

**MINUTES OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2025**

2:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers (203 S. Farwell Street)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Disa Wahlstrand, Stephanie Finn, Jon Standiford, Casey Utke,
David Anderson

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Matt Rokus
Fire Chief Matt Jaggar
Deputy Fire Chief Bob Haller
Deputy Fire Chief Tony Biasi
Human Resources Director Carrie Riepl

The Commission convened in open session at 2:00 p.m. with Commissioners Finn, Standiford and Utke present. Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Finn. Commissioner Finn asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Police and Fire Commission meeting held on January 16, 2025, and February 4, 2025. No corrections or additions were noted, and the minutes stand approved as circulated.

At 2:05 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Utke, seconded by Commissioner Standiford, and passed by unanimous roll call vote to go into closed session to conduct Firefighter interviews and consider additions of former employees to the current Police Officer hiring eligibility list.

At 3:45 p.m., Deputy Fire Chief Bob Haller and Deputy Fire Chief Tony Biasi left.

At 3:50 p.m., Chief Rokus, Commissioner Wahlstrand and Commissioner Anderson arrived.

At 4:20 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Finn, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously to move into open session.

Based on the discussion held and interviews conducted in closed session, a Firefighter eligibility list was created. Motion was made by Commissioner Standiford, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously, to adopt the new eligibility list, which shall remain in effect until March 6, 2026.

Based on the discussion held in closed session, two names of previous Eau Claire Police Department Officers were added on to the current Police Officer eligibility list. Motion was made by Commissioner Utke, seconded by Commissioner Finn and passed unanimously, to make an exception to add two names to the current eligibility list, which shall remain in effect until it is replaced by the commission.

Chief Rokus provided a personnel update. There have been two resignations since the last meeting to make 16 Police Officer vacancies. However, there are 15 names on the current

eligibility list, plus the two that were just added by the commission. 12 of the 15 candidates have progressed to background investigations. The next recruitment is already underway with dates for testing and interviews set.

Chief Rokus also provided an operational update. A discussion was held on the annual in-service training as well as the new voluntary Physical Fitness program. Lastly, an update was given on the new program for Police Officers testifying at preliminary hearings.

Chief Jaggar provided a personnel update. There has been one resignation since the last meeting, leaving five openings in the department. It is forecasted that there will be three more retirements by July. However, there will be a recruit academy starting in June for any new hires from the eligibility list created today.

Chief Jaggar also provided an operational update. A discussion was held regarding the upcoming retirement of Deputy Chief Schultz and the interviews that will be held to find his replacement, including promotional testing that will begin on April 4, 2025. A discussion was also held on current grievances as well as an update regarding the 2024 budget.

President Wahlstrand asked if there are any future agenda items. It was noted that on the next agenda an updated process for returning Police and Fire employees should be discussed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Standiford to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finn and the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Police and Fire Commission meeting is May 15, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelsey Brunner, Police and Fire Commission Secretary.