

**Minutes  
Police Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 6, 2023**

The special meeting of the Police Committee was held Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 4:30 P.M. The following were notified of the time, date, and place of the meeting: Chairman Eddie Kitchen, and Members of the Police Committee, the City Staff, and the press. Present at the meeting were the following: Chairman Eddie Kitchen, Council Members: Kindra Brewton-Pompey, Police Chief Michael Bethea, Lt. Michael Hartson, Lt. Justin Turner, Interim City Administrator Holly Jackson, City Clerk Felicia Sawyer-Norton.

- 1. Call Meeting To Order & Welcome:** Chairman Eddie Kitchen called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.
  
- 2. Disclosure that local media has been informed of meeting pursuant to South Carolina Freedom of Information Act:** Chairman Eddie Kitchen stated the local media had been contacted regarding the time, date, and place of the special meeting for Thursday, April 6, 2023

Chairman Kitchen read the Civility pledge.

- 3. Re:**
  - (a) Continued Concerns over Police Issues**
  - (b) Police Officer Certification**
  - (c) Mutual Aid / County**

Council Chairman Kitchen stated Officer Tyrese Fore graduated in February. Office Branch will graduated two (2) weeks ago, and Officer Tyshawn Davis will graduate next Friday.

Matt Hasbrouck has been hired by the department and will start on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The department currently has thirteen (13) certified officers. The department has lost eighteen (18) officers in the past four (4) years. Lt. Turner stated the department is now using policeapp.com to advertise for new recruits.

Lt. Hartson stated three (3) employees would like to come back to the department due to the pay increase. A full staff would cut overtime. There are two (2) openings. It will take eight (8) full weeks to complete training.

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The target end date for Mutual Aid from the County is the end of April. SRO officers could help out on the road at the end of May.

Councilwoman Pompey discussed a Buddy Pal System. This would give a bonus of \$1,000 to each officer that recruits new employees. \$500.00 now and \$500.00 after six (6) months.

**4. Executive Session:**

**(a) Personnel**

Council Member Kitchen made a motion to go into Executive Session. Council Member Pompey seconded the motion.

**5. Return to Open Session**

Council Member Kitchen made a motion to Return to Open Session. Council Member Pompey seconded the motion. No action was taken.

Council Member Pompey made a motion to present the Buddy Pal Program to Council. Council Member Kitchen seconded the motion.

Council Member Kitchen made a motion for the Police Department to resume normal working hours as of May 6<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Pompey seconded the motion.

These recommendations will be presented at the next Council Meeting.

**6. Adjournment:**

Council Member Kitchen made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Pompey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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Council Member / Police Committee  
Chairman Eddie Kitchen

Attest:

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Felicia Sawyer-Norton, City Clerk

MULLINS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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- CADET TYSHAWN DAVIS GRADUATES FROM THE ACADEMY ON 4/14/23
- CADET MASON HASBROUCK STARTS EMPLOYMENT 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK IN MAY
- OFFICER SHANE BRANCH HAS NOT OFFICIALLY GIVEN NOTICE
- OFFICER JYRESE FORE HAS COMPLETED FIELD TRAINING
- FOUR CERTIFIED OFFICERS HAVE RECENTLY INQUIRED ABOUT EMPLOYEMENT, THREE OF WHICH ARE FORMER EMPLOYEES WHO ARE INTERESTED BECAUSE OF OUR RECENT SALARY INCREASE
- ONE IS JASON WARNER WHO LEFT AFTER BEING AGGRESSIVELY RECRUITED BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS STILL COVERING NIGHT SHIFT FOR THE TIME BEING (WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN CRIME)
- NEARLY ALL AGENCIES ARE HAVING ISSUES WITH HIRING/RETENTION. BELOW IS LIST OF SURROUNDING AGENCIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY SHORT STAFFED

MARION PD  
MARION SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
DILLON PD  
DILLON SHERIFF'S OFFICE