1. **Roll Call**

Vice Chairman Bergami called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Sam Bergami, Bill Bevan, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone

Also Present: Chief Keith Mello, D/Chief Brian Rojee, Capt. G. Delmonte, Alderman Phil Vetro, Lt. Luke Holder, Marcia Krusewski, Secretary.

Absent: David (Chip) Rubenstein

1. **Consideration of Appointments** - none
2. **Citizen Comments**
3. Alderman Phil Vetro talked about the intersection of Gulf and New Haven Ave. Specifically, the traffic light when you are turning onto Gulf Street towards the beach. He said it is very difficult since there is no turn signal to turn there. He has seen many close calls there. You often have to sit through several cycles of the light. Commissioner Marrone added that it is also very hard to turn there from the other direction also. Discussion followed and Chief Mello mentioned that there was a previous study done on this light and we would re-visit this issue. Lt. Holder recalled that the State had some kind of standards regarding the cycling of the lights.
4. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

It was moved by Commissioner Mager and seconded by Commissioner Marrone

to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Consideration of Chief on Matters of Administration**
2. Donation from Citizen’s Academy

It was moved by Commissioner Bevan and seconded by Commissioner Jagoe

To approve that the donation of $100 be placed into the Officer Wellness fund. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Suggested Meeting Dates for 2024 Police Commission Meetings- informational
2. Chief’s General Comments

The Chief talked about recruiting and retaining people. In the past we did not hire many lateral police officers. Last year we hired Off. Steve Torquati who retired from New Haven PD as a Lieutenant. He is now in our Detective Bureau and is an excellent officer.

Recently we hired Carlos Conceicao who also retired from the New Haven PD. He was a Sergeant in New Haven and is a great addition to Milford.

We have also hired Tim Wydra who has retired from Hamden Police Department. He was the acting Chief in Hamden for 18 months, ran the Detective Bureau, SWAT and Patrol.

We have also hired Stephanie Peloso who was a police officer for 5 years in Chesapeake Virgina. She is currently doing comparative training to attain her certification here.

All of these people are great additions to the Milford Police Department.

We will be graduating a class of 9 on December 21st and expect to start another Academy on 12/10/23. By next year we will be at full staff. The Chief gave credit to our Staff who now work on rolling admissions all year round. This is a continuous process and has helped.

Next month the Chief will show the Commissioners our new Recruiting video.

Chief Mello also mentioned that in 2024 our goal should be to look at the pension contract to see what can be changed, such as vesting to attract candidates.

Commissioner Bevan asked what full staff was. Chief Mello said that 118 Officers is full staff and we are still adding one new Officer per year for 4 years.

Chief Mello mentioned that the ARPA funds that paid for our 2 Social Workers will run out and that we will need to include them in our next budget. Social Workers are now a trend in law enforcement.

We have also put money for police cars back into our budget request.

Recently our Department received our 3-year reaccreditation from CALEA. It was a 3-day process where the examiner was here and we passed this process.

The Chief said that the new building cost estimate is approximately 81 million dollars now. We missed our opportunity to build and now everything costs more. The price is shocking. We are now trying to tear down some walls in the existing building to create spaces, windows, etc.

1. **Report on Planning and Zoning Requests**
2. FCP Warehouse Building – 305-325 Sub Way

Comments: Commissioner Mager mentioned that there were some issues with this plan, but we are just looking at traffic issues.

It was moved by Commissioner Mager and seconded by Commissioner Bevan

to approve the Traffic Division’s recommendation regarding FCP Warehouse.

Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Acceptance of Reports**
2. Special Investigations Unit Report
3. Detective Bureau Report
4. Community Engagement Unit Report
5. Traffic Division and Licensing Unit Report

Motion made by Commissioner Jagoe and seconded by Commissioner Mager to accept reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Unfinished Business**

The Darina Place/River Street study will be brought forward to the December 2023 meeting.

1. **New Business**
2. Gulf Street (length) – address issues of speed and signage.

Discussion:

Lt. Holder discussed some of the additions/issues on Gulf Street. They included:

1. Flashing signs at crosswalks
2. Speed feedback signs
3. A study of speed tables found that they are dangerous on this street.
4. Optical Speed Bars – these may help slow cars down.
5. We also will be adding a 2nd crosswalk across from Gulf Beach to the dirt lot. This will make it safer.

Chief Mello felt that these efforts may slow cars down but that we may re-visit this again. We will also put new speed signs in their proper places.

It was moved by Commissioner Mager and seconded by Commissioner Jagoe to approve the Traffic Division’s report.

Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Commendations – none**
2. **Executive Session**
3. Consideration of the performance of one (1) employee.

It was moved by Commissioner Jagoe and seconded by Commissioner Mager to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously. Commissioners present, Chief Mello, D/C Rojee remained for Executive Session.

It was moved by Commissioner Mager and seconded by Commissioner Bevan to reconvene in public session at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Commissioner Mager and seconded by

Commissioner Bevan to adjourn the meeting at 7:42. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Marcia Krusewski

November 15, 2023