

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 17, 2022

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Assistant Chief Edward McCabe; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Michele DeLuca, Emergency Management, Deputy Chief of Training Adam Markowitz, Linda Shields, Fire Lt. Peter Brown.

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 – April 19, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2022.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 3, under Assistant Fire Chief of Operations, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from

“The Equipment Committee will be”
To: The Truck Committee will be”

Page 4, under Local 830 Report paragraph 1, line 2: please change the following

From: "Monday, May 15 the annual Golf Tournament"
to "Monday, May 16 the annual Golf Tournament"

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2022
MEETING 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. The Department is 10 months in to the budget year. It appears that the Department will be under budget in salary. He reviewed the projected costs for the remaining two months and said that it appears they will be coming in under budget.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S OF ADMINISTRATION REPORT

a. ESO RMS Upgrade

- o Data Migration nearing completion
- o Initial Department Training nearing completion
- o Fire Marshal Division Tablets received, allowing inspections to be performed on site with ESO. Field testing to begin.

b. Citywide Communications Upgrade

- o New Radio Template Build/Reprogramming in progress
- o PURVIS Fire Station Alerting System contract submitted to Corporation Counsel for review.

c. Buildings

- o Station 1 Update
 - o Target completion date: June 1
- o Station 3 Apparatus Floor
 - o Awaiting Engineer's drawings
- o Station 5 New Roof Installation
 - o Contract awarded to Gill & Gill Architects
- o Station 5 Bathroom Renovation
 - o Planning phase to upgrade the firefighters' bathroom.

Assistant Chief Mark Conte presented his report and answered the Commissioners' questions.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

- a. Weekly MAYDAY test training for Deputy Chiefs, Chief's Aides, and Dispatchers.
- b. Met with the Public Safety and General Government Committee of the Common Council to explain inconsistencies in the Evergreen study with regard to the Fire department and overtime.
- c. Began process of developing the specifications and preparing to go out to bid for 2 new fire engines
- d. Traveled with truck committee members to the Seagrave plant in Wisconsin for the final inspection of Norwalk's new Aerial ladder truck

Assistant Chief Edward McCabe presented his report.

He said that he had been speaking with members of the Red Cross and they have also have noticed an increase in the number of fires.

Assistant Chief Edward McCabe then gave a brief overview of the major incidents that happened in April.

Assistant Chief Edward McCabe added that there had been a major fire on Nelson Avenue last week with a fatality. The full report will be presented in next month's report. He also updated the Commissioners on the status of the Fire Captain that was injured during the blaze.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

- a. Summary of Activities.**
- b. Fire Reports.**
- c. Fire Marshal Fees.**
- d. Alarm Administrator Fee Information**

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

- a. Emergency Management Update.**

Ms. DeLuca said CT Municipality Conference met for the first time since COVID for a one day program.

Ms. DeLuca said that the Summer Safety water bottles for seniors was up and running. The bottles have been given to the Department's partners for distribution to those who are vulnerable.

The Hurricane Tabletop is scheduled for May 24th. Hurricane season starts on June 1st.

The firework display is scheduled for the first time in two years.

TRAINING'S DIVISION REPORT.

- a. Search and Rescue Training**
- b. New Rec**
- c. Forcible Entry/Metal Cutting Class**
- d. 45' Ladder Training**
- e. King Industrial Site Tour**
- f. Man Overboard Training**
- g. Car on its Roof Training**

Deputy Chief of Training Adam Markowitz presented his to the Commission. Chief Gatto said that the last photo included the five recruits during Fire Training.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

Lt. Brown said that there was a number of support groups that reached out because of the tragic events on Nelson Avenue. There were two sessions earlier in the day for the firefighters who were at Nelson Avenue.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Part-Time Fire Inspectors

Chief Gatto said that there were 8 applicants that applied. Fire Marshal Sawyer and Chief Gatto selected two candidates, and subsequently, one applicant accepted a job elsewhere. The remaining candidate has been hired and will start next week. The job has been posted on a different list serve and more

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter Attached.

Chief Gatto said that Lt. Lyons had written a letter about a mother who wished to thank the Department for responding to her residence to assist with a younger family member. The individual had expressed her thankfulness by donating some gift cards to the Department.

Commissioner Destruge asked what time the Memorial Day parade starts. Mayor Rilling said that the parade starts at 10 and they should be on site by 9:30 a.m.

PERSONNEL

There was no Personnel issues to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services