

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25th, 2022 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Stefany Shaheen, Chair
Buzz Scherr, Commissioner
Kate Coyle, Commissioner

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The April 25th, 2022 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:42 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. (An archived video of the meeting is available on the police department’s website and the city’s YouTube channel.)

The following people were present for the public session:

Commissioners Shaheen, Scherr and Coyle, Acting Chief/Captain Michael Maloney, Business Ops. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Jackie Burnett and members of the public. Chair Shaheen joined via Zoom for matters which were urgent and uncontrollable.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Acting Chief/Capt. Maloney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE AGENDA:**

The Chair asked for a motion to suspend the agenda and move to item #1 under the Chief’s Report, Vesting of Rank & Swearing-In Ceremony.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to suspend the agenda for the purpose noted above.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Shaheen: “Aye.”

Commissioner Scherr: “Aye.”

Commissioner Coyle: “Aye.”

Acting Chief Maloney vested Lt. Eric Benson with the authority and responsibilities of the rank of Lieutenant. Newly promoted Capt. Chris Cummings and Lt. Seth Tondreault were unable to attend.

Acting Chief Maloney moved on to the Swearing-In Ceremony for the department's newest officer, Ian Efstathiou. Ian was on shift the evening of this meeting and was unfortunately at a high-level call for service, therefore he missed the ceremony. The Commission resumed back to the regular agenda.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

ON: March 15th, 2022

Action: Commissioner Coyle moved to accept the 3-15-22 minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Scherr.

➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote, 3-0, motion passed.**

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lisa Wolford, 111 New Castle Ave – Ms. Wolford looks forward to hearing progress made towards the Resident Group Representative recommendations and suggested the tracking of action items.

There being no other individuals wishing to provide comment, the public comment session was closed.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Promotion Acknowledgements: Captain & Lieutenants

2. Facilities Update: Acting Chief Maloney provided a breakdown of current on-going remediation projects occurring within the police station. The Council voted to approve \$1.4M for next steps in the process of either building a new police station or renovating the current structure. A space needs study will need to be conducted.

a. City Council Tour of Police Station: The Chair reported that all members of the City Council have toured the police facility in recent weeks and extends an invitation to members of the public to come and see the current condition of the building, if they so wish.

3. Community Priorities

a. Discussion of method(s) for tracking progress

Commissioner Kate Coyle is working on crafting a document to track progress made regarding the work of the police department and commission pertaining to the recommendations listed in the RGR document (posted to

police department website). The Commission provided an update on recommendations #9 (court memos), #3 (NDAs), and #12 (patrol activities related to mental health issues).

Presentations will be scheduled at future meetings to provide status updates on some of the recommendations.

Commissioner Coyle: the police department's SOPs (standard operating procedures) are posted on the website and the CBAs (collective bargaining agreements) can be found under the city's website.

Chair Shaheen reinforced what measures have already been taken since the police department, commission and RGR team began their collaboration.

4. Discussion of Budget Work Session & Planning

- a. **Review of CIP Requests:** A public hearing on the City's overall FY23 budget is scheduled for May 9th, 2022. Police and Fire will present on their proposed budgets on May 10th, 2022. A market adjustment has been made for sworn employees.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. **Vesting of Rank & Swearing-In Ceremony** (See section III above)
2. **20-Year Anniversary Acknowledgement: Aux. Lt. Alana Blais**
Acting Chief Maloney recognized Aux. Lieutenant Blais's 20-year career marker and spoke of her strong leadership skills and the value she brings to the department's Auxiliary Unit. On behalf of the Commission, Chair Shaheen commended Alana on this remarkable accomplishment.
3. **Grant & Donations**
 - a. **Grant**
Homeland Security grant award for \$29,024.39 from the NH Department of Safety for confined space search and rescue equipment for the Seacoast Emergency Response Team (SERT).
Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the Homeland Security grant award in the amount of \$29,024.39 from the NH Department of Safety for confined space search and rescue equipment for the Seacoast Emergency Response Team, and forward to the City Council for their action.
Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.
➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote 3-0, motion passed.**
 - b. **Donation #1**
\$5,000 donation from Wilcox Industries Corp. for the Portsmouth Police Honor Guard to attend specialized training as well as attend

the Police Memorial in Washington DC to represent the department. A past PPD K9 will be added to the memorial to acknowledge his line-of-duty death.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the \$5,000 donation from Wilcox Industries Corp. for the Portsmouth Police Honor Guard to attend specialized training as well as attend the Police Memorial in Washington DC, and forward to the City Council for their action.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote 3-0, motion passed.**

c. Donation #2

Five (5) \$20.00 gift certificates from JL Nails & Spa on Woodbury Ave. for the Police Department.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept five (5) \$20.00 gift certificates from JL Nails & Spa on Woodbury Ave for the Portsmouth Police Department, and forward to the City Council for their action.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote 3-0, motion passed.**

4. Letters of Recognition from Outside the Department

a. Letter from Donald & Kathy Cook of Rye, NH: Officer Dente was thanked for his kindness and professionalism while dealing with a motor vehicle offense.

5. Monthly Traffic Stats

Acting Chief Maloney provided traffic statistics for the month of March, 2022: 777 motor vehicle stops, 45 summonses issued, and 45 reportable motor vehicle crashes.

6. Financial Report – Karen Senecal

Karen reported the department is 3.46% below the cap, which is good and closely monitoring the overtime and recruiting lines due to a number of vacancies. Looks like the department will remain in the black and will hopefully be giving money back to the City.

a. Strategic Plan: in progress; almost complete

b. Grant Applications Update: Bulletproof Vests Grant underway.

The Chair asked for a CAD/RMS update. The PD reported that within a month a vendor will be selected.

VIII. PATROL DIVISION:

a. This report was included in the commission meeting packet.

IX. COURT OFFICE REPORT:

- a. This confidential report was included in the commission meeting packet.

X. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Thank you to Acting Chief/Captain Maloney** for taking on this interim role and leading the department during Chief Newport's absence.

XI. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular commission meeting date is Tuesday, May 17th, 2022.

XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved the April 25th, 2022 monthly Police Commission Meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed 3-0 to adjourn the April 25th, 2022 monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:04 pm.

END OF MEETING

Respectfully Submitted by Jacqueline Burnett, Executive Assistant
Commissioner Buzz Scherr, Recording Clerk of the Commission