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Police chief evaluated



Chiefland Police Chief Scott Anderson prepares to hear from the City Commission on Monday evening (June 12).

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © June 14, 2017 at 3:07 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- Police Chief Scott Anderson received his six-month evaluation from the Chiefland City Commission during a meeting Monday evening (June 12).



Chiefland City Commissioner Teresa Barron looks at the budget. The empty seat next to her is where City Commissioner Rollin Hudson sits.

City Commissioner Rollin Hudson was not present for that meeting, which started at 5:30 p.m., but he was at the regular twice-monthly meeting that started a half-hour later.

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All five city commissioners previously had provided their written scores and comments. City Commissioner Hudson noted his pleasure at having a police chief who lives in the city limits now.



(from left) Chiefland Mayor Betty Walker, City Commissioner Donald Lawrence and Vice Mayor Chris Jones prepare to speak to Police Chief Scott Anderson.

Vice Mayor Chris Jones opened the verbal commentary during the meeting.

He said he is happy overall with the work that Chief Anderson has done in his first six months. Jones said he sees a little different methodology used than former Chief Robert Douglas, as Jones added that it not either bad or good.

Jones said he is pleased to have seen Chief Anderson "clean up some of the bad elements around here" in a professional manner.

Another point that Vice Mayor Jones noted was his pleasure at seeing the police officers going into the community and meeting people on a one-to-basis.

City Commissioner Donald Lawrence said he is absolutely pleased with the work shown by Chief Anderson and the Chiefland Police Department's personnel. In his poll of the police force members, Lawrence found everyone was well pleased by the chief.

As for Lawrence highlighting a point, he mentioned his happiness at seeing the police chief working within a budget that was created before Anderson accepted the office. Lawrence mentioned that he was glad to see the chief leading the Annual Watermelon Festival Parade.

Lawrence said he noticed the picture of Chief Anderson in HardisonInk.com, as well as seeing the photo of Vice Mayor Jones driving the fire engine. The city commissioner also mentioned that he thought Mayor Betty Walker was obviously enjoying running the siren on the fire engine during the parade.

Lawrence said he is glad, too, to see the CPD working with the Levy County Sheriff's Office and the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office. Chief Anderson acknowledged that, adding "Their problems are our problems."

City Commissioner Teresa Barron mentioned that she sees the chief is at 70.2 percent

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on the budget, which she considers to be close. Barron also provided her opinion on the amount of traffic infraction enforcement.

Barron previously had commented to the chief that she had heard comments from people who thought the CPD was too zealous on that enforcement. There were some significant drug arrests in the past six months as a result of officers enforcing traffic laws in the city limits.

Barron said she appreciates the chief's work.

Mayor Walker said she advises the chief to not worry about the money, because that is not something he can control. She said she understands there are times when there may be an amendment needed due to circumstances calling for officers to put in more time.

The mayor also said she is thankful for the success of the CPD in making the city even safer from the criminal element than it has been.

Like Vice Mayor Jones, Mayor Walker said she is very happy to see the officers having friendly conversations with people as they let everyone know the police are friends of the law-abiding public.

Chief Anderson said he is thankful for the opportunity to lead the CPD.

"This is my home," Chief Anderson said. "This is my heart."

Following are the total numeric values awarded to Chief Anderson from an extensive review form completed by each City Commission member:

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Mayor Betty Walker: 211

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Vice Mayor Chris Jones: 183

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City Commissioner Teresa Barron: 167

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City Commissioner Rollin Hudson: 169

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City Commissioner Donald Lawrence: 225