

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

REGULAR MEETING
September 15, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling [via conference call]; Commissioner Larry Bentley, Commissioner Oscar Destruge (3:04 p.m.)

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Deputy Chief McCallum;
Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Raymond Burney, Personnel
Director; Billy Ireland, IAFF Local 830 President; Deputy Fire
Chief Albert Bassett

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – July 21, 2020.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF
JULY 21, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2020 AS
SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

a. Update on Assistant Mechanic

Commissioner Destruge joined the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Chief Gatto said that originally a candidate was given a conditional employment offer but declined. After reporting the job and interviewing some new candidates, another candidate that happens to be a Norwalk resident was offered the position and has accepted the job.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto presented his report and noted that they would now be reporting on the overtime costs by codes. He then reviewed what the various codes listed.

Mayor Rilling congratulated the Chief for ending the year under budget.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report.

Chief Gatto said that he had both July and August reports for the Commissioners. He noted that there were 80 fewer calls during the month of July than there were last year. He reviewed the significant calls and their outcomes.

During August, there were 687 calls, which were 81 calls more than last year. Chief Gatto noted that on August 4th, Tropical Store Isaías generated over 50 calls and this was followed by 20 calls concerning improper use of gas generators.

Mayor Rilling asked if it would be possible to write an Op Ed for the newspaper and also contact the media about the proper use of gas generators.

Chief Gatto reviewed the significant calls and their outcomes, including noting the efforts of several off duty police and fire men at the scene of a boat fire.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities.

b. Fire Reports.

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Mayor Rilling asked why there have been an increase in the number of vehicle fires.

The Deputy Fire Marshal explained that there were three car fires during the last two months. He said that he had investigated the one on Connecticut Avenue, which was related to the cooling fan. One fire in a truck happened in the bed of the truck and the cause of the third one had not yet been determined. There was no common denominator.

Chief Gatto noted that there were two additional car fires on the highway, which the Fire Marshals do not cover.

The Deputy Fire Marshal reviewed the statistics with the Commissioners. Now that restaurants and bars are re-opening, the liquor and food licensing inspections have increased. Mayor Rilling said that it would be important to stay up to date on inspections. Chief Gatto said that the moratorium on multi-family residence inspections has expired.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Chief Gatto presented Ms. DeLuca's report to the Commissioners.

TRAINING'S DIVISION REPORT.

Company Training Objectives

- **New Cleaning and inspection Guidelines for Firefighting Gear.**
- **New Persona Escape System, Qualifications and Inspections**
- **Review SCBA with 25 second Drill**

Deputy Chief McCallum said that he had the test documents for the Commissioners to sign.

Deputy Chief McCallum then gave a brief overview of the Personal Safety gear equipment.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

Mayor Rilling said that they had submitted a contract extension. Firefighter Ireland said this was going to discuss and the union would be voting to ratifying it soon.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Station 1** – Station #1 project 3/4th complete, is on time and within budget.
- **Station 2** - Hired architect for reconfiguring locker room for female firefighters.
- **Fairfield Avenue** -- No leaks from the roof.

NEW BUSINESS.

Chief Gatto said that they need to consider starting the recruitment process in order to look at the fall class next year. Mayor Rilling said that they know that there will be some retirements, so they need to move the process forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto said that there were a few letters in the packet, which he summarized for the Commissioners.

PERSONNEL

a. Discussion of New Assistant Chief

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Burney and Chief Gatto entered into Executive Session at 3:43 p.m. They returned to public session at 3:59 p.m.

No motions were made or actions taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services