

POLICE: Mayor won't comment on outcome

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port to a complainant and left the borough on personal business while on duty.

Wednesday's meeting, attended by about 75 residents, recessed at about 9 p.m. so Mr. Lauer and the borough's solicitor, Jeffrey Bortner, could talk. When the hearing resumed, Mr. Lauer suggested terminating the hearing with a letter of reprimand to the chief. Mr. Bortner then asked if the reprimand could include a suspension. Mr. Lauer said no.

A motion to terminate the hearing with a written reprimand placed in the chief's permanent file was approved by five of the council's seven members. The chief was not suspended. The five voting to reprimand the chief were Deborah Dominick, James Merrick, Jon Nicklow, Phyllis Thompson and Greg Shaffer. Councilman Greg Lytle abstained and the other council member, Janice Dean did not vote, at the request of Mr. Lauer, because she is the mayor's wife.

The mayor, who does not vote, refused to comment on the outcome, angrily putting his paperwork into a folder.

The chief declined comment after the hearing. But during the hearing he testified Officer Fry pulled a gun on a Glen Rock woman stopped for a traffic violation, something he would not have done. He also testified Officer Fry beat a handcuffed man.

At that point, Donald Wholaver, who the chief said Officer Fry beat, left the meeting in anger.

"Herman arrested me for drunk driving but I never had any trouble from him," Mr. Wholaver said. "But Johnny Cop (Officer Fry) arrested me and while he had me in handcuffs beat my head up against the wall."

Mr. Wholaver said he attended the hearing to testify on behalf of the chief. He did not testify.

Mr. Lauer said the chief planned to continue his job.

"At this point the chief will forward all reports regarding Officer Fry's misconduct to the mayor, borough council and district attorney," Mr. Lauer said.

A majority of the residents at the hearing were there to support the chief. But a few were unhappy

with the decision.

"Since Herman will remain on duty in Glen Rock, I will now present council with a list of more serious charges against him," said Cecil Artrip, a Glen Rock businessman, who testified last week.

"I testified only to what was asked of me," Mr. Artrip said. "But I have logged a list of serious offenses which I will bring to council's attention prior to the next borough meeting."

He said he would present proof after consulting with other business owners in the borough.

As the night approached in Glen Rock Wednesday, the air became cooler but talk about the borough and allegations made against its police chief began warming things up.

Hours before the 7:30 p.m. meeting, residents expressed their views of the mayor's complaints against the chief and how the two borough police officers have become polarized.

"If you can't trust your backup and you're a police officer..." said Dona Altland, a Glen Rock resident of 27 years. "I wouldn't want to be working like that."

Tim Poe, a cashier at Getty's Mart, on Main Street, said he has "heard it all." Residents have been coming into the gas station/convenience store in the center of town to talk about the issue and about the chief and Officer Fry.

"They're both good cops," Mr. Poe said. "They just have their own ways about them."

The allegations also included the chief washing his personal car with borough water; appearing out of uniform while on duty, encouraging citizens to take complaints about Officer Fry to an attorney; telling someone who reported a stolen scanner that he had one for sale before taking the report and failing to investigate a disturbance at the Glen Rock Mill Inn.

"Some of them (charges) are a little silly, but when you put them all together, there's a problem," Officer Fry said before Wednesday's hearing.



Record photo by Bill Bowden

Glen Rock police officer John Fry is handed a paper by Police Chief Jim Herman's lawyer Patrick Lauer during a hearing Wednesday in Glen Rock. Mayor Donald Swartz brought 21 charges against Mr. Herman which were aired in Tuesday's hearing. After near two hours of discussion in the borough hall, during which Mr. Fry testified against his chief, Mr. Herman was given a written reprimand.