



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Council Session

Item H1

Approving Appointment of Steve Lamken as Police Chief

Staff Contact: Brenda Sutherland

Council Agenda Memo

From: Brenda Sutherland, Human Resources Director

Meeting: September 27, 2005

Subject: Appointment of Police Chief

Item #'s: H-1

Presenter(s): Brenda Sutherland

Background

The City's current Chief of Police, Kyle Hetrick, tendered his resignation due to retirement on June 28, 2005. His last day as Chief of Police will be October 16, 2005. At that time the Mayor asked the Civil Service to begin the process of advertising and testing so that a new police chief could be appointed. The Civil Service met on numerous occasions to approve the posting of the position, the testing process and finally to certify the test results and to send forward three names with the highest test scores to the Mayor as eligible for appointment. The testing process involved a written exam and oral evaluations by a committee consisting of Mark McCue, Don Smith, Jerry Watson and Brenda Sutherland.

The three finalists that were interviewed by the Mayor, City Administrator and Human Resources Director were Steven Lamken, Kevin Lindsey and Michael Smitley. The final candidate chosen by the Mayor for appointment underwent professional and criminal background checks as well as a psychological examination.

Discussion

The Mayor has chosen Steven Lamken to be appointed as the new Chief of Police. Should the Council approve his appointment his employment would begin on October 17, 2005.

Mr. Lamken is currently the Director of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. He has been the Director since 1996. Prior to that he was the Chief of Police from '87 – '96 in Kearney and the Chief of Police in Ogallala from '84 – '87. He has been employed in the law enforcement field for 34 years. He has a B.A. in Sociology and a M.A. in Adult Education.

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

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the appointment of Steven Lamken as Chief of Police upon Chief Hetrick's retirement.

Sample Motion

Motion to approve Steven Lamken as the next Chief of Police.