Chairman Richard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present**: Richard Smith, David Rubenstein, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, Sam Bergami, Alberta Jagoe, Bill Bevan.

**Also Present**: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee, Capt. Delmonte, Lt. Luke Holder, Marcia Krusewski, Secty.

Chief Mello said that we would have an addition to the agenda and one deletion. We will be adding item 5b. Addition to Tow List and removing item 10A. Commendation – as this was not ready at this time.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none**
2. **CITIZEN COMMENTS - none**
3. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Mager to approve the regular meeting of February 14, 2023 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**
2. **Chief’s General Comments** – Chief Mello commented that he attended the Board of Finance meeting where the Police Department budget was presented. He has asked for an addition of 1 new police officer position for each of the next four years. He hasn’t been informed of any changes to this request.

The Chief also discussed that he has moved some of the Command Staff to new positions. Capt. Alexopoulos has been assigned to the Patrol Division, Capt. McCollum to the Detective Division, Lt. Holder to the Administrative Lt. position and Lt. Chila to Patrol as a Shift Commander.

Commissioner Smith asked how the changes were received. Chief Mello said that it was still early but necessary to let people take new and fresh looks in each Division. For Captains it is imperative to gain experience in all Divisions. There was nothing derogatory about any of these moves.

1. **Addition to Tow List** – Connecticut Auto Center – 503 New Haven Ave.

Chief Mello said that we have 10 slots for Wrecker companies on the list and currently have 9. This company will be the 10th on the list.

Discussion: Commissioner Smith asked if the companies stay on the list indefinitely. Chief responded that they do. Commissioner Rubenstein asked if 10 was an optimum number and Chief responded yes, and that we now tow less cars than in the past.

Motion made by Commissioner Jagoe to approve the addition of Connecticut Auto Center to the tow list. 2nd by Commissioner Bevan. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS**
2. **589 Bridgeport Ave** – Addendum #2 – Landsdale Residential Community

It was moved by Commissioner Rubenstein and seconded by Commissioner Mager to approve the Traffic Division’s recommendations regarding 589 Bridgeport Ave. Motion carried.

Discussion: Commissioner Smith noted that he thought this had already been approved by P&Z and asked if this was a moot point and did we want to forward this to P&Z.

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**
   1. Special Investigations Unit Report
   2. Detective Bureau Report
   3. Crime Prevention Unit Report
   4. Traffic Division & Licensing Report

It was moved by Commissioner Rubenstein and seconded by Commissioner Mager to approve the above reports. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS -**  none
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. **Annual Review of parking restrictions – Walnut Beach**

Discussion: Chief Mello said that we have had several meetings with Susan Patrick who represents the Walnut Beach Association. One of their requests this year was to allow non residents to park in the Walnut Beach parking lot for some special events. Recreation Director Bill Garfield was against this, indicating that there was plenty of on street parking. We agreed with the Recreation Department on this. Some of the requests were approved and we made some parking changes on several streets as outlined in the Traffic Division study.

Chief Mello said that many years of planning has been spent on this area. When we change something for one group, another group is upset. So we need to compromise and continue to monitor the parking situation in the Summer months. It is an ongoing process.

Commissioner Smith asked about the status of the fence. Are we ready for graduation time? Chief Mello said that the permanent fence is not installed yet. Last year we were able to control the situation and will continue to monitor social media posts. This works well until we have an altercation or disturbance such as last year when buses brought people in. The permanent fences should have some kind of gate system to monitor. Commissioner Smith said that he would check with Public Works on the status of the permanent fence.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Mager to approve the Traffic Division’s recommendation regarding Walnut Beach parking restrictions. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith announced to the Commission that his name has been submitted to fill the Mayor’s vacancy for the remainder of Mayor Blake’s term upon his resignation. This was not something that he really wanted and was conflicted about it. Commissioner Smith said that he talked to the City Attorney and Chief Mello regarding taking a leave of absence from this Commission and it has been agreed upon. In his absence, Commissioner Bergami has agreed to fill in as Chairman. This will probably take place in late March or April. Commissioner Mager said he supported his decision. Commissioner Jagoe said that he would make a good Mayor.

Commissioner Smith said that he values being part of this team and wouldn’t want to leave the Commission. Chief Mello asked if we should appoint an acting Vice Chair. Commissioner Smith said that we will talk further about that.

Commissioner Mager mentioned that at the last meeting he and Commissioner Smith were going to discuss the Police Sick and Relief fund this month. He asked that this be tabled to next month’s meeting for further discussion.

1. **COMMENDATIONS - none**
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees.**

It was moved by Commissioner Mager and seconded by Commission Rubenstein to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. with regard to the following:

* 1. Final probationary rating for one (1) Officer.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Jagoe to reconvene in public session at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Rubenstein and seconded by Commissioner Jagoe to accept the recommendation by Chief Mello regarding the completion of the probationary period of this Officer and his status as a Regular full time Officer.

Approved by: Commissioners Smith, Rubenstein, Marrone, Jagoe and Bevan

Opposed: Commissioners Mager and Bergami

Motion carried.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Commissioner Mager and seconded by Commissioner Jagoe to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Marcia Krusewski

Submitted to City Clerk – March 14, 2023