

Police and Fire Commission Meeting

January 5, 2026

6:30 PM

River Falls City Hall
Foster Conference Room
222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI

Police

Fire

POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
January 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall
Foster Conference Room
222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

NOTE: OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

Agenda

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes: October 27, 2025 Regular Meeting

- 1) Action on Removal from Probation for Officer Dylan Horn (effective January 15, 2026)
- 2) Establish Patrol Officer Eligibility List
- 3) Appointments from Patrol Officer Eligibility List
- 4) Authorization to create a new Police Officer Eligibility List

Adjournment

***Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.
No official Council action will be taken.***

NOTE: Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials to be in an accessible location or format may contact City Clerk Amy White at (715)-426-3408 or in person at 222 Lewis Street for accommodations. Requests for accommodations should be made at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodations.

Posted: December 18, 2025 at 4:00 pm

POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

River Falls City Hall
Council Chambers
222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI

Commission President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Lenny Austin, Tom Gunderson, Gary Donath

Commission Members Absent: Jon Longsdorf, Dick Rinehart

Staff Present: Gordon Young

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2025.

MSC Donath/Gunderson. Unanimous.

- 1) Action on Removal from Probation for Officer Lisha Fairbairn (effective October 11, 2025)

Chief Young shared background for Officer Fairbairn and a brief explanation of the probationary period. He shared some positive comments received from victims, peers and supervisors which show Officer Fairbairn's compassion, care, as well as strong written and oral communication skills. She identified future goals to serve the department and community and was recently placed on the Pierce County ERU Team, as well as a recent appointment to the department's Honor Guard unit.

Chief Young requested Officer Fairbairn be removed from probation and placed into Class 1.

MSC Gunderson/Donath to remove Officer Lisha Fairbairn from Probationary status effective October 11, 2025.

Adjournment: **MSC Gunderson/Donath. Unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ailene Splittgerber
Recording Secretary



**RIVER FALLS
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Office of the Chief of Police
2815 Prairie Drive
River Falls, WI 54022
715.425.0909

To: Police & Fire Commissioners
From: Gordon Young, Chief of Police *GY*
Date: December 30, 2025
Re: Patrol Officer Eligibility List and Appointments

After conducting the physical agility test, and oral board interviews, the following applicants scored above 70% and met the Police & Fire Commission rules for the eligibility list:

| Candidate | Oral Interview Raw Score | Total | Veteran's Preference Pts | Total w/Vet Pts | Law Enforcement Certification |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Cole Rebhan | 350 | 87.5 | N/A | 87.5 | Not Certified |
| Destany Pedersen | 330 | 82.5 | N/A | 82.5 | Not Certified |
| Blake Scherer | 286 | 71.5 | 10 | 81.5 | Not Certified |
| Connor Fossum | 315 | 78.75 | N/A | 78.75 | Not Certified |
| Nathan Minor | 256 | 64 | 10 | 74 | Not Certified |
| John Schmieg | 291 | 72.75 | N/A | 72.75 | Not Certified |
| Kory Kanipes | 256 | 64 | N/A | 64 | Not Certified |
| Lukas Bingham | 236 | 59 | N/A | 59 | Not Certified |
| Andrew Kays | 190 | 47.5 | 10 | 57.5 | Not Certified |

(Interviews were held in September, November, and December of 2025)

The police department has been granted by the City of River Falls to hire police officers to replace officers that have resigned and/or retired. Upon the Commissioners approving this eligibility list, I recommend appointing Destany Pedersen and Connor Fossum to the position of police officer.

Upon accepting the offer, Ms. Pedersen and Mr. Fossum must still successfully pass our conditional offer, which will be prepared by Human Resources (i.e. background investigation, chief interview, psychological evaluation, drug, and medical examination).