

POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: July 11, 2016

FINAL

In Attendance:	Chairman	Alderman Johnnie Anthony	
	Members	Alderman Joe Hazel Alderman Kent Randle Alderman Paul Seibert Alderman Elmore	Alderman Jane Pusa Alderman Phil Silsby Alderman Jim Musgrove
	Staff	Police Chief William Clay Mayor Mark Eckert	Fire Chief Tom Pour City Treasurer Dean Hardt
	Guests	Alderman Raffi Ovian Michael Hagberg	Alderman Roger Wigginton

Alderman Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The Emergency Evacuation Plan was explained. Motion made by Alderman Seibert, seconded by Alderman Hazel to approve the minutes from May 9, 2016. All present voted Aye, motion carried.

Public Participation

Michael Hagberg mentioned to Fire Chief Pour about a church operating out of 719 Centreville Avenue, installing gas meters with no protection around them as it could be a serious health issue because they were wheeling around a dumpster. Chief Pour said he did talk to them and told them they had to fill out an occupancy permit, which would then cover all the inspections needed. Mayor Eckert stated they had a meeting with them regarding the same, however, no paperwork has been filled out as of yet.

Staff Reports

Fire Department

Chief Pour stated the new inspection program is working much better now. Anytime there is a change of business, it's entered into their system and that automatically gets emailed to City Hall. It is much more efficient, but it will take time for it all to work.

Lindenwood has chosen Gateway Fire Protection to do all the sprinklers on the houses. They will submit a schedule to Chief Pour, work until school starts, on school breaks and next summer to be all completely done by August of 2017.

Next, Chief Pour said he's been talking to District 118 about going into the junior high Health classes and giving them the next level of fire safety education. Currently, they only do the smoke house for grades 2-4. They will take fire extinguishers and the students how to use them, show them how to make an exit plan for their home, home alone plan & when and why to call 911.

Chief Pour then talked in length about the pay/rank differential at the Fire Department between their own contract language and the difference at the Police Department. The Mayor explained some differences started in 2008 when Battalion Chiefs came back on. During some lean years (2008-2012) not many got raises. It is being talked about to look at the pay gaps. Some of it stems from having to build Engine House 4, hire four new firefighters and buy a new fire truck. They also created the Deputy Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief then, so trying to bridge that gap.

Alderman Wigginton asked what the difference was between the Deputy Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief. Deputy is appointed, second in command and is the training officer. The Assistant is responsible for fire prevention. The department's training has greatly increased which allowed the City to get an ISO 2 rating.

Alderman Elmore asked about overtime. Battalion Chiefs can earn overtime and work as a Captain also. So with their overtime, they can sometimes earn more than the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief, same as a Sergeant (in the Police Dept.) can work overtime and earn more than the Police Chief and Assistant Police Chief. The difference is a lot of the overtime worked by the Police Department is reimbursed by the event, whereas only some of the training for the Fire Department is being reimbursed.

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Alderman Silsby believes the Fire Chief should make more than the Battalion Chief's and should make as much as the Assistant Police Chief. He believes at some point it needs to be rectified. Mayor Eckert agrees with that, however, this year's budget is maxed out so it needs to be looked at closely for next year's budget.

Alderman Wigginton said we should be comparing our Fire Department with other similarly sized fire departments and not our police department. Chief Pour stated they do in fact do that during contract negotiations time.

Alderman Pusa entered at 6:34 p.m. Alderman Randle entered at 6:42 p.m.

Alderman Randle believes the Battalion Chiefs are administrative and don't belong in the union. If we can't find Battalion Chief's to take the test for Assistant Chief, can it be opened up to Captains? Could it be possible to remove the Battalion Chief's positions?

Mayor Eckert says we need to take a good look at next years' budget and need to strategize for the next contract negotiation on these issues.

Motion made to call for a vote by Alderman Hazel, seconded by Alderman Silsby. All present voted Aye, motion carried.

Police Department

Motion was made at 7:03 p.m. by Alderman Elmore to go into Executive Session. All present voted Aye, motion carried.

Regular meeting resumed at 7:26 p.m.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Motion made at 7:27 p.m. by Alderman Silsby, seconded by Alderman Seibert to adjourn. All members present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Prepared by
Lynda Bohanon