

**AGENDA**  
**POLICE MERIT COMMISSION**  
**Monday, June 27, 2022 9:00 a.m.**  
**Council Chambers**

**Municipal Building, 229 S. Second Street, Elkhart, IN 46516**  
<https://coei.webex.com/coei/j.php?MTID=mcc18947687ab6fc2c028c25b024abe7c>  
**Meeting Number 2304 922 1885**  
**Password Police22**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes- Regular Meeting May 23, 2022**
- 5. Police Department**
  - **Change of Status- Ptl. Nathanael Toth, Ptl. Seth Youngblood, Ptl. Bryce Moore, Ptl. Gavin Headley, Ptl. Kristopher Kreager, Ptl. Derek Heign**
  - **Resignation- Cpl. Christopher Bella**
  - **Retirement- Lt. Michael Stuff**
  - **Change of Status Promotion- Cpl. Drew Neese, Cpl. Seth Watkins**
- 6. Public Participation**
- 7. Adjournment**

POLICE MERIT COMMISSION  
Monday, May 23, 2022

Secretary Clifton Hildreth called a regular meeting of the Police Merit Commission to order at 9:05 a.m., Monday, May 23, 2022. Clerk of the Commission Nancy Wilson called the roll. Commissioners Clifton Hildreth and Thomas Barber attended in person. Jean Mayes and Jim Rieckhoff attended on WebEx. Brad Billings was absent.

1. APPROVE AGENDA

On motion Jean Mayes, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 3-0, the agenda was approved as presented.

2. APPROVE MINUTES- Regular Meeting April 25, 2022 and May 9, 2022

On motion by Thomas Barber, seconded by Jean Mayes and carried 3-0, the Minutes from April 25, 2022 and May 9, 2022 were approved.

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Kris Seymore presented prospective officer Clayton A. Brown. Mr. Brown passed all of the required medical and psychological screenings, as well as the appropriate background searches necessary to become employed with the Elkhart Police Department as a police officer. He asked the Commissioners to hire him and that he be sworn in. On motion by Jean Mayes, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 3-0, the Police Merit Commission hired Clayton A. Brown as a Police Officer for the City of Elkhart.

Chief Kris Seymore presented prospective officer Andrew J. Martin. Mr. Martin passed all of the required medical and psychological screenings, as well as the appropriate background searches necessary to become employed with the Elkhart Police Department as a police officer. He asked the Commissioners to hire him and that he be sworn in. On motion by Jean Mayes, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 3-0, the Police Merit Commission hired Andrew J. Martin as a Police Officer for the City of Elkhart.

Chief Kris Seymore presented prospective officer Dylan H. Vicary. Mr. Vicary passed all of the required medical and psychological screenings, as well as the appropriate background searches necessary to become employed with the Elkhart Police Department as a police officer. He asked the Commissioners to hire him and that he be sworn in. On motion by Jean Mayes, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 3-0, the Police Merit Commission hired Dylan H. Vicary as a Police Officer for the City of Elkhart.

Mayor Rod Roberson swore the new officers in as follows: "I swear that I will diligently, honestly, faithfully and impartially, perform all my duties as a police officer of the City of Elkhart according to the law. I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States; and the Constitution of the State of Indiana. I will observe the rules and regulations established by the Police Merit Commission, and the Chief of Police of the Elkhart Police Department."

The Chair took a recess for photos and family time.

The Chair called the meeting back to order.

Jim Rieckhoff introduced the document he drafted regarding the decision made by the commission in the matter of the Officer Andrew Rucker hearing. He pointed out a typo in the document, paragraph four, the sentence reading during the

POLICE MERIT COMMISSION  
Monday, May 23, 2022

pursuit drove both, should say he between the words pursuit and drove. On motion by Jean Mayes, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 4-0, the Decision document was amended to insert the word "he" between "pursuit drove" in the fourth paragraph. On motion by Jim Rieckhoff, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 4-0, the Sgt. Andrew Rucker Decision document was adopted as amended.

4. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Jim Rieckhoff, seconded by Thomas Barber and carried 4-0, the City of Elkhart, Indiana Police Merit Commission was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ James Rieckhoff, President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Clifton Hildreth, Secretary

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



Police Department  
175 Waterfall Dr.  
Elkhart, IN 46516

574.295.7070  
Fax: 574.293.0679

June 6, 2022

Police Merit Commission  
229 S. Second Street  
Municipal Building  
Elkhart, IN 46516

Re: Change of Status  
Ptl. Nathanael Toth #486

Dear Commissioners:

On June 8, 2022 Ptl. Toth will complete his second year of service as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department. His status will be changed from 3rd class to 2nd class.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

C: Personnel File  
Captain Moore  
Payroll  
Ptl. Toth

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 6, 2022

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Re: Change of Status  
Ptl. Seth Youngblood #487

Dear Commissioners:

On June 8, 2022 Ptl. Youngblood will complete his second year of service as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department. His status will be changed from 3rd class to 2nd class.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

C: Personnel File  
Captain Moore  
Payroll  
Ptl. Youngblood

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 6, 2022

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Re: Change of Status  
Ptl. Bryce Moore #488

Dear Commissioners:

On June 8, 2022 Ptl. Moore will complete his second year of service as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department. His status will be changed from 3rd class to 2nd class.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

C: Personnel File  
Captain Moore  
Payroll  
Ptl. Moore



Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 6, 2022

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Re: Change of Status  
Ptl. Gavin Headley #490

Dear Commissioners:

On June 8, 2022 Ptl. Headley will complete his second year of service as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department. His status will be changed from 3rd class to 2nd class.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

C: Personnel File  
Captain Moore  
Payroll  
Ptl. Headley

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 6, 2022

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Re: Change of Status  
Ptl. Kristopher Kreager #491

Dear Commissioners:

On June 8, 2022 Ptl. Kreager will complete his second year of service as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department. His status will be changed from 3rd class to 2nd class.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

C: Personnel File  
Captain Moore  
Payroll  
Ptl. Kreager



Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 6, 2022

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Re: Change of Status  
Ptl. Derek Heign #492

Dear Commissioners:

On June 8, 2022 Ptl. Heign will complete his second year of service as a police officer with the Elkhart Police Department. His status will be changed from 3rd class to 2nd class.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

C: Personnel File  
Captain Moore  
Payroll  
Ptl. Heign

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 16, 2022

Police Merit Commission  
Municipal Building  
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Elkhart, IN 46516

RE: Resignation  
Cpl. Christopher Bella #377

Dear Commissioners:

Corporal Christopher Bella has submitted his resignation effective June 11, 2022. Cpl. Bella was hired on August 8, 2006 and served our department, and the citizens of Elkhart, for 16 years.

Cpl. Bella served in the Uniform Patrol Division, including the last several years in charge of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit. It is a loss for the Elkhart Police Department but we wish him well and much success in his new endeavor. At this time I ask that you please accept his resignation.

Respectfully,

Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore", is written over the typed name and title.

cc: Personnel File  
Payroll

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 15, 2022

Police Merit Commission  
Municipal Building  
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RE: Retirement  
Lieutenant Michael Stuff #197

Dear Commissioners:

Lieutenant Michael Stuff submitted a letter indicating his intent to retire from the Elkhart Police Department effective May 31, 2022. Lt. Stuff was hired on February 14, 1995 and upon his retirement he had served our department, and the citizens of Elkhart, just over 27 years.

Mike held various ranks including the rank of Captain and Assistant Chief. He served many years in the Uniform Patrol Division, and then his last years in the Criminal Investigation Division. He was an asset to the Elkhart Police Department and the Elkhart community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore", is written over the name and title of the Chief of Police.

Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

KS/ke

cc: Personnel File  
Payroll

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 21, 2022

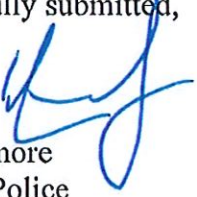
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RE: Change of Status - Promotion  
Cpl. Drew Neese #390  
Sergeant

Dear Commissioners:

Corporal Drew Neese interviewed for the position of Uniform Division Sergeant and was selected by the Promotional Review Board; I concur with their recommendation. The date of his promotion was June 13, 2022. Per policy this promotion will have a probationary six month period.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

KS/kae

cc: Personnel File  
Payroll

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Kris Seymore  
Chief



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June 21, 2022

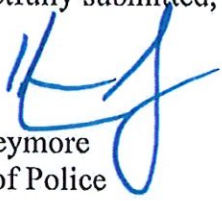
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RE: Change of Status - Promotion  
Cpl. Seth Watkins #460  
Sergeant

Dear Commissioners:

Corporal Seth Watkins interviewed for the position of Uniform Division Sergeant and was selected by the Promotional Review Board; I concur with their recommendation. The date of his promotion was June 13, 2022. Per policy this promotion will have a probationary six month period.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kris Seymore  
Chief of Police

KS/kae

cc: Personnel File  
Payroll