

JOURNAL OF POLICE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Civic Center, 2 Park Drive South, Commission Chambers
February 20th, 2025 - 9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 AM

ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS: Police Commission members present: Morgan Kasuske, and Tim Shanks. Also present, Lt. Rich LaBard and Applicant(s) Savannah Betts.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. APPROVE December 13th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES.

Commissioner Shanks moved, seconded by Commissioner Kasuske, to accept the minutes from the December 13th, 2024 meeting.

Motion carried 2-0

NEW BUSINESS

1. POLICE COMMISSION'S EXAMINATION OF APPLICANT(S): JOSHUA HARRIS FOR THE POLICE FORCE – GREAT FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Lt. LaBard stated that the application(s) of **Savanah Betts** had been referred to the Police Commission. Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §7-32-4154, this meeting is an examination of the applicant as to their age, legal, mental, moral, and physical qualifications and their ability to fill the office as a member of the police force.

Lt. LaBard read the provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 7-32-4151, that sets forth the role of the Police Commission; reviewed each item provided to the Commission members in their meeting packets; and, read the provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 7-32-303, qualifications of law enforcement officers. He explained that this meeting is for the Police Commission to review the documentation, conduct the examination of each applicant, and make a determination as to whether each applicant meets the qualifications of a law enforcement officer.

He read the provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 2-3-203(3). He asked the applicant's position with regard to their right to privacy. **Applicant(s) Savannah Betts asserted her right to privacy.**

Lt. LaBard noted that there is substantial value in having the examination confidential to have a frank and open discussion with the applicants and to gain an accurate view of qualifications to determine their ability to fill the office as a member of the police force. Lt. LaBard determined that each applicant(s) individual privacy clearly exceeded the merits of public disclosure, and closed the meeting for the Commission to conduct each applicant(s) examination in executive session.

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At 9:10 AM members of the Commission and Lt. LaBard, met in closed executive session in the City Commission Chambers for the purpose of the Commission conducting the examination of applicant(s), **Savanah Betts**.

--EXECUTIVE SESSION--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION--

The meeting reconvened in an open meeting in the City Commission chambers at 9:47 AM.

Lt. LaBard summarized the Commission's examination of the applicant(s) for the police force; that the Commission reviewed the background of the applicant(s); and, that **Savanah Betts**, meet the age, legal, mental, moral and physical qualifications and they are eligible to be a member of the Great Falls Police Department.

Commissioner Kasuske moved, seconded by Commissioner Shanks, that the Police Commission approve of applicant(s), Savanah Betts, for hiring consideration as member(s) of the Great Falls Police Department.

Lt. LaBard asked if there was any public comment. Hearing none, Lt. LaBard asked if there was any further discussion among the Commissioners.

There being no further discussion, Lt. LaBard called for the vote.

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Motion carried 2-0.

Both Commissioners signed the certificate(s) authorizing Savannah Betts to become a member(s) of the Great Falls Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Kasuske moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Shanks, of February 20th, 2025 at 9:48 AM.**

Motion carried 2-0.



Lt. Rich LaBard, Acting Secretary

Minutes Approved: 4/10, 2025