



Muncie Police Merit Commission

Call to order:

A meeting of the Muncie Police Merit Commission was held on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 300 N. High Street Muncie, IN 47305- City Hall Auditorium
Bruce Qualls called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

Roll call:

Attendees included - Bruce Qualls, Phillip Miller, Dea Bell, Chuck Zimmers, Carisa Aguilar, Mark Ervin and Nathan Sloan

Members not in attendance:

Members not in attendance- n/a

Approval of minutes:

Chuck Zimmers made a motion to accept the July 20, 2023 meeting minutes with any necessary corrections. Carisa Aguilar seconded the motion. Motion to approve the meeting minutes with any necessary corrections is carried by voice vote.

Old business:

n/a

Business from Police Chief:

Chief Sloan asked the Commission to reconsider the pay status of complaint #23-03. Carisa made a motion to reconsider to the pay status of complaint #23-03. Phillip Miller seconded the motion. Motion to reconsider is carried by voice vote. Carisa made a motion to change the status of complaint #23-03 from paid administrative leave to unpaid administrative leave. Dea Bell seconded the motion. Motion to change the status of complaint #23-03 from paid administrative leave to unpaid administrative leave is carried by voice vote.

Deputy Chief Deegan asks that if there are any more continuances or delays for complaint #'s 23-01 and #23-02, which are already scheduled for upcoming trials, that the Commission would then consider moving the two complaints to unpaid status.

Deputy Chief Chris Deegan states that there has just been approval for a new labor contract with the police union. He asked the Commission to extend the application deadline for the current hiring process be moved from August 25, 2023 @ 4:00pm to September 14, 2023 @ 4:00pm. This will allow more time for an advertising blitz. Bruce Qualls made a motion to extend the application deadline for the current hiring process to September 14, 2023 @ 4:00pm. Phillip Miller seconded the motion. Motion to extend the application deadline is carried by voice vote.

Both the agility and written exams have been scheduled with the testing company for September 16, 2023. The location for the agility has not been solidified. Dea Bell made a motion to accept the date of September 16, 2023 to conduct the agility and written exam. Carisa Aguilar seconded the motion. Motion to conduct the agility and written exam on September 16, 2023 is carried by voice vote.

Dea Bell asked if there are any resources or ideas for marketing to help attract more minorities? Chris Deegan says, specifically, no, however, the biggest advertising resource used is the academy website. The department is also in partnership with the company Interview Now, that does marketing of us as well. He also stated that the Community Engagement Sergeant, Amy Kesler, has been attending job fairs in the last two and half months. He says that they have been to community meetings and expressed that they are wanting all candidates.

Chris Deegan also states that the lateral transfer signing bonus has been raised to \$7,500 which will hopefully draw candidates in that way too.

Business from Attorney Mark Ervin:

Mark gave a brief update on the two disciplinary matters: There is a pretrial conference scheduled for August 9, 2023. The dates for the hearings are set and both officers will be represented by council. Mark says there is no anticipation for any continuances. He also states that he will convey to everyone at the pretrial that the Merit Commission will not anticipate any continuances for paid leave.

For disciplinary matter #23-03, they are still in the process of putting together a panel of judges and will probably have an update by the next meeting.

Other business:

n/a

Adjournment:

Dea Bell made a motion to adjourn, Carisa Aguilar seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn is carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.