it depended upon how the call came in but if it was for a medical case both the pumper and ambulance were dispatched.

The Chief concluded his report by sharing details on a recent flue fire on Briarcliff which was contained in the firebox and did not spread to the structure.

Chief Lynn reported on COVID vaccine distribution, that 60% of the fire department staff had been vaccinated, and that he was planning to work on a policy and procedure for members of the department who had been vaccinated and exposed to a COVID patient to develop a pathway which would differ from the existing pathway for non-vaccinated members of the department.

Upon inquiry from the Commissioners Chief Lynn reported that Knox Box are accessed only by Fire Department personnel and explained that the department had a system that records when and who has accessed the key and when it was returned.

Chief Andreski presented the NIBRS report for YTD through December 2020 and January 2021. Chief explained that NIBRS differs from the previous reporting system (UCR) in that NIBRS encompasses all crimes in any one incident compared to UCR which only included the most serious crime in any one incident. The Chief went on to report on the different crime categories noting that crimes against property such as burglary and larceny are the majority of crimes committed in Ladue. The new form of reporting through NIBRS was mandated by the FBI all across the country. Chief Andreski reported that Ladue transitioned to using NIBRS prior to the deadline but all agencies would have to use NIBRS eventually.

Chief Andreski reported that crimes should be reported to the new dispatch phone number through West Central Dispatch Center. The Chief indicated that the old phone number would be answered by a person during regular business hours and would be transferred, but after-hours callers would be routed through a directory to get to the dispatch center. The Chief reported that the new phone number would be published in the spring newsletter.

Commissioner Stupp asked if the counterfeit/forgery case on the report was for passing a counterfeit bill. The Chief indicated that he thought it was a forged check case but stated that he would get back to the Commissioners after the meeting with confirmation.

Commissioner Gaskin inquired about the overview for 2020, eleven burglaries and nine arrests, and asked if the arrests were nine different people or the same person for nine cases. The Chief reported that one suspect had carried out about dozen of the burglaries according to modus operandi but were unable to charge him for all the cases due to lack of evidence.

Commissioner Francis inquired about the impersonation case. The Chief and Captain explained that they would need to research but it was likely related to the counterfeit case. Chief indicated that he would provide an update on this case and that the Commissioners could expect to see these different terms and classifications on the new reporting system.

Captain Dieckmann reported that all equipment related to the body worn camera purchase had been received, six officers were equipped and fully functional with body cameras, the rest were waiting for uniforms to be modified to accommodate the lens but should be fully functional by the end of March. Captain Dieckmann reported that body camera recordings had recently been reviewed in response to a traffic stop related complaint and proved very helpful. Captain Dieckmann explained that the cameras record interactions, but the recording is not viewed live at the station. The system has the capability for live viewing and may be used in the future.

Chief Andreski next reported that Officer Rick Bonney would retire soon and that the department was testing for his replacement, that Pat Allison would be retiring in June and would be replaced with an officer. He also reported on the promotion process for Sergeant noting that Sergeant Chris Armstrong would be assigned to Administration and be responsible for work on the department's accreditation and Officer Cody Radford would be promoted to Patrol Sergeant. Discussion ensued regarding the testing process for Sergeant and the criteria and qualifications of each of the candidates and the small degree of separation of the candidate's scores on the most recent process. It was noted that if no internal candidate's met the basic qualifications for Sergeant then the position would not be filled from within.

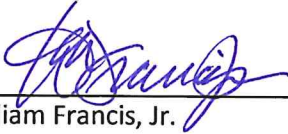
Upon conclusion of discussion the Commissioners accepted the Chief's recommendation and authorized the promotion of Cody Radford to Sergeant upon motion by Commissioner Stupp and second by

Commissioner Jones.

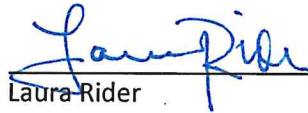
Mayor Spewak announced that Chief Andreski had been nominated by his peers to serve on the executive board of the St Louis Area Police Chiefs Association (SLAPCA) for a three-year term and was sworn in as secretary in January. The Chief would serve as vice-chairman in 2022 and chairman in 2023.

Mayor Spewak reported that Rick Bonney had requested an exit interview with her, and that Officer Bonney was very complimentary of the leadership of Chief Andreski and Captain Dieckmann.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.



William Francis, Jr.
Chairman



Laura Rider
Assistant to the Mayor/City Clerk