



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:30 PM

Virtual meeting via Zoom

The City of Madison is holding the Police and Fire Commission meeting in a virtual format.

Written Comments: You can send comments on agenda items to
pfc@cityofmadison.com

Register for Public Comment:

- Register to speak at the meeting
- Register to answer questions
- Register in support or opposition of an agenda item (without speaking)

If you want to speak at this meeting you must register. You can register at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/MeetingRegistration>. When you register to speak, you will be sent an email with the information you will need to join the virtual meeting.

Watch the Meeting: If you would like to join the meeting as an observer, please visit <https://www.cityofmadison.com/watchmeetings>.

Listen by Phone: (877) 853-5257 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 822 0057 0484

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. All attendees participated via Zoom.

Present: 3 - Kevin C. Gundlach; Mary Schauf and Martha J. Vukelich-Austin

Absent: 1 - Azure D. Fudge Hart

Excused: 1 - Veronica Figueroa Velez

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Gundlach, seconded by Vukelich-Austin, to approve the minutes of December 8, 2025 and January 7, 2026 with the correction that Commissioner Figueroa Velez was excused from the special meeting of January 7.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Public Comment

Commissioner Azure Hart joined the meeting at 5:02pm.

Present: 4 - Kevin C. Gundlach; Mary Schauf; Martha J. Vukelich-Austin and Azure D. Fudge Hart

Excused: 1 - Veronica Figueroa Velez

1. [91470](#) Public Comment for Police and Fire Commission Meeting of January 12, 2026

There was no public comment

Disclosures and Recusals

There were no disclosures or recusals.

2. [91471](#) Notice of City Council's adoption of amendments to the Elected and Appointed Official Code of Conduct

Attachments: [Amended 112525 Elected and Appointed Official Code of Conduct.pdf](#)

City staff provided the text of the code of conduct.

Fire Department Items

Assistant Chief Ron Blumer gave the report of the Madison Fire Department.

3. [91472](#) Consideration and potential action regarding the final recommendation of the Fire Chief to promote/hire candidates following the successful completion of the probationary period:

- i. Derek Brown, Lieutenant, effective January 19, 2026
- ii. Jacob Kuehne, Lieutenant, effective January 19, 2026
- iii. Robert Luling, Lieutenant, effective January 19, 2026
- iv. Robert O'Hagan, Lieutenant, effective January 19, 2026
- v. Laura Prom, Lieutenant, effective January 19, 2026

Attachments: [01-12-2026 MFD agenda.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Vukelich-Austin, seconded by Gundlach, to approve the final recommendation of the Fire Chief to promote Derek Brown, Jacob Kuehne, Robert Luling, Robert O'Hagan, and Laura Prom to the rank of Lieutenant following the successful completion of the probationary period, all effective January 19, 2026.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

4. [91473](#) General status update on 2026 Fire Recruit Academy-Class 63

24 recruits began on January 5, 2026. The tentative graduation date is June 5.

5. [91474](#) General status update on 2026 Apparatus Engineer Promotional Process

Chief Blumer described the promotional process.

6. [91475](#) General status report on Fire Department retirements and resignations
- Assistant Chief Scott Bavery retired January 3 after 28 years of service.
Division Chief Paul Ripp retired January 10 after 30 years of service.
Lieutenant Steve Redmond retired January 2 after 26 years of service.
Lieutenant Jonathon Mast retired January 4 after 27 years of service.
Apparatus Engineer Thomas Winter retired January 3 after 28 years of service.**
7. [91476](#) General status report on Fire Department disciplinary matters
- Chief Blumer reported on two open investigations.**

Police Department Items

- Captain Stephanie Drescher gave the report of the Madison Police Department.**
8. [91477](#) Consider the preliminary recommendation of the Police Chief regarding promotion of candidate and schedule personnel file review
- Attachments:** [2026 PFC Agenda Jan.pdf](#)
- Commissioner Vukelich-Austin will conduct the review.**
9. [91478](#) Consideration and potential action regarding the final recommendation of the Police Chief to promote/hire candidates following the successful completion of the probationary period:
- i. Sam Brier, Sergeant, effective February 2, 2026
 - ii. James Brown, Sergeant, effective February 2, 2026
 - iii. Kyle Dabbs, Sergeant, effective February 2, 2026
 - iv. Lucas Hale, Sergeant, effective February 2, 2026
 - v. Tyler Hess, Detective, effective February 2, 2026
 - vi. Korrie Rondorf, Detective, effective February 2, 2026
 - vii. Jessica Wolf, Detective, effective February 2, 2026
- A motion was made by Vukelich-Austin, seconded by Fudge Hart, to approve the final recommendation of the Police Chief to promote Sam Brier, James Brown, Kyle Dabbs, and Lucas Hale to the rank of Sergeant following the successful completion of the probationary period, all effective February 2, 2026.**
- The motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- A motion was made by Gundlach, seconded by Fudge Hart, to approve the final recommendation of the Police Chief to promote Tyler Hess, Korrie Rondorf, and Jessica Wolf to the rank of Detective following the successful completion of the probationary period, all effective February 2, 2026.**
- The motion passed by voice vote/other.**
10. [91479](#) Status update regarding Police Department probationary status extension
- No action by the PFC is required.**

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11. [91480](#) Schedule special meeting dates to consider Police Department eligibility list and hiring list
The meetings are scheduled for January 26 and February 20.
12. [91481](#) General status report on Police Department retirements and resignations
Captain Drescher reported that Officers Christopher Kobinsky, Carey Leerek, and Chad Joswiak, all of whom joined the department in 1999 are retiring.
13. [91482](#) General status report on Police Department disciplinary matters
There is one open investigation.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Fudge Hart, seconded by Vukelich-Austin, to convene into closed session. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

The commissioners convened into closed session at 5:48pm.

14. [91483](#) Contemplated closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(c) to discuss and take action, if appropriate, regarding employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; specifically:
- a. Consider the preliminary recommendation of the Fire Chief for the promotion of the following candidates and report on personnel file reviews:
 - i. Tim Gorzalski, Lieutenant to Division Chief, effective January 18, 2026
 - ii. David Bridges, Lieutenant to Division Chief, effective January 18, 2026
 - iii. Daniel Barnard, Apparatus Engineer to Lieutenant, effective January 18, 2026
 - iv. Ethan Dade, Apparatus Engineer to Lieutenant, effective January 18, 2026
 - v. Eric Fredrickson, Apparatus Engineer to Lieutenant, effective January 18, 2026
 - vi. Jeffrey Kundert, Apparatus Engineer to Lieutenant, effective January 18, 2026
 - vii. Mark Miller, Firefighter/EMT to Lieutenant, effective February 1, 2026
 - viii. Jameson Duhr, Firefighter/EMT to Apparatus Engineer, effective January 18, 2026
 - ix. Robert Wand, Firefighter/EMT to Apparatus Engineer, effective January 18, 2026
 - x. Grahm Yahn, Firefighter/Paramedic to Apparatus Engineer, effective January 18, 2026

- a. Consider the preliminary recommendation of the Police Chief for the promotion of the following candidates and report on personnel file reviews:
 - i. Ryan Gibson, Sergeant to Lieutenant, effective January 18, 2026
 - ii. Jack Graziano, Officer to Sergeant, effective January 18, 2026

Attachments: [MFD \(Jan 2026\) Upcoming Promotion Recommendations.pdf](#)

These items were discussed in closed session and voted on in open session.

Commissioner Gundlach left the meeting at 6:30pm during closed session.

Present: 4 - Veronica Figueroa Velez; Mary Schauf; Martha J. Vukelich-Austin and Azure D. Fudge Hart

Excused: 1 - Kevin C. Gundlach

15. [91484](#)

Reconvene into open session and take action regarding the items discussed in closed session, if appropriate

A motion was made by Schauf, seconded by Vukelich-Austin, to reconvene into open session.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

The Commission reconvened into open session at 6:39pm.

A motion was made by Schauf, seconded by Fudge Hart, accept the preliminary recommendation of the Fire Chief to promote Lieutenants Tim Gorzalski and David Bridges to the rank of Division Chief effective January 18, 2026.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Schauf, seconded by Vukelich-Austin, to accept the preliminary recommendation of the Fire Chief to promote Apparatus Engineers Ethan Dade, Eric Fredrickson, and Jeffrey Kundert, and Apparatus Engineer 2 Daniel Barnard to the rank of Lieutenant effective January 18, 2026 and to promote Firefighter/EMT Mark Miller to the rank of Lieutenant effective February 1, 2026.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Vukelich-Austin, seconded by Schauf, to accept the preliminary recommendation of the Fire Chief to promote Firefighter/EMTs Jameson Duhr and Robert Wand, and Firefighter/Paramedic Graham Yahn to the rank of Apparatus Engineer effective January 18, 2026.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Schauf, seconded by Vukelich-Austin, to accept the preliminary recommendation of the Police Chief for the promotion of Sergeant Ryan Gibson to the rank of Lieutenant effective January 18, 2026.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Schauf, seconded by Vukelich-Austin, to accept the preliminary recommendation of the Police Chief for the promotion of Officer Jack Graziano to the rank of Sergeant effective January 18, 2026.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Vukelich-Austin, seconded by Fudge Hart, to Adjourn.
The motion passed by voice vote/other.

The meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.