

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling [via conference call], Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Deputy Chief McCallum; Michelle DeLuca, Emergency Management; Raymond Burney, Personnel Director; Firefighter James Lyons; Firefighter William Ireland, Local 830

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

PERSONNEL

a. Firefighter James Lyons Meritorious Service Bar Award.

Firefighter James Lyons along with his father, uncle and cousin were present. Chief Gatto explained that off duty Firefighter Lyons was at the Shore and Country Club when there was an explosion on a boat about 100 yards from shore. Firefighter Lyons immediately jumped into the water to assist the boaters who were now in the water.

Commissioner Destruge presented Firefighter Lyons with a Meritorious Service Bar Award. Mayor Rilling congratulated and thanked Firefighter Lyons for his heroic actions. Chief Gatto said that there would be a more formal ceremony in the spring.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 20, 2020.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2020.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE**: please add “Local 830 Vice President Peter Brown.”

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2020 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto presented his report and said the Department is one third of the way into the budget year and precisely at 33% of the budget. October has five weeks, so the salary account appears to be over budget.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report.

Chief Gatto presented the report as contained in the packet and reviewed the totals for September with the Commissioners.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities.

b. Fire Reports.

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Chief Gatto presented the Fire Marshal's Report to the Commissioners. The number of inspections has increased and the Department collected \$3,020 in fees. There were 8 investigations during the month. Fire Marshal Sawyer is out on medical leave and one of the other Fire Marshals is home with a post surgery family member.

Mayor Rilling requested that the Commission be notified when Firefighters are out on leave. Chief Gatto made a note of this.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said most of the damage from the storm on Sunday night has been cleaned up. However, there are still some outages. DPW is working on re-opening the closed streets with downed trees or wires.

Ms. DeLuca said she was working with the local groups for the regional food distribution. There are discussions underway about winter food distribution. There are also discussions with the Health Department about establishing a procedure for handling future mass vaccinations.

Mayor Rilling thanked Ms. DeLuca for setting up the Code Red notification in both English and Spanish.

TRAINING'S DIVISION REPORT.

Company Training Objectives

- **New Portable Radio Overview and Classroom Training**
- **Issue new SOP's for Fire Ground Operations**
- **Issue and Review New COVID 19 Response Updates**

Deputy Chief McCallum presented his report. There are 50 new portable radios. Deputy Chief McCullough gave the details and spoke about upgrading the radios to a digital system to remain comparable with dispatch. There will also be communications with the local mutual aid towns and also be able to contact other Connecticut towns by using their assigned channels.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

Firefighter Ireland said the annual turkey donations was done this year. They picked up the turkeys at Shoprite. He gave a quick list of where the turkeys were delivered.

Firefighter Ireland confirmed that the contract had been ratified.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Building Repairs.

- **Station 1** – Station #1 project is nearing completion.

• **Station 5** – Mrs. Anderson will be present on Tuesday at 2:00 for the unveiling of the plaque. Chief Gatto said that he would be sending out a invitation to the Commissioners for the unveiling soon.

NEW BUSINESS.

Chief Gatto reported that the RFP had ended on November 13th. He reviewed the projected timeline, including the schedule for when interviews would be held.

CORRESPONDENCE

There is no correspondence to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

- **Discussion of New Assistant Chief Position**
- **Discussion on Possible Disability Pension**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Burney, Firefighter Ireland and Chief Gatto entered into Executive Session at 3:30 p.m. They returned to public session at 3:55 p.m.

No motions were made or actions taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services