

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE May 17th, 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 May 17th, 2022 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:33 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 as her attendance was not practical.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Commission 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 rules 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 Sgt. Kevin McCarthy, Sgt. Matthew Young and Sgt. Max Webber with the authority and responsibilities of the rank of Sergeant.

Acting Chief Maloney moved on to the Swearing-In Ceremony for the department's newest officer, Ian Efstathiou.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

ON: April 25th, 2022

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to approve the minutes from the 4-25-22 Police Commission meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

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

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stephanie Hausman – Ms. Hausman inquired about the current status of the Resident Group Representative recommendations (AKA community priorities), a timeline of those priorities and wondered about the whereabouts of Police Chief Mark Newport.

The Chair explained that Chief Newport is away for training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. The Chief is scheduled to return to work at PPD in roughly one month, following his graduation from the Academy.

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: Sergeants (See section III).

In the spirit of officer acknowledgements, following the Vesting of Rank & Swearing-In Ceremony, the Chair took a brief moment to also recognize Det. Rochelle Jones for her efforts during an incident on the Piscataqua River Bridge in which an individual was experiencing a mental health crisis. She will be honored by the Police Department and the Police Commission at a future meeting.

2. Facilities Update:

a. Restoration

Acting Chief Maloney described the ongoing mold remediation work in the Detective's wing of the police station and described what next steps will soon follow. Upon completion of the current project, restoration efforts will migrate to the basement level.

b. ~~Upcoming Police Facilities Conference~~ (error, disregard.)

c. Next Steps for Public Safety Facility Planning

The Chair referenced a recent Portsmouth Herald article on the current state of the police facility. **Acting Chief Maloney** outlined what the next steps are in the facilities planning process: revamping a Space Needs Study, identifying external partners and drilling down on locations, along with preliminary design, IF it's decided that a new building is beneficial.

3. Community Priorities

a. Review Tool for Tracking Progress: Commissioner Coyle

described the tracking tool that was created to track and identify each action, provide a current status and a projected timeline. **The Commission went on to provide updates on several items**, to include: conversation about an upcoming community survey that will reach marginalized communities; conversations surrounding an agreement to vest authority in the Police Commission to discuss the level of transparency on settlements (draft of agreement to come); and a report that the Seacoast Mental Health Mobile Crisis Unit is anticipated to be up and running in full capacity by July 1st, 2022. **The Chair reinforced** that the Mobile Crisis Response came from the state's effort to provide further reinforcement in the area of mental health in collaboration with police departments, which is managed by regional mental health centers and is funded through the state.

4. Discussion of Budget Work Session & Planning

a. Review of CIP Requests: The Chair commended Acting

Chief Maloney on jumping into the budget process with both feet and providing a complete and thorough presentation of the police department's proposed FY23 budget. Prepping for the budget is a massive undertaking and the Commission is pleased with his ability to handle the Interim Chief role with ease and poise.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. Vesting of Rank & Swearing-In Ceremony (See section III above)

2. Donation

a. A donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Alex Choquette of Black Rock Social Club for Portsmouth Police Department's Honor Guard.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Alex Choquette for the Portsmouth Police Department Honor Guard, and forward to the City Council for their actions.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

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

Chair Shaheen offered her sincere thanks to Alex for this generous donation.

3. Monthly Traffic Stats

Acting Chief Maloney provided an overview of last month's traffic statistics. In April, there were 90 in-custody arrests, 72 summonses, 737 motor vehicle stops, and 41 reportable motor vehicle accidents.

4. Financial Report

Business Manager Karen Senecal reported that the police department is 4% below the cap this fiscal year and is still watching overtime closely. The department is allocating additional funds to recruitment, as multiple vacancies have been created due to retirements. The City Council Budget Work Session was last Tuesday and Acting Chief Maloney and Ms. Senecal are working on answering questions generated by the City Council, following the Chief's presentation on the proposed police budget. The Council has requested additional data to support some of the police departments 'asks'.

a. Strategic Plan: In progress; almost complete.

b. Grant Applications Update: Currently working on the NH Highway Safety grant. The ICAC ARPA funding is still moving through the channels in Concord, but it's looking good. Also working on the Bulletproof Vests grant right now, which will be put before the Commission soon.

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. The Chair read a letter from Pat Bagley regarding an incident on the Piscataqua Bridge from earlier this month. Ms. Bagley commended Det. Jones on the implementation of her crisis negotiation training that day.

XI. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular commission meeting date is Monday, June 13th, 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 May 17th, 2022 monthly Police Commission Meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed 3-0 to adjourn the May 17th, 2022 monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:06 pm.

END OF MEETING

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