

**CITY OF BYRON  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023, 6:00 PM  
BYRON CITY HALL**

1. Alderman Nehring called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Alderman Jessica Nehring, Alderman Mike Gyorkos, Alderman Mittzi Fulrath, Alderman Ron Boyer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor John Rickard, Clerk Caryn Huber, City Administrator Brian Brooks, Attorney Aaron Szeto, Police Chief Todd Murray, Alderman Todd Isaacs, Alderman Emily Gerdes

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – NOVEMBER 15, 2023 – Alderman Gyorkos motioned to approve the November 15, 2023, agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Alderman Fulrath. Roll call vote: Gyorkos, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 4; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT – None**
4. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – September 20, 2023 – Alderman Fulrath motioned to approve the September 20, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Alderman Gyorkos. Roll call vote: Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 4; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.**
5. **ORDINANCE REGARDING ALLOWING UTV'S IN PARK DISTRICT PARKING LOTS –** When the City adopted the UTV Ordinance, the School District and the Park District did not want UTVs operated on their property. This was specified in the ordinance. The Park District has now requested that the ordinance be modified to allow UTVs to have access to their parking lots at Blackhawk Meadow Park, Hamas Park, Johnson Park and Tiger Town Park. This will not apply to any school owned parking lots. **Alderman Gyorkos motioned to recommend council approval of the Ordinance to Allow UTVs in Park District Parking Lots. Motion seconded by Alderman Fulrath. Roll call vote: Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Fulrath, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 4; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.**
6. **POLICE CHIEF SEARCH –** Administrator Brooks spoke with Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski and stated that we have three options to consider to assist with the hiring of a new Police Chief. The first is to prepare a request for proposal to recruiters. One organization that can help with recruiting is the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. They can help with preparing a job description, interviewing and then holding a one-day assessment center to interview final candidates and make a recommendation. Administrator Brooks does not have a current cost for this service. The organization can also assist with hiring an interim

Chief if necessary. The second option is to handle the entire hiring process on our own. The third option is a combination of the first two options. We could work with our attorneys to post the position, do background checks and hold initial interviews. Once the field is narrowed down to a few candidates, we can utilize the services of the IL Assoc. of Chiefs of Police to assess the candidates and recommend a candidate to hire. Mayor Rickard added that Roxanne Sosnowski has had experience with hiring Police Chiefs. Administrator Brooks stated that he would like to set a budget and a timeline as soon as possible if the committee wishes to proceed with option three. The current Police Chief salary is approximately \$100,000. **Alderman Gyorkos motioned to proceed with option three, allowing the Mayor and City Administrator to work with our attorneys to begin the process of hiring a Police Chief. Motion seconded by Alderman Fulrath. Roll call vote: Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 4; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.** Administrator Brooks added that he will provide updates through City Council.

7. **AGREEMENT WITH BYRON SCHOOLS FOR REGULATION OF TRAFFIC** – Chief Murray is waiting for an updated document from Superintendent Barton.
8. **POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET** – Chief Murray reported that a new squad car has been purchased and is on the List of Bills tonight. Equipment still needs to be installed.
9. **POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY & UPDATE** – Chief Murray distributed the October Activity Report. He has hired a new part time officer, Jacob Breitbach, who is an Ogle County Deputy. He also has an applicant going through background checks. The applicant is a Corrections Officer. Chief Murray hopes to have a training spot open in January (we are on several waiting lists). If not, we do have a spot reserved in May. In the next several years, the school will need an SRO, and he is hoping to have the department staffed sufficiently to prepare for this.  
  
Alderman Boyer asked Chief Murray for updates on the recent Verizon store robbery. Chief Murray stated that he is working with the Sheriff's Department and the Rockford FBI office. They are obtaining search warrants and phone records. He spoke with Verizon Corporate Security earlier in the day. They are meeting with Law Enforcement in areas where armed robberies have occurred. One of the phones turned up in a phone kiosk.
10. **SOCIAL MEDIA** – Clerk Huber reported that a ribbon cutting will be held Friday morning at 9am to recognize the new downtown mural.
11. **ADJOURN** – Alderman Boyer motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Alderman Fulrath. Roll call vote: Gyorkos, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 4; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

Alderman Nehring adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Caryn A. Huber*, City Clerk of Byron, Illinois