



PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – PENNSYLVANIA

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

Thursday, December 12, 2024

A meeting of the Plymouth Township Civil Service Commission was held at the Plymouth Township Building (700 Belvoir Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462) at 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 12, 2024.

The following Commissioners were present:

Karen Mabry
Ardis Lukens
Chris Olszyk
Patti Smith

Lt. Jeff O'Brien and Scott Badami participated by invitation.

Call to Order – Karen Mabry

Chair Mabry called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm and welcomed all to the December 2024 meeting of the Plymouth Township Civil Service Commission, held at the Plymouth Township Building.

November 2024 Minutes

Upon Motion, duly made and seconded, the Commission approved (by a vote of 4-0) the minutes of the November 2024 meeting.

Police Department Report

The CSC went into executive session to discuss various police department personnel matters.

When the executive session concluded, Lt. O'Brien gave the Police Department report. He announced that Officer Freney was sworn in at Monday's Plymouth Council meeting. Officer Freney, who also has four years of EMT service, was one of our top candidates (and a top candidate for other departments as well). She will start at the Police Academy in January 2025.



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Next, Lt. O'Brien reported that Council has agreed to expand the police department by two officers. One of the new officers is already on the street and the other, as noted above, will start the Police Academy next month.

Additionally, it appears possible Council is open to further increasing the size of our department in 2026. Plymouth is now up four officers over the last three years. We've had 46 officers for approximately the past 26 years and now we are going to 50. Chief Myrsiades is very appreciative of this level of support from the Township and the CSC. Furthermore, Council approved the Chief's request to hire a part time social worker to assist with mental health and senior care concerns. Once the social worker is on board, we will work to determine how best to use the social worker's skills to address mental health in crisis situations. Indeed, it is possible the department will seek to make the social worker a full time position.

Upon Motion, duly made and seconded, the Commission approved (by a vote of 4-0) the updated Entry Level Police Officer Candidate Rule of 3 "A" list.

Upon Motion, duly made and seconded, the Commission approved (by a vote of 4-0) the updated Entry Level Police Officer Candidate Rule of 3 "B" list.

The Commission discussed with Lt. O'Brien the Lieutenant and Sergeant written tests that took place on Monday, December 9, 2024. While we do not yet have test results back from our vendor, it is clear that "getting rank is important" to our officers which was reflected in the robust interest in taking the promotion tests. Once the written test results are received, successful candidates will be scheduled for oral examinations in early January 2025.

In response to a question, Lt. O'Brien said one goal of the police department is for our ranks "to mirror the community." Of the current top 8 entry level candidates, he said three are black, two are women, and two are Hispanic.

Finally, Lt. O'Brien noted that with Officer Lacey retiring, Plymouth will need a new "face of the department to the community." It appears Officer Wittenburg will be cross training to assume this important role.



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Compliance Update

Solicitor Badami circulated a proposed 2024 CSC Annual Report. He asked for edits/comments from the Commissioners so the report can be timely provided to Council before the end of the year. He also said, in response to questions asked last month, that there are no term limits on CSC members and that alternates are permitted.

The CSC then discussed its implementing legislation which notes the Commission reorganizes in even numbered years.

Upon Motion, duly made and seconded, the Commission approved (by a vote of 4-0) a motion to retain Solicitor Badami for 2025.

The CSC then directed Mr. Badami to contact the Township's solicitor to request that Council seek alternate members for our Commission.

Public Comment

No member of the public had any comment, although Chair Mabry noted the public is "always welcome and invited to attend" Commission meetings.

Closing Comment

Chair Mabry expressed her appreciation to her colleagues for caring enough to serve and she respects their efforts to mold the Plymouth Police Department to represent our community.

Adjournment

There being no further business (four motions having been passed), the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.



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Next meeting of the Commission

January 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott M. Badami
Solicitor