PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, August 15, 2022 VIA WEBEX

1. Chairman Ford Calls Meeting to Order at 6:32 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 – July 18, 2022
Councilman Ford made a motion to approve the PSC Minutes for July 18, 2022: First by Councilman Pessina and seconded by Councilman Mangiafico. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion passed.

3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only
***None***

4. Correspondence
   a. Officer’s Accolades
No officer accolades. Chief Costa reported just having regular phone calls from the public with basic thank yous’ of responses.

The Chief also reported having three civilian complaints that came in to which all three have been sent to the Professional Standards Dept. to be vetted. One complaint was already founded to be at no fault of the officer involved.

5. Monthly Reports (Attached)
   a. Incident Reports
   • 2,941 total calls for service
   • 207 criminal investigation calls
   • 105 in-custody criminal arrests
   • 93 motor vehicle accidents with no fatalities
   • No DUI’s
   • 13 narcotics arrests
   • 13 motor vehicle infractions
   • 105 written warnings
Chief Costa also stated that there have been narcotics complaints coming in about the activity on Green St & Main St. He reported that the department’s Street Crime Unit has been tasked to watch the situation which lead to three arrests in one day.

Chief Costa then reported that the incident statistics including assaults and burglaries, have gone down surprisingly. Unfortunately, domestic violence cases have spiked. The Chief stated that CIT has been working on those cases.

Councilman Pessina then asked the Chief if the patrol units monitor suspicious vehicles in the city. Chief Costa responded that they do.

b. Overtime Balances

Chief Costa wanted to confirm that the council has the correct report. The first one that was released had a typo. Chief Costa reported that the overtime is up by $5,000.00 because of being short on Sergeants and patrol officers.

c. Community Reports

- National Night out – coordinated in a week and a half. At the event recruiting for Cadet program & PAL was offered.
- 30 kids were brought to the Connecticut Suns Game at Mohegan Sun.
- A recruitment booth was set up at the Community Health Center, Eli Cannons and another event alike will be held at Mondos coming soon.
- The department has also reached out nationally through community colleges for recruitment.

Chief Costa then reported meeting with the new DCF director of Middletown. Also, he reported that the Cadet program will be running out of the high school with the SROs’ coming soon.

Councilman Ford then asked Chief Costa to give insight to how the department handled the backlash of the photos from National Night Out. Chief Costa reported that he put out a policy within the department to address the officers. He also put out a formal statement to the public that this is not a representation of the department and/or the National Night Out and the good of the actual event.

d. Accountability Update

Chief Costa reported attending Chamber of Commerce events and listening to business complaints so the department can respond to daily issues.

He also reported promoting four new acting Sergeants. He explained that the acting sergeants will fill roles on patrol as well as fill vacancies within the department. He stated that the department is down six officers. Two, to worker’s comp, Two, to retirement. One, to career advancement to the DEA. And lastly, one was not able to complete the Field Training Program adequately and ultimately was dismissed.
He reported;
- Three laterals going through the background check process.
- A conditional offer to a candidate for the Accreditation Manager position. He is hoping that after the background check, they can get started by the end of the month.
- CALEA is up and running.
- More body worn cameras have been purchased.

6. Old Business
**None**

7. New Business
Captain Lozefski approached the Standardization board to approve Douglas Mechanical for HVAC work to be completed. The process went to state bid, three bids were handed in with Douglas Mechanical coming in with the best price. The Chief stated they are looking for approval to move forward to finance and government. Chairman Ford made a motion to pass; First councilwoman Salafia, followed by Councilman Pessina. There being no discussion or objection, motion approved unanimously.

The Chief then asked for grant confirmation of $10,000.00 to be used for the purchase of a future K9. The American Kennel Club Reunite (AKCR) organization awarded the department $7500 and the Farmington Valley Kennel Club awarded the department $2500. Chairman Ford made a motion to pass; First councilwoman Salafia, followed by Councilman Pessina. There being no discussion or objection, motion approved unanimously.

Lastly, Chief Costa reported submitting a CNR request for 10 more cruisers and a line for new furniture for the Community Room and Round Room, both of which are used for meetings and trainings.

8. Public Hearing Re-opened -- Other Matters
Councilman Ed McKeon raised his hand. First, he pointed out that the advertisement on the events page of the city website states that the Public Safety Commission meetings are webex, but in fact they are now in person meetings.
Second, he wanted the committee to know of Chief Costa’s efforts with CT DOT and the departments Traffic Division to amend the traffic patterns and activity enforcement at St. Johns Square.
Lastly, he discussed the National Night Out photograph incident again. He stated that he believes a stronger statement was appropriate, and that he does not believe enough was said about the situation. Chief Costa agreed, and stated that he has spoken to Connecticut Against Gun Violence which include parents. Again, the Chief explained that the officers involved were addressed, the new policy is in place, and that he takes full responsibility for the mistake.

9. Meeting Adjournment
Chairman Ford made a motion to adjourn, first by Councilman Mangiafico and seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. There being no discussion or objection, motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 PM.
Next Public Safety Commission Meeting, Monday, September 19, 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