

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS REGULAR MEETING OF THE
POLICE, FIRE, AND SAFETY COMMISSION
Tuesday August 16, 2022**

CITY OF ROMULUS

**Chief Pfannes, Director of Police Department
Chief Krause, Director of Fire Services**

POLICE, FIRE & SAFETY COMMISSION

**Mark Wilhide
Stan Bragg
Debbie Lattner
Cynthia Harris
Vonda Cooley
Charles Pecsénye**

Excused:

James Crova

1. Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM by Commissioner Wilhide.
2. Roll call
3. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Lattner, supported by Pecsénye, to approve the agenda as follows:

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Harris, Lattner, Wilhide, Bragg, Pecsénye, Cooley. Nays – None. Motion carried 6-0.

Agenda:

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call - Lattner, Wilhide, Bragg, Pecsénye, Cooley, Harris
- C. Approval of Agenda
- D. Approval of Minutes – Police, Fire and Safety Commission regular meeting held on May 17, 2022.
- E. Chair's Status Report
 1. Review letter received from City Attorney
 - a) Discussion
- F. Public Comments
- G. Old Business
- H. Police Department Updates

- I. Fire Department Updates
- J. New Business
- K. Communications
- L. Adjournment

4. Approval of Minutes – Police, Fire and Safety Commission regular meeting on May 17, 2022.

Motion by Cooley, supported by Harris, to approve the Fire and Safety Commission regular meeting held on May 17, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Harris, Lattner, Wilhide, Bragg, Pecsénye, Cooley. Nays – None. Motion carried 6-0.

5. CHAIR STATUS REPORT:

- A. Commissioner Wilhide stated that he had spoken to Brian to have both the June and July meeting remain on the calendar due to the upcoming mileage. A notice was sent to PFSC members by Brian notifying them of this action. No June meeting was held as there was not a quorum present. Commissioner Wilhide apologized and stated that he assumed since he had made the request and there was no problem for June that there was no issue for the July meeting. Commissioner Wilhide discussed the issue of being informed right before the July 19, 2022 meeting that he was holding an illegal meeting. This call was also received by Commissioner Pecsénye.
 - The PFSC Clerk stated that he assumed since there was no June meeting there would be no July meeting so therefore no notice was posted
 - Commissioner Lattner stated that she was very concerned about being singled out and sent an e-mail from the City Attorney, through his law firm, and a subsequent follow up USPS letter from the City Attorney. She stated concern as though she was being contacted by the IRS for some fraudulent actions and was very concerned that she had been singled out
 - Commissioner Harris questioned why PFSC members received notice that the June and July meetings would be held and then be penalized for holding the July meeting
 - Commissioner Cooley stated that this matter could have been discussed and handled differently
 - Commissioner Wilhide again stated that this had been blown out of proportion but the PFSC Clerk did use the word illegal meeting, in fact, he said it three times in their conversation.
 - Commissioner Wilhide stated concern that a letter was received from the attorney and he had no notification of until the letter was shared with him by Commissioner Lattner. However, the same letters were

presented to the remaining present Commissioners during this meeting. In addition, a memorandum brought into the meeting by the City Clerk given to Director Krause stated the minutes could not be accepted as the July 19, 2022 meeting was in violation of the Open Meeting Act. Director Krause further stated that Board Chairpersons can be brought up on violations for meeting violations.

- Director Krause stated that this Commission is an independent body and this is a minor issue as compared to some issues that have been raised with other City Boards and Commissions. Director Krause stated that the July Meeting Minutes were presented to the City Clerk and the City Attorney was contacted.
- B. Commissioner Wilhide met with the Mayor to discuss the by-laws. Commissioner Wilhide asked if Chief Krause had discussed the by-laws with the Mayor, to which Chief Krause stated he had not.
- C. Commissioner Wilhide inquired if the upcoming One Romulus Community Meeting was being held at City Hall. Director Krause explained that the Mayor had held these meetings in different quadrants of the City for residents to have one on one with the Mayor.
- D. Commissioner Wildhide shared the dates for the upcoming Pumpkin Festival September 16, 17, and 18, 2022.
- E. Commissioner Wildhide shared thoughts about Flight 255 crash 35 years ago and Commissioner Pecsénye asked to have a moment of silence in memory.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

7. OLD BUSINESS: None

8. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

- Chief Pfannes shared that Captain Hull was retiring. A ceremony is being held on August 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM in City Hall and asked PFSC members to attend. He also shared that Sergeants Silwa and Smith would be promoted to Lieutenant and Officers Reese and Carriger to Sergeants.
- Chief Pfannes stated that they are still struggling to fill vacant spots.
- Commissioner Harris asked if this was a funding issue. Chief Pfannes discussed hiring issues.
- Chief Pfannes thanked the PFSC for their support in the 75% millage outcome. It was the first endorsements received and was much appreciated.
- Commissioner Pecsénye inquired about the police department retirement benefits.

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

- Chief Krause discussed the millage endorsement from the PFSC and the high 74% voter support.

- Chief Krause invited the PFSC to Leonardo's Thursday at 6:00 PM for a pizza celebration for those who helped with the millage.
- The Fire Department will memorialize flight 255 by having the ladder truck fly the US Flag.
- Chief Krause shared that Fire Fighter Mills left the department for Royal Oak and a review will be done of the 25/55 system.
- Chief Krause discussed the Knoxbox System and plans to upgrade.
- Chief Krause discussed the ladder truck being out of service and has been repaired and back in service.
- Commissioner Pensenye asked how the Knoxbox system worked. Director Krause provided an explanation
- Chief Krause shared that the Bryx system has been upgraded and saves dispatch time.
- Commissioner Harris inquired about lack of employment. Chief Krause discussed the contract and firefighter burnout
- Commissioner Bragg inquired about the retirement package. Chief Krause discussed. Commissioner Cooley inquired if medical coverage follows in retirement. Chief Krause discussed legacy and new hire coverage
- Chief Krause discussed GIS mapping to be presented to the PFSC soon. Commissioner Wilhide inquired about adding a gas station at Wayne and Vining.
- Commissioner Wilhide inquired about how many times a year ladder truck is used. Chief Krause will bring presentation of dashboard.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- Harris – What about approval of July minutes. Will they be discussed at next meeting to be included
- Lattner – None
- Cooley – None
- Bragg – None
- Wilhide – Be aware of expiring City ID
- Pensenye - None

11. Communications: None

12. Adjournment – Motioned by Harris, Seconded by Cooley at 5:23 PM
 Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Harris, Lattner, Wilhide, Bragg, Pecsénye, Cooley. Nays – None. Motion carried 6-0.

The next meeting will be on September 20, 2022.