

City of Plymouth
Police and Fire Commission Meeting
Tuesday, August 5, 2025 @ 8:30 A.M.
Room 210
Plymouth City Hall, 128 Smith Street, Plymouth, WI 53073

Members Present: President Mark Melcher, Vice President James Flanagan, Secretary Warren Wieser, Gary Rooker, Tim Lemkuil, Police Chief Ken Ruggles, and Fire Chief Ryan Pafford.

President Mark Melcher, called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. in Room 210 @ City Hall, located at 128 Smith Street, Plymouth, Wisconsin.

Consideration and approval of July 1, 2025, minutes:

A motion made by James Flanagan and second by Tim Lemkuil to approve the Police and Fire Commission meeting minutes of July 1, 2025. Motion carried.

Review and Discussion on Mr. Papendick's Citizen Complaint

President, Mark Melcher, emailed commission members a copy of Mr. Papendick's initial complaint on July 30, 2025. On August 1, 2025, President, Mark Melcher sent commission members a copy of a letter to Mr. Papendick noting that the complaint, was not signed and not notarized. The initial complaint filed seemed to have two different issues. President, Mark Melcher, requested that two complaints be filed separately, since they appear to be different issues. President, Mark Melcher, letter was prepared with the help of City Administrator, Tim Blakeslee and outside attorney, Johnathon Woodward.

At the meeting, Presidents, Mark Melcher, distributed a four-page document from Mr. Papendick's. This four-page document was received by the City of Plymouth after the initial complaint document was received.

Consensus was that Mr. Papendick's complaint was outside the Commission's mission statement. President, Mark Melcher, handed out a draft of a letter that included Plymouth Police and Fire Commission's mission statement. President, Mark Melcher, will meet with City Administrator, Tim Blakeslee before the second letter is mailed.

After review and discussion, a motion by Warren Wieser and second by Tim Lemkuil to table the complaint.

Plymouth Police Department Report by Police Chief Ken Ruggles:

- 1 – Chief Ruggles reported they are in the process of preparing the capital budget for the Police Department. Capital budget cover items such as replacing portable radios (third year), replacing body armor for five officers, second year of Motorola contract, front office refresh, and one squad car.
- 2 - Chief Ruggles reported the first license plate reader has been installed near the Wood Lawn Cemetery.
- 3 – Chief Ruggles reported, besides the capital budget, they are working on the operating budget. The operating budget is projected to be flat this year.

Chief Ruggles discussed Plymouth Police Department staffing. Staff has not increased since 1992, yet the city has experienced considerable increase in population. Plymouth Police staffing levels are on or near the bottom of comparative areas of the state. The city has experienced a 400 % increase in case load over the last five years. Chief Ruggles has prepared extensive comparison data on the need to increase Plymouth Police Department staffing.

- 4 – Chief Ruggles reported the union contract negotiations are nearing completion (about 90 per cent).
- 5 - Chief Ruggles informed commission members of some internal investigations. This may be an agenda item at a future meeting.
- 6 – Chief Ruggles noted coming events, Jazz Crawl, Fallooza, Family Day, and Sheboygan County fair.

Plymouth Fire Department Report by Fire Chief Ryan Pafford:

- 1 – Chief Pafford reported that Plymouth Fire department is working on capital budgets. Capital budget items are thermal imaging cameras, hose replacement, and rectifying a motor issue with one of Plymouth Fire Department engines. The motor needs to be rebuilt at approximate cost of \$93,000.00.
- 2 – Plymouth Fire Department participated in a county wide training this week.
- 3 - Fire Chief Pafford reported the department will focus on ambulance maintenance needs this week.
- 4 – Van Horn Automotive has offered a building on Willow Road for fire department training exercise.

No further action, motion for adjournment at 9:03 A.M. Motion by Gary Rooker and second by Warren Wieser. Motion carried.

Submitted on the fifth of August 2025.

Warren Wieser--- Secretary