

---

---

# MINUTES

---

---

## BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

---

### COMMISSIONERS:

**Present:** Laura Ford, Chairperson  
Jeff Nelson  
Tilford Flowers

### STAFF:

**Present:** Darren Gault, Police Chief  
Jeff Snyder, Fire Chief  
Alison Fleming, HR Manager  
Summer O'Leary, Police Executive Coordinator

- 1. Meeting Called to Order**  
Chairperson Ford called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call of Members**  
Roll call performed; Chairperson Ford, Commissioner Nelson and Commissioner Flowers present.
- 3. Approval of Minutes**  
Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the August 11, 2020 regular and executive session meeting minutes; in addition to the special and executive session minutes of the August 24, 2020, August 25, 2020 and August 28, 2020 meetings as drafted; Commissioner Flowers seconded; roll call vote performed, motion unanimously carried.
- 4. Police: End of Probationary Period**  
Chief Gault advised the Board that Lieutenant Eli Soliz and Sergeant Nathan Hoover have each completed their 6-month promotional probationary period effective September 1, 2020. Lt. Soliz has proven to be a good leader serving in two capacities during his probationary period as the Services Lieutenant for three months following the retirement of Lt. David Gass, and in his current role as the Lieutenant assigned to Patrol-Platoon II. Sgt. Hoover has done very well taking on additional roles in the training program and leading outreach efforts with the black community. It is without hesitation that the approval of regular, full-time appointment is recommended for Lt. Soliz and Sgt. Hoover. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the regular, full-time appointments of Lt. Soliz and Sgt. Hoover; Chairperson Ford seconded; roll call vote performed, motion unanimously carried.
- 5. Police: Eligibility Roster**  
Alison Fleming, HR Manager presented the Police Officer Eligibility Register compiled with the results of the most recent recruitment and testing process. Up to three additional applicants may be tested due to military deployments at the time of testing; pending the results of this testing the Board may amend the Register. A footnote to indicate such pending testing for military exception will be added to the current Police Officer Eligibility Register. Commissioner Flowers made a motion to approve the Police Officer Eligibility Register for the period of September 8, 2020 through September 7, 2021 with the addition of the footnote regarding the military exception testing yet to

be conducted; Commissioner Nelson seconded; roll call vote performed, motion unanimously carried.

6. **Police: Resignation**

Chief Gault advised the Board of Officer Devin Syler's resignation effective September 14, 2020. Officer Syler has proven to be a good officer and has accepted a position with the U.S. Marshals, which he had applied for prior to his appointment to the Moline Police Department. Chief Gault expressed his well wishes to Officer Syler and recommended the Board accept his resignation. Commissioner Flowers made a motion to accept the resignation of Officer Devin Syler; Chairperson Ford seconded; roll call vote performed, motion unanimously carried.

7. **Police: Position Vacancies**

Chief Gault advised the Board that with the retirement of Det. Eduardo Alaniz and the resignation of Ofc. Devin Syler the police department is now at 79 sworn police officers. With an authorized strength of 81, Chief Gault requested that the Board authorize the hiring of two officers in November from the Eligibility Roster contingent upon budget approval from City Council. Hiring two officers in November will enable attendance at the SWIC Police Academy session beginning November 19, 2020 and place the department in a strong position to weather the anticipated departures and retirements in 2021 (three in the first quarter and up to six by May or June). Many of the candidates on the current Eligibility Register are also on other department hiring lists. In order to choose and hire top quality candidates and stagger the training period, it is in Moline's best interest to act quickly. This request has been provided to Interim City Administrator Marty Vanags for review and support. He has provided his approval to present this to City Council on September 15, 2020 pending the approval of the Board. Chief Gault recommended the Board approve the request to hire two candidates on the Eligibility Register, pending the completion of successful background checks of which summaries will be provided to the Board when complete. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the request as so stated; Commissioner Flowers seconded; roll call vote performed, motion unanimously carried.

8. **Other Business**

Chief Gault presented information regarding the implementation of an employment contract with terms to-be-determined for reimbursement pro rata for the training academy and uniforms if an officer leaves his/her position within 24-months of hire. The reimbursement from the State of Illinois for the police academy is no longer available and the academy expense is a significant investment by the City of Moline. An employment contract would also align with practices currently in place in the Fire Department. There was consensus from the Board to pursue this concept for implementation. Chief Gault will follow-up with legal counsel to have something drafted.

9. **Public Comment**

None.

10. **Executive Session**


Commissioner Nelson made a motion to adjourn into closed executive session pursuant to: Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06, 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21); Commissioner Flowers seconded; roll call vote performed, motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m. Meeting reconvened in open session at 5:03 p.m.

11. **Action from Executive Session**

Following semi-annual review of the closed executive minutes of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and legal counsel recommendation that there exists good cause to maintain these minutes as closed; Commissioner Nelson made a motion to maintain as closed the Executive Session minutes of July 14, 2009; July 31, 2009; June 3, 2011; October 11, 2011; November 8, 2011; April 1, 2014; October 14, 2014; October 22, 2104; April 20, 2015; September 2, 2015; January 12, 2016; September 13, 2016; July 18, 2016; July 13, 2017; Chairperson Ford seconded; roll call vote performed, motion unanimously carried.

12. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Flowers made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Nelson seconded; meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Summer O'Leary, Recording Secretary  
Board of Fire & Police Commissioners