



MINUTES POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION Meeting

7:00 PM - Thursday, July 25, 2019
Council Chambers

The POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

II ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS:

Andy Fanta	Present
Heather Freeling	Present
Kathleen McCormick	Present
Herman Humes	Present
Gail Wolkoff	Present

STAFF LIASION:

Police Chief Tony DeGuisti

III AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Wolkoff moved, seconded by Commissioner Freeling to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved as submitted.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Approval of the June 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McCormick moved, seconded by Commissioner Freeling to approve the minutes.

Approved: Yes - 4; No - 0; Absent - 1 (Humes)

V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

None

VI RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

a) Monthly Ypsilanti Police Department Statistical Report - Chief DeGiusti

Chief DeGiusti provided an update on the June 2019 Crime statistics.

Commissioner Fanta stated it is pleasing to hear how well the training of new officers is going, and commended to the department.

Commissioner Freeling thanked the Chief for the inclusion of the articles provided in the report.

b) Examining potential recommendation for ordinance amendments

Commissioner Fanta stated for the August meeting we will provide pieces of the Ann Arbor ordinance that would be a benefit to include in Ypsilanti's. He brought attention to the Ann Arbor ordinance requirement for diversity on the commission.

c) Police Advisory Commission Code of Ethics

Commissioner Fanta stated Commissioner Wolkoff suggested this be on the agenda. He explained although he disagrees there is an issue it warrants discussion. He does not believe the use of electronic devices has caused a breach in the City's Code of Ethics. He distributed an article regarding code of ethics.

Commissioner Wolkoff moved, seconded by Commissioner Freeling to enter Committee of the Whole.

Approved: Yes - 4; No - 0; Absent - 1 (Humes)

Commissioner Wolkoff stated she does not believe there is an issue, however, she wants to be certain it does not occur during future meetings. Technology is a reality in everyone's life, and she does not want there to be a public perception of impropriety. She would like something bluntly stated the Commission will not use technology will be used at the dais. Commissioner Fanta asked if after the meeting is called to order he ask the Commission to turn off all devices. Ms. Wolkoff responded she is open to hear the opinion of the Commission. Clerk Hellenga stated the Commission has the authority to create its own bylaws, and if this is the will be the body this could be included in those bylaws. Commissioner McCormick stated she is on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for her work, and needs her phone to be one at all times. She explained she always has her phone on silence and if she needed will step away from the dais. Commissioner Freeling stated it is a good reminder, and also needs to be available to clients.

Commissioner Fanta stated at the beginning of the meeting he could ask that both the members of the Commission and audience members turn their phones to silent. He suggested employing that practice and see if it quells any concern. Commissioner Wolkoff emphasized this is not currently a problem,

but being one of the missions of this Commission is to build relationships she does not want there to be a problem.

d) Dealing with Difficult Individuals

Commissioner Fanta explained he added this to the agenda because of the recent complaint received by the Commission. He stated he felt the Commission response to the complaint has sound. He stated he feels the complaint must have been a tremendous waste of time for the Police Department, and feels the Commission could assist in alleviating some burden.

Chief DeGiusti stated in the nearly nineteen years he has been a police administrator this is the only time he has received a complaint like the one being referenced. He isn't certain it will require a mechanism for the Commission to address. Commissioner Fanta responded he does not believe it occurs frequently, but in the case it does, he would like a mechanism for the Commission to respond. Clerk Hellenga stated that mechanism is included in the ordinance creating the Commission. The Commission is tasked in reviewing complaints that the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome. Mr. Fanta responded he is aware, but wants the Chief to be aware that he can direct a complainant to the Commission.

Commissioner Wolkoff asked if the complainant continues to file complaints against the department it could be referenced to the Commission. Commissioner Fanta responded if a determination was made by the department that is not satisfactory to the complainant they could be directed to the Commission. He does not want another complaint to take that much time from the department. Commissioner McCormick responded the suggested protocol does make sense for the average person.

Commissioner Wolkoff stated the submitted complaint was borderline slander, she read it as abusive towards people. Chief DeGiusti replied when you're a public official slander really doesn't exist, people have the ability to say anything they want about you.

Commissioner Freeling stated if in the nineteen years as a police administrator this is the only time a complaint such as this has occurred, she believes what is written in the ordinance should suffice. Commissioner Fanta agreed, and stated the Police Chief can bring any issues to the Commission in the monthly report.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Wolkoff asked the status of filling the empty seats on the Commission, she asked if anyone has applied. Clerk Hellenga responded no. Chief DeGiusti added he believes it could be a result of the summer season. Mr. Hellenga replied there has not been an application for the Police Advisory Commission in over a year. Commissioner Fanta stated he feels uncomfortable asking people to apply for the commission. He offered to ask the matter to meet with someone residing at Chidester Place to apply to the Commission, to replace Commissioner Melke. He suggested

Commissioner Wolkoff have any candidates for the youth seat on the Commission. Ms. Wolkoff suggested asking the Mayor to include the vacancies in her newsletter.

VIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

1. Preseton stated he would not worry about the use of cell phones during meeting. He provided suggestions on how to recruit for the Commission.

IX NEXT MEETING DATE

August 22, 2019

X ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McCormick moved, seconded by Commissioner Freeling to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.