

CITY OF GILLETT
HEALTH, PROTECTION, & LICENSING COMMITTEE
Council Chambers – Municipal Building
150 N McKenzie Ave – Gillett, WI 54124
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2024 AT 6:15 PM
MINUTES

Committee may deviate as needed

Meeting Called to Order by Alderperson VanStraten at 6:15 PM.

Roll Call

Open Meeting Law has been complied with

This public meeting is in compliance with all Open Meeting Laws

Present: Alderpersons Ashley VanStraten, Irene Drake, and Sandy Hubbard
Alderpersons Nanette Mohr, Jerry Luther, and David Bunker, Mayor Jon Blaskowski, Clerk
Treasurer Chelsea Anderson, and Police Chief Shane Breitenbach

PUBLIC INPUT: None

1. Discussion and Possible action on minutes from February 28, 2024

MOTION: Drake/VanStraten

Motion to approve February 28, 2024 minutes.

Voice Vote: All Ayes **MOTION CARRIED**

2. Discussion and Possible action on an Operator's License for Kadence Swim

MOTION: VanStraten/Drake

Motion to approve an Operator's License for Kadence Swim

Voice Vote: All Ayes **MOTION CARRIED**

3. Discussion and Possible action pay increase to attract better candidates -

We have a potential Part Time Officer willing to work Full Time for the city if the pay was increased to \$31.00 dollars an hour. Teamsters is the Police Union, they would be willing to open negotiations now. The City has a Contract with them, and the Union sets the wages. All officers will be raised to the same wage agreed upon in the contract. Our Part time officer and is already fully trained and geared. Last Teamsters contract was 2021 to expire December 31, 2024. Current wage is \$26.41. Looking at other cities, City of Oconto start is \$31.20, Oconto Falls \$34.92 (2025), Bonduel Chief is \$41.00, part time is \$29.00. Drake wants to interview potential candidates and not just hire off of one recommendation. Chief Breitenbach stated he was trying to streamline the process and bring qualified applicants to the committee because he feels most applicants are not qualified based on failed evaluations, did not complete schooling, and other reasons. Union stated we could increase pay and amend the current contract, but we feel we need to start the new contract and get that done early. Mohr pointed out that if we give those raises to police department, we need to remember all of our other employees. Act 12 was signed into law, it gives extra shared revenue money and has special restrictions what the increase could be used for (includes EMS, Police, Public Works, Courts, Transportation, Fire Protection and more). Hull is also a firefighter and EMT. Drake asked why Officer Hoeft interviewed elsewhere but was not hired. Chief explained the reason Hoeft and himself applied for a County position is because they felt they were treated unfairly by the previous council. It was a bad environment and constant talk of disbanding the police department. If the City did disband, they wanted to work in the Gillett area through the County to still feel at home, because they love it here.

VanStraten recommend to move the wage to 31 dollars an hour. Drake would like to open negotiations with the Teamsters Union now and complete a new contract. Teamsters to present a draft to the committee. Chief Breitenbach wanted to note that there has been an increase in call volume, and for 2 officers, it has them stretched thin and are handling everything as fast as they can.

4. Discussion and possible action on School Resource Officer (SRO) and COPS Grant-
The committee was hoping to have resolution from the school but it was not decided at the School Board meeting, they will hope to vote in July.
City would be liable for 20%. School was looking at fund 80, a community service fund, that could fund 80%. County contract is 5 years. Chief Breitenbach stated he is looking for 3 full time officers plus the SRO. Pros and Cons of City Officer vs County deputy: officer is always in the city; deputy would work around Oconto County in summer. Officer would need special training to become a SRO. If school and city decide to hire a SRO- looking into the future and having everything in the contract that would be needed- if the school no longer wants the agreement after 5 years, we need a stipulation in the agreement that the position is potentially only 5 years.
COPS grant, city would apply for if we supply the SRO to the school. COPS grant is not available at this time.
5. Discussion and possible action on County Coverage for the City of Gillett- Previous mayor talked with Oconto County about coverage. It was discussed previously to disband the police department and the committee wanted clarification on the conversation that previous Mayor McCarthy had with the Sherriff Skarban and the cost for coverage. Chief Breitenbach stated a County Officer is approximately \$120,000 per year, and covers about 15 shifts a month. It seems it would not be cost saving to disband our police department and contract with Oconto County. It would also leave us with less coverage.
6. Discussion and possible action on hiring full time officer- Set up the application and interview process; the committee will look at applications at next meeting and set up in person interviews.
7. Set Next Meeting Date- Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 4:30 PM.
8. Adjournment at 7:30 pm.
MOTION: Drake/Hubbard
Motion to adjourn.
Voice Vote: All Ayes MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson