

THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Fairview Heights City Hall
Fairview Heights, Illinois

Committee Members in attendance – Alderpersons Josh Frawley, Jimmy Winkeler, Brenda Wagner, Pat Peck

Committee Members absent – Alderperson Bill Poletti

Other Alderpersons and Elected Officials in attendance – Mayor Mark Kupsky, Alderpersons Frank Menn, Barb Brumfield – tele/conference, Derrick King

Staff in attendance – City Attorney Andrew Hoerner, Finance Director Gina Rader, Associate Director of IT Chris Elliott – tele/conference, Parks & Recreation Director Angie Beaston – tele-conference, Police Chief Steve Johnson, Public Works Director John Harty

Recorder – Jill Huffman

Public Participation

None

Approval of Minutes, September 16, 2025

Motion and second to approve minutes were made by Alderpersons Peck/Wagner. Roll call vote: Alderpersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler - yes, Wagner – yes, Peck - yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement Committee

Alderperson Josh Frawley, Chairman

STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Chief of Police presented his written report to the elected officials for their review of which there were no questions or comments, however, the Chief had a couple of additions to the report.

The Chief stated that the Police Department is five officers short: three with injuries, one health related, and one resigned. Two officers are on field training at the academy.

The Chief relayed that last Monday, they participated in Faith in Blue which is an annual event and teamed with the Edgemont Bible Church, where Pastor Doug is one of the volunteers who went through the Citizens Academy. The Illinois State Police helped with the event.

The Chief stated the holidays are approaching and that a bit before Thanksgiving to after Christmas, officers are not allowed a day off.

The Chief relayed that as most know, there was an officer on a traffic stop and a motorist hit the back of the squad car. The Chief has received many calls commenting that the officer handled the situation in a professional manner. He stated that no one was injured in the incident.

Aldersperson Wagner stated that since the Chief has been with the City, there has been more information distributed to the community, especially when good things happen. She believes this has set the standard for other police departments, showing that the Fairview Heights Police Department is above the curve. The Mayor added that it was three years ago yesterday that he called Chief Johnson offering him the Chief position. The Chief believes the Police Department is great due to the support of the City Council.

Aldersperson Peck stated that although an event was not stated in the report, the FOP, officers and staff participated in the 5K run for Special Olympics. Aldersperson Wagner commented that this was posted on social media.

The Chief believes there are 30 Trunk or Treat events, and that the Police Department is invited to every event, however, they cannot attend them all. If the Department is unable to have a table at the event, an officer stops by the event. The Chief stated this creates ties with the community who then supports the officers.

The Mayor questioned the Chief for the Halloween hours. The Chief replied that there are no specific hours, however, the generally accepted hours are from dusk to between 8:30 – 9:00 p.m.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – SEPTEMBER 2025

No discussion.

PURCHASE FOUR (4) 2025 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR VEHICLES

The Chief is requesting that the Committee approve the purchase of four 2025 Ford Police Interceptors. He stated that this is budgeted, and the vehicles are at the dealer.

Aldersperson Peck commented that the vehicles have to be equipped. The Chief stated that they are going to transfer as much equipment as possible to the new vehicles.

Motion and second to forward a resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the purchase of four 2025 Ford Police Interceptors from Morrow Brothers Ford in the amount, not to exceed, \$181,720.00 by Aldersperson Wagner/Peck. Roll call vote showed Alderspersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

PURCHASE 1 POLICE INTERCEPTOR (WRECK REPLACEMENT)

The Chief is requesting the purchase of an additional squad car to replace the vehicle involved in the crash. The insurance carrier claimed this vehicle as a total loss. He stated that there is a vehicle at the dealership.

Aldersperson Wagner questioned what the insurance will cover to which the Chief replied that they do not know. He stated that there are enough funds in the Capital Improvements Plan to cover the difference. The City will be reimbursed for portions of the cost from insurance. The Mayor added that this vehicle was purchased four to five years ago and the interior equipment was not added to the City's insurance policy. He stated that some of the interior equipment may be salvageable, and if necessary, a six-month budget adjustment may be needed. The Chief stated that the City should be paid the worth of the vehicle from the insurance company.

Motion and second to forward a resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the purchase of one 2025 Ford Police Interceptor from Morrow Brothers Ford in the amount, not to exceed, \$45,430.00 by Aldersperson Peck/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderspersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

ITOUCH BIOMETRICS BOOKING SYSTEM

The Chief relayed the problems they have been having with the outdated fingerprint machine. The purchase of a new machine is in the current budget. A new machine will provide digital fingerprinting. After review of three companies, it was determined that iTouch Biometrics was the best company to meet the needs of the Department. The Chief stated that many people come to the Police Department to get fingerprinted, i.e., jobs, licensing, etc., therefore, a secondary machine will be provided by iTouch in the Department's lobby, eliminating the need to take a citizen in the secure area of the Department.

Motion and second to forward a resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval to purchase livescan fingerprint software, including shipping, installation, and training from iTouch Biometrics, Chicago, Illinois for use by the Police Department in the amount, not to exceed, \$19,370.00 by Aldersperson Wagner/Peck. Roll call vote showed Alderspersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

MOTION – DONATE OBSOLETE DJI M200 DRONE TO SWIC

The Chief stated that the first drone the Department purchased is outdated and does currently fly as it would need \$3,000 to \$4,000 to update. The Department's other drones are much more advanced. The Department looked at trading the drone in, however, no one is interested as it needs to be updated. SWIC is interested in using it for training, therefore, the City will sell the drone to SWIC for one dollar.

Motion and second to sell the DJI M200 Drone to SWIC for \$1.00 by Aldersperson Peck/Wager. Roll call vote showed Alderspersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

MOTION/RESOLUTION – 3 SOLAR LPR CAMERAS (UTILITRA) – 159 & LUDWIG

In keeping the public safe, the Chief stated they found a huge advantage utilizing license plate readers. He relayed that the full amount of three cameras is budgeted, however, a grant was submitted to the Illinois Attorney General's office. The additional readers would be located at Ludwig and Illinois Route 159 corridors.

Motion and second to forward a resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval to purchase three Solar Sight 1465 license plate reader cameras, to include a five-year warranty and basic installation from Utilitra in the amount, not to exceed, \$24,300.00 by Alderperson Wagner/Peck. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

Alderperson Peck complimented the Chief on this month's report that included informational and requested items, and was very thorough.

Public Works Committee

Alderperson Josh Frawley, Acting Chairman

OAK, ELM AND CEDAR DRIVE – ENGINEERING PROPOSAL

The Public Works Director presented an engineering proposal associated with Oak, Elm and Cedar Drives near the Pleasant Ridge Road corridor. TWM, Inc. submitted a proposal for the design work. The improvements are for approximately 3,000 feet, a lengthy project. Also included will be Lea Street as there is a portion of Lea that has not been upgraded between Cedar Drive and Bunkum Road. The Director stated he believes the proposal amount of \$114,915.00 is fair and recommends TWM, Inc. for the engineering design.

The Mayor stated that the Ward 1 aldermen will be glad to see this project get underway. Alderperson Menn thanked the Director of Public Works and stated since Oak, Elm, Cedar and Lea will be improved, these streets will no longer have to be oiled and chipped. The Director anticipates construction to begin late summer, 2026.

Motion and second to forward a resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the contract with TWM, Inc. for the design work associated with Oak, Elm and Cedar Drives for a sum of \$114,915.00 by Alderperson Wagner/Peck. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

KADLEC DRIVE – ENGINEERING PROPOSAL

The Public Works Director presented an engineering proposal for Kadlec Drive, also on the Minor Projects Priority List, Capital Improvements Plan. It is in Ward 3 and intersects with Illinois Route 159 near Grand Rental Station and runs west to east. The existing roadway is oil and chip and propose to install curb and gutter, asphalt surface and storm sewer. The improvements are approximately 1,500 feet from Illinois Route 159 to beyond the fire station to Belle Drive. Gonzalez Companies, LLC has provided a proposal for the design work for \$75,000.00 which the Director believes is reasonable; \$80,000.00 is budgeted in the Capital Improvements Plan for engineering.

Alderperson Frawley questioned if this would terminate at the fork in the road to which the Director replied he is proposing to stop beyond the fire station at a property line and pick up Belle with another project. He stated, in time, Kadlec, Elvira, Belle, and East will all be improved, but had to begin with Kadlec as its at the low end.

Motion and second to forward a resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the contract with Gonzalez Companies, LLC for the design work associated with Kadlec Drive for

the sum of \$75,000.00 by Alderperson Wagner/Peck. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

SURPLUS VEHICLES – MOTION TO AUCTION

The Public Works Director requested permission to auction four vehicles: 2016 Ford Explorer, 2017 Ford Explorer, 2017 Ford Interceptor, 2009 Ford Crown Victoria.

Alderperson Peck questioned if these are all police vehicles to which the Director replied yes and one is a detective's vehicle.

Alderperson Peck questioned if these vehicles are auctioned with police markings on them to which the Director replied no, the markings are removed.

The Mayor stated that the listed mileage on the vehicles is drive miles, however, the police have many more idle miles on the vehicles.

Motion and second to direct staff to auction the following vehicles: 2016 Ford Explorer, 2017 Ford Explorer, 2017 Ford Interceptor, and a 2009 Ford Crown Victoria by Alderperson Peck/Wagner. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT/PROJECT UPDATES

The Director presented his written report to the elected officials for their review to which there were no questions or comments.

The Public Works Director relayed that next week, Public Works staff will begin concrete and sidewalk demolition at the Police Department's parking lots. The asphalt contractor should be on site October 27 to mill and overlay the front and back parking lots. The Mayor questioned if this has been coordinated with the Parks Department to which the Director confirmed.

The Mayor questioned the installation of the street lights in Fairview Hills to which the Director replied that he met with Ameren last week and is waiting on a cost differential between the subdivision's lantern-style light and a wood pole light. He stated that the wood pole is free and the lantern-style is not and would like a quote as this would be paid by TIF 1 funds. The Mayor stated that the subdivision sign has been ordered to be placed in front of the subdivision where the guard shack stood. This will also be paid by the remaining TIF 1 funds.

A motion and second was made to adjourn the Operations Meeting by Alderperson Peck/Wagner. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Adjournment 7:31 p.m.

Submitted By:


Recorder