



February 7th, 2025 MINUTES for the
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN CIVIL SERVICE BOARD
City Council Chambers

Board Members in Attendance:

John S. Stribula Chairman
Maria Brace Board Member

Staff in Attendance:

Christian Williams, Deputy Chief AFD
Jeffrey Wesneski, APD
Martin Velasquez, Human Resources Director
John Brixius, APD

Steve Salloum, Human Resources
Efrain Agosto, Fire Chief
Dustin Grow, AFD
Dave Layton, APD
Erik Landis, APD

Absent: Walter Felton, and Alternate Board member Hailey

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman Stribula followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Roll Call-Secretary Felton called the Roll, and a quorum was present.

Martin Velasquez, the City's new Human Resources Director introduced himself to all who were present.

Minutes-Minutes of the previous regular meeting January 2nd, 2025 were presented. **A motion was made by Brace, seconded by Stribula to approve the minutes. Motion passed 2-0.**

Unfinished Business

Staggered Board Appointment – For the benefit of the new Human Resources Director, Chairman Stribula gave a brief summary of the issue of the Staggered Board issue. Chairman Stribula reported the Staggered Board member resolution that has been forwarded to Council and the matter has been

referred to Committee with a full vote expected at the March 5th, 2025 Council Meeting. Stribula additionally reported that the Secretary Ordinance proposal has also been drafted and has been forwarded to Council for sponsorship.

Emails for the Board- Board member Brace gave an overview on the matter of the Board not being assigned formal City email addresses. Brace noted that the lack of an email assignment presents privacy, organizational, and Right to Know request issues. The City noted that while emails are assigned to City employees, any employees that use their email on a cell phone does so with a City issued phone. Additionally, no other Boards or Commissions have city issued emails.

New Business

Mayor Attendance- Per discussions at the January 2, 2025 regular meeting an invitation was sent to Mayor Tuerk to attend the February Meeting. The Board received no response and the Mayor was not present. The Board still has one vacancy for alternate.

Police Department Report

Erik Landis of the APD reported that the Police Department candidate entrance examination has been posted, and the physical agility and written examination have been completed. 39 are on the eligibility list and they are working down the list, with number 26 on the list the next to be called. Advertisement and the application period for the next list is completed. March 8th is the physical agility and March 9th is the written examination.

A new entrance examination test was introduced by the APD. The Police Officer Selection Test (POST). The test addresses concerns the Board has concerning access to graded written exams. It was explained the test is self graded (by the Dept) and is used by 95% of Police Departments. Officer Landis will send by email a sample of the test.

Fire Department Report

Deputy Chief Christian Williams a report on the Fire Department. Captain of Public Affairs and Captain of Suppression have been posted. A Fire Department class has begun with 8 in the academy to which one has resigned. Williams introduced proposed changes to the AFD rules and regulations including elimination of banding and language more in conformity with the code. Additionally, now that annual physicals occur for all Fire Department personnel, there is a need to address promotional physicals in the rules. Also probationary period needs to be addressed as a result of a memorandum of understanding.

Continuance Request- There was a request of a continuance in the matter of City of Allentown vs. Messina. The City stated that there is a medical issue related to one of the witnesses. **A motion was made by Brace, seconded by Stribula to approve the continuance request. Motion passed 2-0.**

Officer Wesneski appeared before the Board and there was a discussion regarding the pending status of his appeal. Solicitor Mazin stated that Attorney Caputo's Right to Know request was denied and the Board has no knowledge that an appeal to that denial has occurred.

Adjournment- With no other business before the Board, there was motion made to adjourn by Brace, seconded by Stribula and passed (2-0).

Meeting adjourned 10:48 A.M.

Next Meeting Details

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 A.M., Friday, April 4th, 2025, in the 5th Floor Conference Room, City Hall, located at 435 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA, 18101.

Submitted,

John Stribula for Walter Felton, Secretary

WF/jss