

BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING – COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 20, 2022 – 12:30 P.M.

The Borough of Wyomissing Council held their regular meeting in the Borough of Wyomissing Council Chambers on the above date and time. Council President William S. Jenckes called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. with the following persons present: Stephen D. Brunner, Frederick R. Mogel, Jana R. Barnett, Ronald C. Stanko, Keith L. Derr, and David L. Reeser; Mayor Frederick C. Levering, Police Chief John Phillips, Borough Solicitor Christopher Hartman, Borough Manager & Economic Development Coordinator Michele Bare, and Borough Secretary Melissa Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

VISITORS:

Paul Baur – Wyomissing Police Department Sergeant
Rick Failing – 129 Deborah Drive

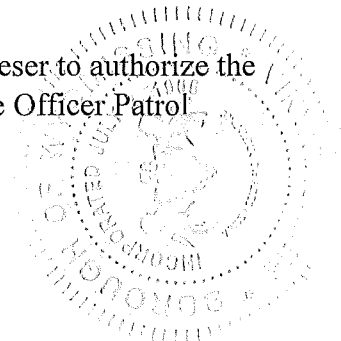
PUBLIC COMMENTS (agenda items):

No public comments were provided.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL POSITION:

Chief John Phillips shared with Council that the Civil Service Commission met on December 20, 2022 to certify the hiring list for the Police Department Patrol position. He shared that the top candidate will need to go through the Police Academy, while the second candidate is currently a Police Officer locally. Chief Phillips shared that it is becoming more challenging to attract candidates to the Police service, as only 31 candidates applied for the role, with 23 arriving the date of the written exam, and ultimately narrowing the candidate pool down to four people. Chief Phillips explained to Council that while one hire was in the 2023 approved budget, he foresees another probable retirement from the force in 2023, of which he would be hard-pressed to not hire the second qualified candidate to prepare for future retirements.

Councilmember Barnett made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reeser to authorize the December 14, 2022 Civil Service certified list of candidates for the Police Officer Patrol position, all in favor, 7-0.



Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brunner to amend the agenda to discuss and take action on hiring two Police Department Patrol candidates, all in favor, 7-0.- No public comment was provided.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion seconded by Councilmember Brunner to approve hiring the top two candidates on the Police Department Patrol position list, contingent upon successful completion of the psychological testing, polygraph testing, drug screening, and physical. The reading comprehension test will be required of the candidate needing the Police Academy, as a requirement of the academy, all in favor, 7-0.

PENSION PROGRAM:

No discussion was had on the topic, as the amount was previously discussed at the regular December Council meeting.

Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to authorize the allocation of the \$100,000 additional pension plan contribution approved at the December 14, 2022 Council meeting between the non-uniformed plan in the amount of \$75,000 and the Police plan in the amount of \$25,000, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

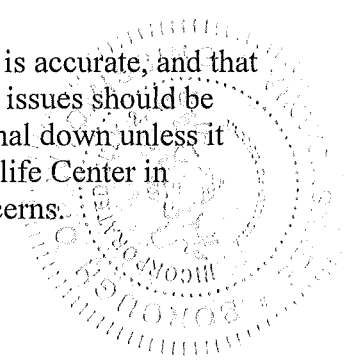
Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to amend the agenda to take action on administrative staff bonuses for two administrative personnel, all in favor, 7-0 – No public comment was provided.

Councilmember Barnett made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to authorize the payment of administrative staff bonuses for the Borough Secretary and Borough Utility Coordinator in the amount of \$2,000 each, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT (non-agenda items):


Rick Fehling, 129 Deborah Drive shared with Council his concern of a recent coyote sighting, noting that he spoke with the Police Department, and the Police will take action if the coyote is acting strange, or has threatened harm. He felt this seemed backwards to wait until something happens to actually take action, and questioned if there are any state or federal laws mandating this response. His question was prompted by his research on predators in other states that are becoming unafraid of humans.

Police Chief Phillips indicated the response that was given to Mr. Fehling is accurate, and that Police will not put an animal down for no reason. He indicated wild game issues should be referred to the Game Commission, however, they too will not put the animal down unless it threatens harm or is acting rabid. Chief Phillips indicated Red Creek Wildlife Center in Schuylkill County may be a resource for local residents with wildlife concerns.

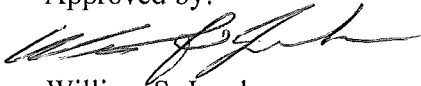


The Wyomissing Borough Council meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Melissa Miller
Borough Secretary

Approved by:


William S. Jenckes
President, Wyomissing Borough Council

