

**SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, July 7, 2021
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT ZION CITY HALL/TELEPHONE DUE TO COVID
ZION, ILLINOIS**

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Commissioner Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioner Idleburg and Commissioner Lewis. Also present were: Attorney Jim Vasselli, Chief Barden, Chief Stried, and Darlene Pickett.

Chief Barden shared that possibility of losing 1 officer with the next several months, due to a lateral transfer and possibly 2 officers will retire in early 2022. The next availability for the academy is August 9, 2021. However, to be proactive, releasing the names of the candidates (final two names on the eligibility list) will help prepare the department if/when the departures occur. Both candidates on the list will begin pre-employment assessments and criminal background checks immediately.

A motion was made by Commissioner Idleburg and seconds by Commissioner Lewis to approve the release the names of the last two candidates - Final Eligibility List for the Police Department. Motion carried.

Chief Barden shared that lateral transfers would work well when we are in immediate need of officers, citing the example if we have the two officers retire in 2022. Lateral transfer can have background screen completed and be ready in approx. four weeks.

Recording Secretary Karin L. Graves announced that interviews for the 18 Fire Fighter/Paramedics are scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 2021 and Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Idleburg and second by Commissioner Lewis to approve interview dates for FF applicants.

Chief Stried asked the BOFPC to consider including him during interviews for some “face-time”, with the applicants. He further acknowledges that he would not be including in the scoring, but would like his presence to be taken under advisements for future interviews. Chief Barden suggested that Chief Stried sit in on the integrity interviews. Integrity interviews are completed by PD detectives and are a part of the background investigation. Furthermore sharing that having the Chief Stried present would assist his detectives with understanding FF certification and misc. other subject matter information. Additionally, it will be an extra set of eyes for the PD. Chief Stried offered his desire to learn about the candidate prior to a job offer, furthermore sharing that integrity interviews are completed too far in the process (after the job offer/acceptance), Stried has a desires to learn about the applicants earlier in the process.

Attorney Vasselli shared that Tim Evans would be appoint the new legal counsel for the BOFPC. Currently Tim serves as the City of Zion’s hearing officer and has a solid history with Zion.

Vasselli will work with BOFPC until Attorney Evans has completed some paperwork. Vasselli is also confident that the fees for Evan's services will be reduced; helping our financial situation.

Vasselli met individually with Commissioner Idleburg and Commissioner Lewis to provide details about working with Darlene Pickett. Pickett has agreed to voluntarily work with the City of Zion. Pickett will be replacing Karin L. Graves as the recording secretary. The transition began approx. two weeks ago at the request of the City Administrator Knabel.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42

Karin L Graves, Recording Secretary