1. Chairman Ford Calls Meeting to Order at 7:08 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Councilman Darnell Ford, Chairman
                   Councilman Anthony Mangiafico
                   Councilwoman Linda Salafia
                   Councilman Phil Pessina

STAFF PRESENT:  Erik M. Costa – Chief of Police

2. Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2022
Councilman Mangiafico made a motion to approve the PSC Minutes for June 22, 2022: Seconded by Councilman Pessina. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion passed.

3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only
David Ronin – On behalf of the Hart family and the American Legion Post 206, Mr. Ronin wanted to thank Chief Costa as well as Sgt. Bartolotta & Ofc. Laskowski for their presence at the funeral of military Sgt. Calvin Hart.

4. Correspondence
   a. Officer’s Accolades
Chief Costa reported that Ofc. Milardo and Det. Lacasse took it upon themselves to help a storefront owner to secure their storefront property by purchasing a locking mechanism and installing it to ensure security on their own accord.

Chief Costa took a moment to recognize Sgt. Aura Smith and her K9 partner Diezel on his retirement due to Sgt. Smith’s promotion to Sergeant. In a Sergeant positon, being a K9 handler, is not allowed.  K9 Diezel was a valued member of the K9 team for 5 years. Costa said there will be a replacement coming soon. This replacement K9 is hopefully going to be donated ($10,000.00) to the department.

Chairman Ford digressed for a moment back to the above mentioned storefront incident. He stated that the business was Beauty discount, and the he received multiple phone calls from the community saying how professionally the Middletown Police Dept. handled the incident. He asked the Chief to pass along gratitude to the involved officers.
Chief Costa moved on to list the officers getting promoted on July 19, 2022;
- Lt. Brian Hubbs to Captain
- Lt. David Godwin to Captain
- Sgt. Derek Puorro to Lt.
- Sgt. Sebby Bartolotta to Lt.
- Ofc. Matthew Tiano to Sgt.
- Ofc. Jason Terrible to Sgt.

These promotions will lead to (2) lateral officers being hired soon. Councilman Pessina asked what the difference between the lateral officer list vs. entry level list. Chief Costa explained the different pay grades entering the department due to training and experience said officer would have been from a different department which plays into the budget of the desired position.

5. Monthly Reports (Attached)
   a. Overtime Balances
Chief Costa reported working with finance to get an exact number, but stated that they are near 140 in the red. He stated that he will have an itemized list explaining why, but one of the main reasons being effected big time due to covid-19, among other reasons which were discussed.

   b. Community Reports
Community Services Division was established as of July 1, 2022. Ofc. Bodell & K9 Bear, as well as Ofc. Brandy Liseo will be the direct officers of the division. One of the purposes of the unit will be to pinpoint neighborhood problem and attend programs/functions in the community. The Chief named a few events that took place in June;
- Special Olympics
- Car show
- Fireworks
- PRIDE
- Park & Rec – Traverse Sq – Kids got to play with Bear
- South Farms Nursery School
- CT Blood Center – Blood Drive

The Chief then reported on training in the department;
- Ofc. Hillman – Currently in DARE officer training
- Required Firearms Training
- CIT Training – 45% of officers are trained

   c. Incident Reports
Chief Costa reported having (2) shootings this past month; (1) at traverse Square to which the departments Major Investigations Unit quickly identified the (2) parties involved. One was apprehended and the other is at large. The second shooting took place between (2) vehicles in the area of Amazing Grace Food Pantry. The vehicles/suspects fled the scene. No injuries were reported.
d. Accountability Update

Chief Costa reported attending Chamber of Commerce meetings, including a Small Business Awards Ceremony.

He also reported being on the news regarding St. Johns Square and working with DOT to install a visual light identifying pedestrian crossing. He spoke more on the importance of the light.

He reported working with South Fire District on a training of Response to Mass Casualties, School Shootings & Crisis Intervention. He explained the importance of the two departments doing the training together to have a better understanding of working together in actual incidents. He reported doing daily roll call training on active shooters and also working on funding for more active shooting courses.

Chief Costa stated that they are also doing roll call training on panhandling daily. He is making sure officers are up to date with panhandling ordinances & laws. He said that signage has been made up with facts and information on panhandling, which he is hoping to have placed at businesses in town.

Chief Costa then reported on the department’s CNR (Capital Nonrecurring Expenses). The department is in need of new cars with the capability to handle the required equipment. These cars also need to meet CALEA standards to avoid civil viability in case of future incident. Fleet should be at an estimated number of (30) cars, with that being said, the department needs (10) in total. Captain Lozewski is working on estimates/comparisons of different makes and models.

**Chairman Ford asked to skip back to Incident Statistics. Chief Costa reported;

- 4,056 total incidents responded to
- 2,100 property checks
- Ballpark of 2,500 calls for service
- The Chief also noted that CIT’s call volume has gone up because we have the available service.

Chief Costa updated the commission on the social worker positions that will be hired. Council woman Salafia asked if they are going to be city employees to which the Chief confirmed that they will. The commission also went over what the schedule will look like with the social workers.

6. Old Business
**None

7. New Business

Chief Costa reported that he is working with School Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vázquez Matos to revamp the SRO program including increasing the SRO count and changing job descriptions.
At this time, councilmen Pessina stated how he believes the city funded social workers are an excellent addition to ensure the officers get the extra time to respond to other matters within the city. Councilwoman Salafia wants to focus on how this program is going to be ran and what the city will be responsible for.

Lastly, Chief Costa reported that the P.A.L. program is doing well to help with the juvenile (under 18) community. CIT cannot deal with those families, but the social workers will be able to assist.

8. Public Hearing Re-opened -- Other Matters
   **None

9. Meeting Adjournment
   Councilman Pessina made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Mangiafico. There being no discussion or objection, motion approved unanimously.
   Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM.
   Next Public Safety Commission Meeting, Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm.
   TO VIEW THIS MEETING IN IT’S ENTIRETY, PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:

   www.cityofmiddletown.com
   Public Meeting Videos
   Available Archives
   2022
   Public Safety Commission (PSC)

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Wilson
Recording Secretary