

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER LARRY L. BENTLEY

REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Commissioner Larry Bentley

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Chris King; Deputy Chief Michael McCallum; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Capt. Hines, Local 830; Mr. Ray Burney, Personnel

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 15, 2019.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2019 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2019 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto said that he had signed a contract with the City and was pleased that he would be serving with the Department for another two years.

Chief Gatto then reviewed the figures for the current budget and said that the Department was currently under budget. He said that there had been a number of fire fighters who were out on long term illness leave or injury on duty but most were back on duty. He reviewed the details included in the information packet with the Commissioners.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report.

Assistant Chief King reviewed the various categories of fire calls as outlined in his reports for October 2019. He noted that there was a slight increase in the number of calls over last year. Assistant Chief King also reviewed the notable incidents that occurred during the month with the Commissioners.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities.

b. Fire Reports.

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report. He noted that there had been an increase in the number of recent inspections that were performed. Discussion followed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Chief Gatto presented Ms. DeLuca's report.

There was a Public Safety meeting held last week at City Hall to review Emergency responses and the procedure when the Governor activates an Extreme Cold Call.

There will be a small tabletop exercise held on December 3rd in the EOC on snow removal and related issues. The Snow Center area on the Internet has been well received by the departments that are most affected.

On December 12th Bridgeport will host the Annual Statewide Exercise for Region 1 with a focus on a cyber attack on the power grid with a long term power outage.

The test for the phone paging system for City Hall will take place in the next few weeks.

A recent fire drill held at City Hall went well and there is another one scheduled for the spring.

There was a Climate Resilience Conference at Fairfield University, which several departments attended. This was focused on developing a framework in terms of climate change and how it might impact Norwalk.

TRAINING REPORT.

Company Training Objectives

Chief McCallum reviewed the Training Division Report with the Commissioners.

- a. Fire Prevention Month, Presentation at Schools, Tours of Fire Department**
- b. Fairfield County Trauma Response Team Seminar**
- c. Hose Testing**
- d. Update New Recruit**

Deputy Chief McCallum presented his report

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

Capt. Hines said that they had delivered a total of \$1,500 worth of turkeys between three different locations: St. Vincent DePaul, The Open Door Shelter and one of the churches.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on regional exam

Chief Gatto said that the Commissioner had voted to enter into the consortium and there will be a roll out of the program on December 2nd. The OI Solutions Internet page will go live and potential applicants will be able to use the site to review information on each of the towns and fill out applications. There will be a press release about this. Discussion followed.

Assistant Chief King noted that Norwalk will be one of the test sites. Deputy McCallum said that there would be scholarships available. Mayor Rilling said that if a candidate graduates from the academy, the candidate would be reimbursed.

b. Update on Building Repairs

- 100 Fairfield Avenue --**Capt. Hines said that the Facilities Maintenance building roof was completed.

- **Station 1 & 4** – New condensing boilers are being installed.
- **Station 1** – The scope and plans have been completed and Purchasing is reviewing it with the goal of start in spring.
- **Station 4** – New windows have been installed.
- **East Norwalk** is about to undergo work on the apparatus floor. Building permits are being pulled today.
- **Station 2** – There is a leak but the building is still under warranty

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto shared a recent thank you email with the Commissioners. (See attached)

NEW BUSINESS.

There were no item to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

a. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **Discussion concerning CT Fire Academy**

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE CT FIRE ACADEMY.**

**** THE MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Chief Gatto, Assistant Chief King, Deputy Chief McCallum, and Mr. Burney entered into Executive Session to discuss the Entry Level Exam at 3:37 p.m. They returned to public session at 3:55 p.m. No actions or motions were made during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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