

POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

City of Morgantown

August 25, 2022

4:30 p.m.

Public Safety Building, Police Chief Conference Room
300 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

PRESENT: President Jerry Summers, Commissioner Kevin Clark, Commissioner Charlie Chico, City Clerk Christine Wade, Deputy City Clerk Heather Carl, Captain Solomon, ExecutiveAssistant Jenn Harker, and Master Patrolman Ben Forsythe. Start Time: 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Clark, second by Commissioner Chico, to approve the January 26, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Pursuant to WV State Code 8-14-7 Nomination and election of President of the Commission:

Motion by Commissioner Clark, second by Commissioner Chico, to reappoint Jerry Summers as the President of the Police Civil Service Commission. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Set date and time for next 2022 Entry-level test:

Motion by President Summer, second by Commissioner Chico to set the 2022 Entry-level test for October 22, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS:

A. Letter requesting to reinstate to the Morgantown Police Department:

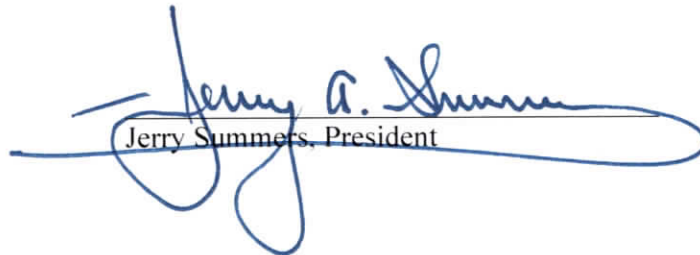
Jenn Harker handed out a letter (Exhibit A) from a previous employee (Dakota Moore) requesting the Police Civil Service Commission to consider accepting his letter of application to be reinstated as a Morgantown Police Officer. After discussion, motion by President Summers, second by Commission Chico, to reinstate him. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, motion by Commissioner Chico, second by Commissioner Clark, to adjourn. Time 4:45 p.m.

Date of Approval:



City Clerk



Jerry Summers, President

Hello, Chief Powell and Members of the Civil Service Commission;

In 2016 I started my career with the Morgantown Police Department straight out of college. My brother-in-law works for a local electricians union. In June, my brother-in-law referred me to an electrical company that was offering 52 dollars an hour for cell phone tower climbers and asked if I would be interested. The manager of the company called me and stated that the work was about an hour away (south of Pittsburgh) and that the company also worked a lot around the Morgantown area.

I really did not want to leave law enforcement, but due to the current economy and recent changes in city policy, I was struggling to make ends meet for my family of five. I thought I couldn't pass up an opportunity to better support my family by doubling my pay by climbing towers

Well, I started the new job and quickly realized that the work was not at all close to my house. So far I have been sent to northeastern Pennsylvania for weeks at a time and even Kentucky. The closest work site that I have been to was two hours away. Some mornings I have to wake up and leave by 2-3 am, drive four or five hours, work a ten hour shift and then drive home.

While I am being paid well climbing towers, I was blindsided by the intense traveling. I've barely seen my wife or children. Furthermore, police work is also the only career I ever wanted and labor work is not rewarding at all to me. I miss helping others and protecting the community. The only good day I have had at this new job was when I was on a rooftop cell site and saw an elderly woman getting ready to fall out of the cab of a large tow truck at the tire shop across the street. She was yelling for help, but no one was coming to help her. I ran over and picked her up and placed her on her feet. At that moment, I realized I had made a horrible mistake by leaving law enforcement. I'm supposed to be helping others, not plugging wires into cell phone antennas. I am a policeman, and that's what I'll always be.

I expressed this to my wife and we agreed that money comes and goes, but I'll never be happy unless I'm serving the community and trying to make a difference in a career that I've been passionate about since a young child. I was a good policeman and I took pride in doing the right thing. I enjoy it, and I enjoy being able to come home to my family after working a shift.

For these reasons, I want to ask to come back to MPD. If there is anything I need to do to make this happen, please let me know.

Thank you,
Dakota J. Moore
304-582-5863

