

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

REGULAR MEETING
April 20, 2021

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Larry Bentley,
Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Al Bassett; Assistant Chief
Edward McCabe; Deputy Fire Marshal Kirk McDonald; Lt. Peter
Brown, Local 830; Michelle DeLuca, Emergency Management;
Deputy Chief of Training Adam Markowitz; Fire Marshal
Broderick
Sawyer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 16, 2021

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 16,
2021.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE AND FORWARD:** Please change all references to
“Deputy Fire Marshal A. McDonald” to “Deputy Fire Marshal K. McDonald”

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE AND FORWARD**: Please change all references to “Captain Adam Markowitz” to “Deputy Chief of Training Adam Markowitz”

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE AND FORWARD**: Please change all references to “Firefighter Brown” to “Lt. Brown”.

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2021 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto said that they were currently 75% through the budget year. He reviewed the budget figures with the Commissioners. A discussion followed about a potential transfer of funds from salary to the overtime account followed.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

a. OSHA Compliance Audit

Asst. Chief Bassett said that they had OSHA come in for a compliance review.

The ISO report has not been completed yet.

Chief Gatto said that they had decided to bring in OSHA voluntarily because they had heard OSHA was making unannounced visits and fining municipal departments for violations.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

a. Entry Level Firefighter Test

- 1. Online Application And Recruitment Effort Are Live**
- 2. Continuing to Cooperate With Local Leaders To Recruit From The Community**
 - a. Norwalk High School Job Fair on 4/14**
 - b. ‘Town Hall’ Style Recruitment Meeting on 4/21**
- 3. Coordinating With The Testing Company To Work Out Dates And Locations For The Written And Oral Exams**

b. Firefighter Turnout Gear and PPE

- 1. Continuing Replacement of Oldest Sets of Turnout Gear (10 yrs.) in**

Our Effort To Comply With NFPA 1851

c. Meeting With Seaport Association, NPD And City Agency Heads To Prepare For Christmas Light Show at Calf Pasture Beach

d. Meeting With Shift Commanders

1. Modification of Highway Responses to Improve On Scene Safety

2. RIT Team And Mayday Procedures

Asst. Chief McCabe presented his report and stated they were placing another order for replacement gear.

Mayor Rilling asked how many applicants there were for testing. Asst. Chief McCabe said that there were over 820. The link for the Town Hall meeting is on the website.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

a. Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said that the food distribution program is continuing at the beach until the Parks Department decides to move them back to Veteran's Park. They expect the USDA program to continue for another month.

There will be a parking exercise on June 9th. Basic discussions for Open Houses for the Fire Department and Public Facilities are under way with a tentative September.

There is a pillowcase project from the Red Cross for disaster supplies like glow sticks or band aids.

Mayor Rilling said that they were considering what to do about the Memorial Day parade and the Fireworks. The Governor has announced that the restrictions are basically ended as of May 19th.

There will be a national volunteer appreciation event on the weekend of the 24th for those who have been volunteering in vaccination clinics and other outreaches.

TRAINING'S DIVISION REPORT.

a. Search and Rescue Training (see attached pictures)

b. (10) New Mustang Cold Water Rescue Suits (see attached picture)

c. Blood Draw/Department Physicals

d. CPR Recertification

e. Officer Training for Lieutenants/Captains

Deputy Chief Markowitz presented his report. He noted Chief Bassett was very helpful in assisting with the blood draw and initiating the physicals.

Mayor Rilling said that it might be interesting to allow some observers during the rescue training.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

1. Golf Outing is going to be on June 7th at Oak Hills Park Golf Course

Lt. Brown said that they had no report. Chief Gatto stated that the Golf Outing date in the agenda was incorrect. It will take place on May 17th. He invited the Commissioners to join them for the events.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities.

b. Fire Reports.

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented an overview of the monthly activities which included 207 inspection, 40 plans reviews, and 9 liquor inspections. There were 8 fires and 5 code issues.

Fire Marshal Sawyer said that they were beginning to plan for the fireworks. Mayor Rilling said that the surrounding towns were canceling their fireworks because they tend to draw a large crowd.

Fire Marshal Sawyer said that their focus was on the small stores that sell fireworks. They are working on an ordinance regarding this.

Chief Gatto said that the newest inspector had completed the first module and was working on the second.

Asst. Chief Bassett said that at the State level, they were trying to make fireworks legal. He encouraged everyone to oppose this. If it is passed, having an ordinance already in place would be good.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Building Repairs.

- **Broad River –Station One** – working with Corporation Counsel regarding the unfinished work.

- **Station 5 – Plaque** – Flowers have been planted around the area. Chief Gatto said that they were looking at holding the ceremony during the first week in May.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Two Thank You letters Attached.

Chief Gatto said that the STAR clients requested to have a virtual tour. Chief McCabe said that they had over 50 participants.

Mr. Jeffrey Greenblatt from CT Counseling Center also wrote a thank you letter.

There was an additional thank you note from the family who experienced a house fire recently.

PERSONNEL

a. Executive Session Update on Personnel.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners and Chief Gatto entered into Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters at 3:43 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 4:11 p.m. No actions or motions were made during the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services