

**MICHIGAN CITY POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
October 13, 2009**

The Police Civil Service Commission of Michigan City, Indiana, held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, Indiana.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was present to conduct business.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Michael Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Present: Commissioners Michael Palmer and John Pliske.

Also present: Commission Attorney Pamela S. Krause, Commission Recording Secretary Gale Neulieb, Chief Police Ben Neitzel, Chief of Operations Mark Swistek and Chief of Services John Kintzele.

Commissioner Palmer appointed Commissioner Pliske as Acting Secretary until the November meeting when Commissioner Howse returns from her surgery.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Palmer advised the regular meeting held on September 8, 2009 and the Executive Session held on September 8, 2009 would be held over for approval until the next regular meeting (November 10, 2009) when Commissioner Howse returns since Commissioner Pliske was not at the meeting.

Commissioner Pliske moved the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 28, 2009, and the Special Meeting held on September 28, 2009, be accepted as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Palmer. **Motion carried 2-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PROBATIONARY OFFICER REPORTS**

Captain Mark W. Harris reported:

- ◆ Probationary Officer Steven Wiegel will begin Phase 4 of the FTO Program and report to Shift 2 on Monday, September 28, 2009 advising his FTO will be Officer Raymond or Officer Washluske.
- ◆ Probationary Officer Kenneth Equia is continuing his basic course at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and will complete this course on December 1, 2009.

**POLYGRAPH REPORTS**

Six applicants were sent for their polygraph tests.

**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS**

The department was given two applicants to conduct their background investigation.

**PHYSICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL**

Chief Neitzel advised the Commissioners that three (3) of the applicants completed their physical/psychological testing and one applicant is awaiting their scheduled appointment. Chief Neitzel stated that the three applicants will be reviewed by the Local Pension Board at their meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2009.

## PERF

We have no applicant in PERF yet.

## RULES AND REGULATION CHANGES

Commissioner Palmer advised that the Commission had been working on some changes that we presented at last months meeting and that he wanted to TABLE this matter until the November meeting to update Commissioner Pliske on the changes that are being proposed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- Copy of letter to Officer Bruce Krause from Chief Neitzel congratulating him on achieving 25 years of service on September 28, 2009 with the Michigan City Police Department.
- Copy of letter to Officer Dion Campbell from Chief Neitzel congratulating him on achieving 10 years of service on September 20, 2009 with the Michigan City Police Department.
- Letter from Corporal Ken Havlin.
- Two letters from Officer Douglas Samuelson.
- Letter from Officer Kelly Williams
- Letter from applicant Michael Oberle.
- Memo from Captain Harris regarding probationary officers status
- Claims to be paid total \$1,947.79

On motion of Commissioner Pliske, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, claims in the amount of \$1,947.79 should be paid. **Motion carried 2-0.**

### PROMOTIONS

Commissioner Palmer read the following information regarding the promotions:

The following criteria are used in awarding a promotion. A written test score, an oral interview score, the last four past performance scores and their years of service. The calculations were compiled, verified and re-checked by two Commissioners for accuracy.

The following officers being promoted will be filling the vacancy created by the merit rank reduction requested by Mark Zummak who held the rank of Lieutenant and is retroactive to September 29, 2009 with a probationary period to begin October 13, 2009 for a period of 6 months.

- » Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant is Sergeant Cary Brinkman
- » Promoted to the rank of Sergeant is Corporal David Legros
- » Promoted to the rank of Corporal is Officer Kenneth Drake

Commissioner Pliske made a motion to accept the promotions retroactive to September 29, 2009 with a probationary period to begin October 13, 2009 for a period of 6 months, which was seconded by Commissioner Palmer. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Chief Neitzel presented badges to each officer promoted. The Commissioners presented each officer a certificate congratulating them on achieving the rank.

Chief Neitzel congratulated each officer stating they were well deserved promotions and is looking forward to working with them.

Asst. Chief Kintzele congratulated each officer commenting on the hard work these officers have done to receive their promotions.

Asst. Chief Swistek addressed the officers that were promoted stating the road ahead of them will be challenging at times and that these promotions were well deserved.

Commissioner Palmer dismissed everyone to take pictures and thanked everyone for attending.

(A short recess was taken for 5 minutes)

### **COMMENTS FROM CHIEF NEITZEL**

Chief Neitzel reported:

- ◆ Spoke on the rise of burglaries Michigan City is experiencing. The M.C.P.D. is campaigning through print media, radio and meetings they attend to educate the community from being victimized. The M.C.P.D. has a web page listing things you can do to prevent being a victim.
- ◆ Chief Neitzel stated the Neighborhood Watch is an asset to the police department by paying attention to your neighbors' homes, reporting anything unusual or suspicious.
- ◆ Reminded everyone about [www.citizenobserver.com](http://www.citizenobserver.com), which is an excellent way to be informed of what is going on in our community regarding crime.

### **ASST. CHIEF COMMENTS**

Asst. Chief Kintzele reported:

- ◆ Spoke on burglaries happening in Michigan City stating several things to do if you become suspicious or observe something happening in your neighborhood like crawling through a window you need to call the police right away.
- ◆ Congratulated Commissioner Pliske on his appointment to the Commission.

### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Palmer welcomed Commissioner Pliske as the new freshmen to the Commission replacing Commissioner Buda.

Commissioner Palmer also took the time to publicly thank Commissioner Buda for his enduring hard work provided the last six years. He went on to say that several hundred applicants were processed and never once complained about the work load. 33 of our current officers were hired during his tenure. He is going to be greatly missed. A plaque will be given to him at a later date.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the Council

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments by the Public

The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m. on motion of Commissioner Pliske and seconded by Commissioner Palmer.

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John Pliske, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Michael D. Palmer, President