

## Special Meeting Minutes of Woodlawn Park City Council

The Woodlawn Park City Council met on August 13, 2018 at Woodlawn Park City Hall. Present were, Mayor Larry Lewis, Council Members Doug Watson, George Langford, Scott Horn, Tom Nunn, Greg Claypool and Shannon Seidt, and Chief Bob Heaton, Attorney Matt Carey and City Clerk Chana Elswick.

The meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Larry welcomed all visitors to the meeting. He stated the meeting was to discuss the hiring of Lt. Todd Felty. He stated he had several inquiries into the position of Police Chief. He passed out and reviewed Lt. Felty's resume with the Council. He has over 20 years in law enforcement, with 15 years in a supervisory role. Larry reviewed his experience listed on the resume. Larry listed some of his certifications and accomplishments. He received his BA from EKU and his Masters from U of L. Larry stated there was an incident that occurred in 2013. Larry stated it was a lapse in judgement that bled over into Lt. Felty's professional life. Larry discussed the issue with the Council. Larry further reviewed this issue with his professional references. He also reached out to the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Commander for any insights. Both his commanding officer and the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Commander gave him a glowing recommendation, with both stating Woodlawn Park would be fortunate to get Lt. Felty as the Chief.

Lt. Felty addressed the Council. He thanked them for the opportunity to meet with them. He gave some of his personal background. He was a special needs teacher before going into law enforcement. He has been married for 24 years and has 2 sons, 18 and 14. His wife is a speech therapist.

He opened up the discussion for questions.

George asked where he first served. Lt. Felty stated he started in the 5<sup>th</sup> District, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, then 1<sup>st</sup> Division. In 2002 he joined the white-collar crime squad then he went to the 4<sup>th</sup> District. George stated he spoke with a couple of retired LMPD officers. He stated that the situation at the 8<sup>th</sup> Division, when he was confronted, he might have made threatening comments to the person who saw him. Lt. Felty stated this was completely inaccurate. George stated that once you get to Lieutenant, you don't get promoted, it is by appointment. George asked if he had done the same thing, would he have been fired. Lt. Felty stated no, it was not a fireable offense.

Shannon asked since he is currently with LMPD, is he retiring. Lt. Felty stated his last day with LMPD is 08/31/18. His first day of retirement will be 09/01/2018.

Scott asked what his current day looks like. Lt. Felty stated his command is downtown Louisville. Day-to-day he is responsible for that sector, 2 platoons and active on the homeless task force patrols and responsible for payroll. Scott stated that sounded like a busy day, why choose Woodlawn Park. Lt. Felty stated he is retiring from a stressful job. Police Chief would allow him to have a flexible job and to spend time with his special needs son. He stated he is also one of the final candidates for security for a trucking company. The Woodlawn Park job would allow him to tailor time with his family.

Greg stated he understands the interest in retiring and he wants someone that will get to know the residents and be around for a while. He is concerned about longevity and him not getting bored. Lt. Felty stated this is a valid concern. He stated he anticipates it to be a 10-15-year job. He stated he does not know what we are used to, but he plans on it being more than just riding in the car and writing a few tickets. He stated he wants to use technology and to continue the house watch program. He stated we will only be limited by our imaginations. He is comfortable with all aspects of policing. Larry stated that being at the far edge of the division we didn't see LMPD as much. He stated he thinks we will be able to draw/lean on these resources as Lt. Felty has a great relationship with them and the new St. Matthews Chief. He stated we have a low crime rate in the city.

Tom stated Bob did a great job. He didn't write a lot of tickets when he was here. Lt. Felty stated ticketing is a basic element, but it may be necessary. A committed person will have knowledge of the comings and goings and will be the biggest advantage.

Scott asked him to clarify the 2013 incident where he was demoted from Major to Lieutenant. Lt. Felty stated he got involved in an extramarital affair that bled over into his professional life. Since it occurred on the clock, it was a violation. He had a meeting with the Command Center Staff on the day it happened. The most difficult part was what he put his wife and family through. He remained commander for 3 weeks and then was demoted and moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division and then was moved back downtown to operations manager. Scott stated he understood a lapse in judgment and asked how many times it occurred. Lt. Felty stated it happened 5 times. Scott asked, a lapse in moral judgement happened 5 times. Lt. Felty stated 5 times in totality. Scott stated he is not casting judgement but he holds discernment since he only learned of this on Friday at 5:00pm. He is curious as to how he modified his behavior for this to not occur. Lt. Felty stated this changed his professional and personal life. He decided that this could knock him down and he could roll over and coast through his career or take every opportunity to better his job. He had to deal with it being in the newspaper.

Larry stated professional people that knew him best, Chief Conrad and the Deputy Police Chief were among his listed references. If they had any concerns, Larry does not believe they would have been listed.

Scott asked him to clarify the Dunn vs Felty, Supreme Court case. Lt. Felty stated he arrested Dunn for hitting his wife. He used force, he hit him twice with his flashlight to get him to subdue. The case went to trial and was won on verdict. Dunn then filed against Felty in lower court. This case was found to be in favor of Felty and the City. It was appealed and went to the Supreme Court, which upheld the original verdict.

Scott asked Matt if the Council needed to vote on this appointment. Matt stated yes, Council needs to approve or not approve the hire. Matt stated everyone's vote needs to be recorded. Scott read from KRS 83A.130 statute. Scott stated the Mayor has the sole authority to hire and fire. Matt stated he has the authority to fire those he hired. Larry stated he appoints and Council needs to approve the appointment. Matt read KRS 83A.080 statute requires nonelected shall be appointed and removed by the Mayor. And all of these appointments shall be approved by the Council. Greg asked if Council wanted to discuss not in an open meeting. Matt stated there would need to be a motion to move into a closed session. George asked if the votes meant anything. Larry stated yes. Matt stated the Council is the approving body. George discussed some things that occurred when he first came on the Council. He stated Tim hired Jim and Mike hired Bob. Mike Brown stated Council approved Bob's hire.

Greg made a motion to move into closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f), to discuss the appointment of Lt. Todd Felty as Chief of Police. Scott seconded the motion for a closed meeting. Shannon voted no to move into closed session. George, Scott, Doug, Tom and Greg voted aye. The Council began the closed session at 7:40 pm and the merits and the opposing views to the appointment of Lt. Felty was discussed. No final action was taken in the closed session. Council returned from the closed session at 8:02 pm. Larry thanked everyone for waiting for the closed session. A roll call vote was taken regarding the appointment/hiring of Lt. Todd Felty as Woodlawn Park Police Chief. Shannon-Aye, George-Nay, Scott-Nay, Doug-Nay, Tom-Aye, Greg-Aye. Chana stated since there was a tie vote, Mayor Lewis would cast the deciding vote. Mayor Lewis -Aye. Mayor Lewis stated the Aye's have it and the appointment of Lt. Felty as the Police Chief of Woodlawn Park was approved.

Mayor Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chana R. Elswick  
City Clerk