

SPECIAL
PORTER METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION
APRIL 17, 2025
TOWN HALL

The Porter Police Commission was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

In attendance were Jeff Huckaby, Gerald Gruett, Mark Harris, Chief Todd Allen, and Kelly Karriman, Council Liaison, and Tammie Sufana Recording Secretary.

Approval of Minutes-Harris made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2025 as written, Gruett seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Monthly Reports-NONE

Old Business-NONE

New Business – Hiring of a Full Time Officer-Chief Allen stated they have conducted three interviews for a Full Time Officer with lateral transfers. There are three openings coming up this year May 9, July 4, and November. They had 22 civilian applicants, 8 showed up for agility testing and no one passed the testing. The three applicants with lateral transfers are Devin Zelenika of Glenwood, Illinois Police Department, Joseph Creed of Porter County Sheriffs Department, Benjamin Teufel of Valparaiso Police Department. Chief Allen is asking commission to offer one of the applicants a conditional offer of employment, contingent on their acceptance/transfer into the 77 Pension Fund. The conditional hire is pursuant to the guidelines stated in the Porter Police Department General Order #22 for lateral transfers. Chief Allen recommends offering employment to fill all three upcoming openings. Huckaby commented that all three interview very well.

Gruett made a motion for a conditional offer of employment for Master Patrolman to Devin Zelenika with a lateral transfer, and granted her credit for 1.5 years of experience contingent on her acceptance into the 77 fund and upon securing a Waiver of Training through the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board within one year of her official start date. She may begin her job duties immediately upon acceptance into the 77 Pension Fund. Years of experience are only considered for computation of vacation time, and for minimum time on for

promotion eligibility. Probationary period is still in effect for 90 days for everything with the exception of rank and pay. Harris made the second. Motion passed 3-0 with roll call vote.

Gruett made a motion for a conditional offer of employment for Master Patrolman to Joseph Creed, for a start date of June 2025, with a lateral transfer, and granted him credit for 1 year of experience contingent on his meeting the requirements and acceptance into the 77 Pension fund. Years of experience are only considered for computation of vacation time, and for minimum time on for promotion eligibility. Probationary period is still in effect for 90 days for everything with the exception of rank and pay. Harris made the second. Huckaby made the second. Motion passed 3-0 with roll call vote.

Harris made a motion for a conditional offer of employment for Master Patrolman to Benjamin Teufel, for a start date in November 2025, with a lateral transfer, and granted him credit for 8 years of experience. Years of experience are only considered for computation of vacation time, and for minimum time on for promotion eligibility. Probationary period is still in effect for 90 days for everything with the exception of rank and pay. Gruett made the second. Motion passed 3-0 with roll call vote.

Chief Recommendation Replacement-Chief Allen mentions we had two Officers submit letters of intent for the Police Chief, they are Officer Dickey and Officer Holloway. Huckaby thanked everyone for being here and how proud he is to be sitting here and being apart of Police Commission. Gruett agrees with Huckaby. Harris believes whoever we pick we will be in good hands. Gruett states who do they want to be there chief. We have 2 applicants with outstanding resumes. Gruett mentions to them that they should be proud.

Gruett made a recommendation to appoint Daniel Dickey as Police Chief in July when Chief Allen leaves, Huckaby made second. Motion passed 3-0 with roll call vote.

Officer Dickey thanked the commission he appreciates it. He is glad we have that much faith in him.

Public Comments-NONE

Comments-Liaison-Karriman commented thank you all for coming out to the meeting. Congratulation to Officer Dickey.

Commission Comments-Huckaby mentions we picked the Chief but the man next to him Officer Holloway is also an excellent officer.
Harris mentions both of you guys did great in the interview process.

Minutes approved this 20th day of June, 2025.

Jerry Gruett, Vice President
Mark Harris

Attest: Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary