



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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RICKY JACKSON, PRESIDENT
CHARLES WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, COMMISSIONER
GREG DEUTSCHER, COMMISSIONER
JOHN STIMLEY, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: March 1, 2021

President Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. At this time, President Jackson asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Charles Williams, Bob Pollock, and Greg Deutscher all in attendance. Commissioner John Stimley was tardy. Also present was Fire Chief Doug Legault.

Approval of Minutes- Discussion ensued to approve the minutes from the February 1st, 2021 meeting, as well as the January payroll. A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. At this time, President Jackson asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Communications/Claims- Discussion continued regarding payroll - \$150 for each commissioner and \$500 for the attorney. This adds up to \$1,250. A motion to accept was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Pollock states that 6% of the budget has been used so far. He also briefly mentions costs regarding advertisements. A movement was made by Commissioner Pollock to accept the budget report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Report from City Council Representative- No Report

Report from Union Local 475- No report.

Report from Fire Chief Doug Legault- Chief Legault makes note that Probationary Firefighter Logan Kaletha has passed his EMT training and is now able to be considered a 1st Class Firefighter A motion to accept was made by Commissioner Williams. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Chief Legault made note of Firefighter Garner's retirement as of February 26, 2021. A motion to accept was made by Commissioner Pollock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deutscher. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Following the previous discussion, Chief Legault announced the resignation of Firefighter Roddy, effective March 5, 2021. The chief also announced the retirement of Driver/Operator Brad Neulieb, effective March 14, 2021.

Effective March 23, 2021, Probationary Firefighters Joshua Hughes and Victoria Armstrong will have met their requirements to be promoted to 1st class Firefighters. Chief Legault and the commission agreed to discuss it further at the next meeting.

Department Anniversaries:

Battalion Chief Howard Fuller	37 years
Captain Dennis Wantland	32 years
Captain Scott Kaletha	18 years
Captain Mike Jasnieski	18 years
Lieutenant Andre Glover	10 years
Driver/Operator Shannon Borders	9 years
Training Officer Jason Weiss	9 years
Driver/Operator Sean Baker	7 years
Firefighter Kyle Neulieb	3 years
Firefighter Joshua Hughes	1 year
Firefighter Victoria Armstrong	1 year

On April 1st, 2021, Chief Legault will be asking for the next name on the hire list. This will bring the roster to 81. He will also be asking for a driver/operator.

Chief Legault stated that the department evaluations are finished and ready to be turned over, apart from two missing evaluations which he will give to the commission sometime within the next week.

Old Business- Discussion ensued amongst the commissioners regarding applications. Applications are being accepted through the 19th of this month.

Commissioner Pollock mentioned discussion under former Fire Chief Novak regarding the installation of a baby box at the Fire Administration building on Michigan Boulevard.

New Business- No report.

Public Comment- Mayor Duane Parry handed out papers to the commission and the acting attorney regarding voting records. He then proceeded to comment that, after a discussion with Union Local 475 President Barrett Taylor, Commissioner Deutscher does not qualify for

appointment in any of the areas, making note that he has not casted a vote in recent years. He also states that because of Commissioner Deutscher's address, he is not considered a Michigan City resident. Due to this, as well as his voting record, Mayor Parry asked for the removal of Commissioner Deutscher.

President Jackson noted that he had already discussed the situation with both the commission and city attorneys. Until he is presented with something from a judge, Commissioner Deutscher will stay on the commission.

Union Local 475 President Barrett Taylor made a comment stating that he is unaware of when this discussion with the mayor took place. He stated that, while he did receive a letter from the mayor, there was no actual discussion. Mayor Parry noted that he did, in fact, send an email to President Taylor. As a rebuttal, President Taylor stated that he never did reply to the email or discuss the topic at hand with the mayor himself.

The mayor then stated that he received the previously mentioned information but is now unsure of where he received it from. President Taylor then goes on to explain how nominations work.

Mayor Parry moved on to discuss the incident in November regarding three Fire Department members. He mentioned a similar situation that happened a few years prior. The mayor reminded those present that this behavior is unacceptable. He made the request to have two of the individuals ranked lower and have another suspended for six months without pay. He asked the commission to consider his requests.

Captain Andrew Knouse made a comment regarding whether names are to be released publicly in a situation like this. He also mentions that calling for termination in a situation where the individuals have not yet been before a court is going against the idea of "innocent until proven guilty". a

Commission Comment- Commissioner Deutscher made note that the voting records are incorrect and that he has provided his personal information to the commission attorney.

President Jackson reminds those present of the executive session and special meeting on the morning of March 2nd, 2021.

Captain Kyle Kazmierczak was then asked to stand. President Jackson noted that Captain Kazmierczak was still with the Fire Department and was not fired despite what media outlets have said.

Commissioner Deutscher also made a comment to the mayor stating that they had both been at the republican breakfast. He then went on to say that he has always been a republican and has not switched voting parties.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pollock at 5:34 pm and seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion Carried 5-0.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 5th, 2020 at 5:00 PM. A special meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 at 9:00 AM.