

Ordinance & Police Committee Meeting – May 22, 2023

The Ordinance & Police Committee of the City of Aledo met in Open Session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall building on May 22, 2023. Chairman MICHAEL CHAUSSE called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The roll was called, whereupon the following committee members answered present:

Aldermen MICHAEL CHAUSSE, DENNIS DIXON, and MICHAEL FRIESE. Mayor CHRISTOPHER HAGLOCH.

Also present were BARRY COOPER, Alderman; JAY DOHERTY, Alderman, LINDA SARABASA, Alderman; JUSTIN BLASER, Director of Public Works & Utilities, PATTI MITCHELL, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police, and JAROD DALE, City Clerk.

Approval of Committee Minutes: Motion was made by ALD. DIXON and seconded by ALD. CHAUSSE to approve the Ordinance & Police Committee meeting minutes of 01/09/23 as presented. A Unanimous voice vote followed in agreement.

Public Comment – No Report.

Old Business –

Discussion regarding the Adoption of the 2021 Building Codes – Status Update: DPW Blaser reported he is still working on finalizing the codes to be adopted and plan to have those completed by the end of summer, 2023.

New Business –

Discussion regarding the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Linebacker Program: CITY CLERK Dale reported the City contacted Kenny Winslow, Executive Director of the ILACP regarding their Interim Chief Linebacker program. The City is free to interview whom we wish and come to terms independently. While all linebackers must be in good standing with the association, ILCAP recommends that prior to hire, the City conduct a background check of our comfort level. These positions typically last 4-6 months but can last as long as the City and the candidate desire.

ILACP provided a goal to submit four to five resumes (can vary by location) of qualified applicants for the City to interview within three to five days. The Mayor and City Clerk held a conference call with Mr. Winslow the week of 5/14. During that call, the City provided an idea on when we would like the position to start, noting as soon as possible. Also, it was noted the position could last up to six months. ILACP noted they

would also want to know if the linebacker would be eligible to apply for the permanent position, as this sometimes can play a role if the person is interested in the permanent position. The Mayor noted that could be negotiable.

Kenny to also reach out to some of his contacts in the Quad Cities and Galesburg areas to see if any chiefs could recommend some quality candidates who may not be on their list. It was noted by Ald. Chausse that the SRO at MCSD had voiced interest in the interim position. The MAYOR and CITY CLERK to continue the process with ILACP to appoint an Interim Chief of Police.

The Committee reviewed current staffing at Aledo Police Department. CITY CLERK Dale reported the Chief of Police has been on Administrative Leave since August 29, 2022 and the Lieutenant was placed on medical leave indefinitely on May 10, 2023. The Sergeant is the only on-duty supervisor working with two full-time police officers running their weekly schedules while picking up extra shifts. One new police officer is currently enrolled in the Police Academy with graduation to be held in August. The Department also has one part-time officer on the schedule working around 24 hours per week.

Patti Mitchell reported the department received a new application this week and voiced interest in a FT position. The applicant is not certified and would need to be enrolled in a future academy class. Background and pre-employment would also need to be completed.

ALD. Chausse suggested raising the PT hourly rate from \$25.00/hr. to \$27.50/hr. and to also raise FT officer pay rates as well. MAYOR Hagloch suggested a rate for PT could be set at \$28.00/hr.

Ald. Doherty arrived at 6:17 p.m.

CITY CLERK Dale suggested the Council could also consider a sign-on bonus to attract new FT officers.

The Committee requested City Staff canvas regional police departments on rates for PT and FT officers. ALD. Friese suggested we consider aiming to be the top towards the region. MAYOR requested the CITY CLERK email out the data and to retrieve a consensus individually from Council members. Regional areas to review include the Quad Cities, Galesburg, and Burlington areas.

The Committee inquired on the status of Christopher Sullivan. MAYOR reported the Judge on this case has not put the “hammer down” requiring the attorneys to turn over all discovery to the defense. MAYOR expressed his desire that once the discovery is received, there will be a speedy resolve and charges are dropped.

Discussion regarding a Retirement Incentive Program: ALD. Chausse stated the Committee is being stonewalled by the Finance Director and this has taken months. MAYOR Hagloch disagreed with the statement by the Alderman but did agree that this has taken longer than it should have.

MAYOR inquired if the Council would rather promote an incentive for individuals that are close to retirement or something with a step and receive a 1-time bonus. Noting, the longer an employee worked for the City the larger the bonus could be and to follow the seniority stipends years of service.

ALD. Chausse suggested a 5% gross wage increase for the next several years across the board.

ALD. Doherty noted the Council has discussed looking at all departments to adjust all wages. The Alderman was more interested in the retirement incentive instead of a bonus if the wages are kept up as fair and good.

The Committee instructed the Finance Director to complete the FY 2022 Audit and TIF Audit and once completed to next work on the retirement incentive as her goal to complete for the Council. CITY CLERK to notify the FINANCE DIRECTOR.

CITY CLERK to email ALD. Friese a copy of the current step increases for the employees for Aledo and information related to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. A listing of anniversary dates to also be provided to ALD. Friese.

Other – CITY CLERK reported an ordinance to go before the City Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting regarding a liquor application submitted by Arianna’s Café.

DPW Blaser reported a complaint was received regarding neighborhood vehicles / golf carts. There are golf carts being driven on the multi-use pathway to the east-end business district and requested that item be addressed. The MAYOR noted he also received the complaint.

DPW Blaser reported Jamie White has until June 8 to remove all rubbish from the property at 104-108 SW 3rd Street with the tenant set to also be evicted by the property owner. After June 8, the City can then implement fines. The Committee voiced their support in doing so.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion was made by ALDERMAN DIXON and seconded by ALDERMAN FRIESE that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous voice vote followed in agreement. Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Jarod M. Dale, City Clerk