

CITY OF MERRILL

Police and Fire Commission

Monday, October 23rd, 2023 – 6:00 pm

City Hall Council Chambers -1004 East First Street, Merrill, WI

Members Present: Nicole Johnson, Eric Malm, Jeremy Thompson and Norm Hanson (arrived late at 6:27)

Members Absent: Lisa Gervais

Other Present: City Administrator Rod Akey, Fire Chief Klug, Police Chief Bennett

I. **Call to Order**

Commissioner Thompson (filing in for Chairman Hanson) called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Prior Minutes**

Minutes from the October 12th, 2022 up for approval. Motion made to accept the minutes. (Malm/Johnson). Carried.

IV. **Open Session**

a. Fire Department:

- i. Discussion on the request by Chief Klug to review and approve the list of promotional candidates (3 candidates currently). List would be valid until 10/24/2025. Motion made to approve the updated promotion candidate list (Johnson/Thompson). Vote of 3/3 (Hanson was not yet present for this motion/vote), *motion carried*.

b. Police Department:

- i. Chief Bennett updated the commissioners on the current staffing levels. Currently short one officer and the department has been interviewing since June. The application period was extended three times to allow additional candidates to apply. Applicant pool has been tested, interviewed, and narrowed down to the two up for approval by the Commission tonight.

V. **Closed Session(s):** Convened at 6:21 pm.

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c), moved that the Commission go into closed session “to conduct Police Department candidate interviews. (Malm/Johnson). *Carried*.”

- VI. **Reconvene in Open Session:** Reconvened at 7:06 pm.
The committee may reconvene in open session to recommend applicant approvals. Motion to move to open session (Hanson/Malm). *Carried.*

Motion made to approve the two police candidates for hiring eligibility at the discretion of Chief Bennett. (Malm/Johnson). Vote of 4/4, *motion carried.*

VII. **Adjournment**

Move to adjourn at 7:08 pm. (Hanson/Thompson). *Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Johnson, Secretary