

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 7:00p.m.
Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Anyone requiring special accommodations due to disability is asked to contact Headquarters at 438-6531 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: John Frey, Chairman
Issy Caporale, Secretary
Marianne Coffin
Sharon Dornfeld
Ralph Money

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz
Major Platt

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chairman Frey.

Chairman Frey made a recommendation to move 4A New Business – Parking Authority Proposal presented by Ellen Burns and 4B New Business – Detective Division Commander Yearly Report presented by Captain Jeff Smith moved to the beginning of the Agenda as they were present at the meeting.

Chairman Frey also stated there would not be an Executive Session.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the October 13, 2022 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

All in favor

**Minutes of October 13, 2022 Police Commission Meeting
accepted as written.**

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ellen Burns – Parking Authority Proposal – 470 Main Street

On behalf of the Ridgefield Parking Authority, Ellen Burns presented a request to have two of the four newly-built parking spaces in front of 470 Main Street (Silver Lining Consignments) be designed as 15 minute/loading zone. Her concern was that consignors and customers would not be able to pick up and deliver large items like furniture. These four spaces are part of the CT-DOT Main Street improvement project.

Chief Kreitz stated that prior to sending a request to the State DOT, the local traffic authority would need to poll the business owners in the area. Chief Kreitz stated that all business owners on Main Street would be part of this poll. The Chief and the Commissioners understood the concerns, however, were also concerned that if you changed the parking limit in front of one business requests would be made to change others. After much discussion, Chief Kreitz and the Commissioners suggested to wait until the project was completed and reassess.

B. Detective Division Commander Yearly Report

Captain Jeff Smith, Detective Division Commander, gave an overall view of the Detective Division and what the detective responsibilities are including evidence, computer investigations, assaults, Juvenile cases, fatal and serious accidents, fraud, ID theft, larcenies, robberies, pistol permits and School Resource Officers (SRO's) to name a few. He praised the detectives for their hard work and dedication.

Chief Kreitz thanked Capt. Jeff Smith and the detectives for a job well done.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

Commissioner Caporale received several voicemail correspondence concerning speed bumps, crosswalks and the bear investigation of which was investigated by DEEP. She followed up with the callers concerns.

B. Written Correspondence

1. Three Highway Use Permits were signed by Chairman Frey-
 - Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5K (11/24/22)
 - Tree Lighting with Santa's Arrival (11/25/22)
 - Holiday Stroll (12/02/22 + 12/03/22)

2. Letter from resident regarding the Noise Ordinance
Chief Kreitz stated he received a letter addressed to the Police Commission from a resident pertaining to the noise ordinance, and lawn maintenance equipment. Chief Kreitz stated Lt. Durling already followed up with the resident.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ellen Burns – Parking Authority Time Limit Request

This was presented at the beginning of the Police Commission Meeting.

B. Detective Division Commander Yearly Report

This was presented at the beginning of the Police Commission Meeting.

C. Officer Annual Survey

Chief Kreitz discussed the Officer Annual Survey results with the commissioners, and answered any questions that they had. He pointed out the items already completed and those to be completed. The Commission acknowledged and appreciate the time the officers took to take part in the survey. The Commission also valued the thoughtful input and ideas that were surfaced.

D. Police Commission Election of Officers

Chairman Frey was re-elected Chairman of the Police Commission. Commissioner Coffin made the motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Commissioner Caporale was re-elected Secretary of the Police Commission. Commissioner Coffin made the motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in Favor

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Building Update

Jake Muller (Director of Facilities and Purchasing) is waiting for the final design plan.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

A report was submitted by Sign Sergeant Mark Caswell stating that eleven signs were either replaced or installed around town during the month of October.

B. Training/PR Report

The following report was submitted by Capt. Jeff Raines, Division of Professional Standards.

**Ridgefield Police Department
Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report
October 2022**

Training Attended:

- Oct. 18:** Detective DuBord and Detective Ryan attended Documenting Suicide Scenes via Zoom.
- Oct. 19:** Officer Geller attended Taser Instructor training at the Southington, CT Police Department.
- Oct. 19:** The department's annual Inspection and New Laws class was held at HQ. The class was taught by Assistant State's Attorney Matthew Knopf and Investigator Steven Jacob from the Danbury Superior Court, for the first time. The feedback received was very positive.
- Oct. 24-28:** Lieutenant Knoche and Lieutenant Murray attended Mid-Management training at RWU (Roger Williams University) in Bristol, RI.

P/R Events:

- Oct. 2:** PBA Safety Day as reported in last month's report.
- Oct. 5:** Coffee with a Cop as reported in last month's report.
- Oct. 29:** Captain Raines completed the National Drug Take Back day at HQ from 10:00am to 2:00pm with assistance from the Ridgefield Prevention Council.
- Oct. 31:** Captain Raines, Officer Giglio, Officer Caba and Officer Luis (and Major Platt) completed the 2022 Trunk or Treat at the Lounsbury House. The turnout was great, as usual.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 31: The PBA is hosting “Save a Suit Program” from October 31st through November 11th. The drop off location is Village Cleaners, located at #56 Catoonah Street in Ridgefield.

A total of 12 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

C. Department Statistics

Chief Kreitz reported the total incidents for the month of October 2022 was 1,251. He also highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

D. Hiring Update

Major Platt noted the enrollment period for the police officer position was from Sept. 30 – Nov. 1. The total applicants that responded was 43. Test scores must be 75 or above to continue to the next phase.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION

None.

Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 8:43pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary