



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Council Session

Item I-4

#2022-373 - Consideration of Approving the Appointment of Kevin Denney as Police Chief

Staff Contact: Mayor Roger Steele

Council Agenda Memo

From: Mayor Roger G. Steele
Meeting: December 20, 2022
Subject: Appointment of Kevin Denney as Police Chief
Presenter(s): Mayor Roger G. Steele

Background

The provisions of the Nebraska Civil Service Act, §19-1805 to 19-1847, applies to all present full time police officers of the City of Grand Island and future appointees to such position including Police Chief. The Civil Service Act and Grand Island City Code §12-2 provides that the Mayor, with the approval of City Council, is the appointing authority for purposes of selecting, appointing, or employing any person to hold a position or employment under the Civil Service Act.

A vacancy in the office of Police Chief will exist due to the announced retirement of the current Police Chief, Robert Falldorf. The Mayor obtained from the City's Civil Service Commission a list of candidates for the office of Police Chief and, with respect to such candidates, considered all relevant factors in the selection of a successor Police Chief as provided by Nebraska Revised Statute §19-1829. From the list of candidates provided by The Civil Service Commission, the Mayor selected Kevin Denney for appointment to the office of Police Chief subject to approval of the City Council.

Discussion

I am pleased to present Kevin Denney as my choice for appointment to the Police Chief position.

Mr. Denney has 29 years of law enforcement experience. He spent the first 22 years of his career with the Irving, TX Police Department. Irving is a city with a population of 225,000 and a police department of 542 employees. While at Irving he supervised the full-time SWAT Team, Patrol Officers School Resource Officers and Criminal Investigators.

Mr. Denney then went on to the Red Oak ISD Police Department as the Chief of Police. Red Oak ISD covers 42 square miles and overlaps 5 municipalities. There he reformed departmental command structure, streamlined processes, cut operating costs, updated policies, and staffed the department with skilled Officers. Denney was with the department for nearly 4 years.

Most currently, Mr. Denney serves at the Chief of Police at the Jarrell, TX Police Department. Denny has been the Chief since August of 2020. In his time he has attracted a group of high quality, diverse and motivated Officers. Other accomplishments include initiating the first School Resource Officer program, improvements to the property and evidence system and planned for the rapid growth of the area. Mr. Denney has also served as the interim City Manager during part of his tenure.

Denney earned a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M in sociology. He has a Masters in Criminal Justice and Masters in Public Administration from Tarleton State University. Denney is near completion of his PhD in Criminal Justice also from Tarleton.

Denney will have a starting salary of \$156,138.30 annually and is prepared to start work on January 16, 2023.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

I recommend the approval of Kevin Denney as the Police Chief.

Sample Motion

Move to approve Kevin Denney as the Police Chief.

RESOLUTION 2022-373

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Nebraska Civil Service Act, §19-1805 to 19-1847, applies to all present full time police officers of the City of Grand Island and future appointees to such position including Police Chief; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Service Act and Grand Island City Code §12-2 provides that the Mayor, with the approval of City Council, is the appointing authority for purposes of selecting, appointing, or employing any person to hold a position or employment under the Civil Service Act; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the office of Police Chief will exist due to the announced retirement of the current Police Chief; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor obtained from the City's Civil Service Commission a list of candidates for the office of Police Chief and, with respect to such candidates, considered all relevant factors in the selection of a successor Police Chief as provided by Nebraska Revised Statute §19-1829; and

WHEREAS, from the list of candidates provided by The Civil Service Commission, the Mayor selected Kevin Denney for appointment to the office of Police Chief subject to approval of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Denney has accepted the offer and is prepared to start work on January 16, 2023 at Step 6 of the Police Chief salary table of \$156,138.30.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that Kevin Denney is hereby duly appointed the Police Chief for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, for such tenure as provided by law.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, December 20, 2022.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
December 16, 2022	☐ City Attorney