

C.A.B. MEETING MINUTES – January 17, 2024

Present:

Interim Chief Crank
Jeff Wilder
Ruth Kelly
Jelani Johnson
Ruth Kelly
Stephan Wannemacher
Jim Stabler
Cal Wills
Alan Wise
Rick Pearce
Dora Bronston

Excused Absences:

Paul Gomia
Celeste Didlick-Davis
Tammy Thompson
Earl Nelson

- Chairman Jeff Wilder called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance at 1733 hours.
- The minutes from the November 15, 2023, meeting could not be approved due to not having enough voting members present for a quorum. Approval will be addressed via email.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- There was no FOP Report this meeting.
- Interim Chief Eric Crank gave a brief update on the current internal investigation.
- The 2023 Shop with a Cop event was successful once again. Breakfast for the families was an added plus this year. Kudos to Mary Miller for all of her hard work in making this event a huge success, as always.
- We have recently received our reimbursement from the OAG's Office in the amount of \$65,079.66 for the 24 hours all sworn officers completed for their mandated 2023 CPT hours. These funds will be used for tuition and salaries for continued training.
- We are currently finalizing all our policy and procedure manual updates. All officers will be trained to any changes in policy.
- We received notification that we were awarded \$20,150 from the OCJS 2024 BWC Grant Program for (26) Pro-Vision Body Worn Cameras and (40) RFID User Tags and (10) Bluetooth Triggering Devices. The City already currently has 10 body-worn cameras to add to these to begin the program that the officers will be sharing.
- We currently have 3 Officers attending the Police Academy and one getting ready to start the OSP Academy February 12, 2024.
- There were no disciplines given to officers since the last meeting. There was one citizen complaint that was found to be exonerated. Ryun Rawlins received a commendation in reference to a pursuit into Madison Township in which Ptl. Rawlins remained under control, observant & possibly avoided an officer involved shooting.
- Interim Chief Crank distributed two handouts in reference to The Hopeline's Middletown Homeless Program Update. He reiterated the importance of officers making connections to be successful with this.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

NONE

BOARD COMMENTS

The Board discussed several items, also included were concerns from several citizens of the community that were brought to the Board:

- More clarity and transparency from City Administration concerning the ordered paid administrative leave of Chief Birk. We are here trying to change the culture, but how can we do that when we have been put in the dark and given no information to give to the community. This is absolutely unacceptable. This is vital because the community is saying one of three things:
 1. The question was raised as to when we are going to retain an experienced City Manager. Concern was brought up that we have a “rogue City Manager and he just fires anyone because they don’t get along with him”.
 2. Why should the community come to speak at a meeting because nothing is going to be done anyway and all you are doing is wasting our time?
 3. Why join the Citizens Advisory Board because they are just going to do what they want anyway?
- Disappointed that there was only one representative from the City at one of the four recent annual MLK celebrations this year.
- More involvement in Police matters from the Board. (citizen complaint investigations, discipline, etc.). They would like more involvement than just listening, to become a synchronized unit. Become more proactive, besides only reactive.
- MPD to have more involvement with younger people (Explorer’s Program, Youth Police Academy, etc.). Cedric Burns was commended for all of the basketball hoops he has put up around the City.
- The possibility of the location of the new City waterpark to be at the Atrium YMCA was discussed. There was concern over the City investing this project in a private, religious organization that is technically in Franklin was raised. (Church vs. State)
- The voting buttons via email will be utilized from now on if there are not enough voting members present for a quorum concerning approval of minutes and election of officers.

The meeting adjourned at 1830 hours. The next board meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 1730 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Clark