

City of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
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**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 14TH, 2023
6:30 PM**

PRESENT: Aldermen Barragree, Cahoe, Marcier, Anderson, Muench, Miller, Alderwoman Rohlf and Mayor Allhands

ABSENT: Alderwoman DeLahr

GUESTS: Auxiliary Officer Mark Garfield and Erik Buikema, Fire Chief Ken Baier, Fire & Police Commission Nita Dubble and Police Chief Jeremy Douglas

Alderman Barragree opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. There was no public comment. Auxiliary Officer Mark Garfield stated the Auxiliary Department's monthly meeting was at Wrights Martial Arts Self Defense for a class on self-defense, the department is getting ready for the Christmas Parade, and they assisted with the construction detail on W North St. Erik Buikema stated the department would like to add Andrew Johnson to the roster. He is from Gilman and is an EMT/Fireman for the City of Gilman, so he is bringing years of experience to the department. He will be on probation for 1 year. **Alderman Anderson makes a motion to recommend to the Council to add Andrew Johnson to the Auxiliary roster and Alderman Miller seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.**

Fire Chief Ken Baier stated his department had 8 fires, 4 EMS assists, 10 ambulance calls, 2 MVA's, 3 automatic alarms, 1 auto aid call, 1 CO Alarm, 1 other down line, for the month of October. Training for October consisted of aerial truck operations, station/rig maintenance, search and rescue under smoke and fire conditions at the training towers, auto aid training with Crescent City and SCBA low profile training. The department would like to add Andrew Walton to the roster, he was on the roster for 6 years at one time and moved away, he is now back and working for public works. He will be on probation for 6 months. **Alderman Anderson makes a motion to recommend to the council to add Andrew Walton to the Fire department roster and Alderman Muench seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.** Chief Baier reported firefighter Jackie Lesage has finished her advanced Technical Firefighter 40-hour class. Chief Baier stated the leased ambulance from Riverside will be returned to them this month. Chief Baier stated it has 300,000 miles on it and the front end is worn out, so he wasn't in favor of buying it. He did state that with the volume of calls increasing the department would like to put something in the budget to purchase another ambulance possibly next year. Chief Baier reported that with October being Fire awareness month the department went to all the Unit 9 schools grades K-3rd and several of the day cares in the city also. He also stated the department will be participating in the Winter Fest at the First Trust parking lot on November 24th with doing touch a truck and possibly some rides in the fire trucks.

Nita Dubble with the Police & Fire Commission spoke next. She stated of the 2 that were on the list one is no longer eligible and the other has pulled a muscle, so he isn't able to pass the

agility test. As of today, the department has received 4 new applications. They will be doing background checks soon and starting the whole hiring process over again.

Police Chief Jeremy Douglas stated his department had 361 calls for service during the month of October. The new squad's equipment has been ordered and some of it is. The white squad has been marked. Chief stated he has reserved a spot at the academy for January. He also has one officer that may get deployed, and the department will need to hold his spot and he also has one officer that might be retiring after the first of the year. Chief reported Officer Smith attended a leadership course and ILEAS is asking for 2 officers to help with the Republican and Democratic convention next year. If the city chooses to do this the city will be reimbursed for the entire time they are gone.

Alderman Barragree makes a motion to adjourn at 6:45 pm and Alderman Cahoe seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.

Brandon Barragree, Chairman