

EMERGENCY SERVICES

December 6, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Burtle
Alderman Koonce
Alderman Heberling
Alderman Jones

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Brotherton	Andy Lasswell
Alderman Lawrence	Shirley Sams
Alderman Dorchinecz	Cody Rogers
Alderman Walters	Bob Dunn
Deputy Chief Hile	Kyle Renfrow
Fire Chief Hackney	Andy Goodall
Kyle Ramadka	Matthew Adermann
Jonathan Wamsley	Matt Peters

Chairman Burtle called the meeting to order at 7:23 P.M.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed the November monthly status report; there were 1,756 Total Calls for Service. Deputy Police Chief Hile advised the Department has been busy with some big cases which acquire a lot of time and reported the Department desperately needs another Investigator due to the increase of sexual offenders, theft and drug cases.

Deputy Chief Hile was asked for an update regarding the Explorer Program. He stated Officer Amanda Olsta is doing a good job and has added some new members. He stated the Explorers had a fundraiser at Pizza Hut recently. Alderman Jones asked that the next time they have a fundraiser that the Aldermen be advised and to post it to make everyone aware.

Chairman Burtle thanked Deputy Chief Hile and Fire Chief Hackney for arranging for the Committee to view the two 2013 Police Ford Interceptors and the 1993 Ford F-350 Type III Ambulance for the Fire Department. Deputy Chief Hile advised that the cars are fully equipped except for bars across the windows to prevent them from getting broken with someone fighting or kicking during transport.

Fire Captain Goodall discussed equipment on the ambulance and advised when they are called out there is always a medic and an EMT on board. He was asked why the ambulance and Fire Engine both respond to a call; he advised the Fire Station is centrally located and if an ambulance is not available the Fire Department handles the call.

SAFER GRANT UPDATES

Fire Chief Hackney advised the Committee he received an 1199A which is a good indicator that the Department has been selected to receive the S.A.F.E.R Grant; but he has not received official notification as of yet. He advised that in the past when he received the 1199A it was followed with an e-mail and phone call of the award. He stated there are new guidelines this year; the grant now covers two firefighter salaries for two years with no layoff provisions.

Chief Hackney advised he would need a meeting if he hears if he has gotten the grant. Chairman Burtle advised he will call a meeting at that time.

He stated that he was not aware if the eligibility lists have been completed. The Committee asked if there was anything that could be done to speed the process up as the last eligibility list had expired. He stated Mr. Stich of the Board of Police and Fire Commission advised the list expired because the City asked that they hold off on starting the new list due to financial restraints.

Chairman Burtle advised in the future they need to make sure the list stays active due to the time frames included in the grant process. Mayor Brotherton agreed the lists should never have expired. Chairman Burtle asked if Mr. Stich could be contacted and advised of the possible award of the SAFER Grant stating they have to have the list available when the grant is awarded. Chief Hackney stated if awarded the grant the two new firefighters would replace the last two retirees.

HIRING STANDARDS

Chief Hackney stated they have been trying to change the Board of Police and Fire Commission minimum hiring requirements to require that at the time of hiring the candidate must be a paramedic. He stated it is too late to implement any changes on the list that is being finalized at this time but in the future they need to already be a paramedic or in the process of training to be a paramedic. He stated this would save money as the City wouldn't have the fees for training and if for some reason a new candidate doesn't pass the State Boards they wouldn't have a firefighter hired that couldn't run with the ambulance.

Chief Hackney advised that the cost for Paramedic Training is between \$3,500.00-\$4,000.00. He advised the first three firefighters classes were paid for by a grant, some paid for classes and were reimbursed and there is one taking a crossover class now and will be asking for reimbursement upon completion. Alderman Jones asked how many of the current Firefighters were paramedics at the time of hiring; Chief Hackney advised four. He then asked if a candidate had a nursing degree would that qualify. He was advised no that a nursing degree and paramedic are two different occupations. Chief Hackney also advised the Committee to keep in mind that it takes a minimum of a year before a candidate can be allowed to respond on their own, so that candidate would not help with the overtime issues because you have to have a paramedic on call at all times. Ten of the thirteen firefighters are paramedics.

Assistant Fire Chief Crews advised that the trend is for the candidate to be a paramedic or Firefighter II to be hired. Alderman Jones asked if this is the trend now or is this just beginning. Mr. Crews stated this is implemented in several communities now. He advised the Committee that if they send a candidate to Academy to become a firefighter II and they don't pass short of terminating them, what is the department going to do with them?

Chief Hackney then discussed different circumstances that award candidates preference points, such as college education, Fire Academy Training and military service.

There was a request for a motion for the City Council to direct the Mayor to ask the Board of Police and Fire Commission to modify the rules for the minimum requirement to be a paramedic starting with the next eligibility list beginning in 2014.

Alderman Walters and Alderman Burtle asked if this would cause a conflict with the Union. Mayor Brotherton advised Chief Hackney to put what he wants changed in writing stating the attorney would have to make sure these changes can be done. He stated he knows with the Police Department there are some State Statutes that limit what can be changed. The Committee was advised that Chatham currently has that their candidates have to be a paramedic to test. No motion was made at this time, but will be an agenda item for next month's Emergency Services Committee Meeting.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Hackney discussed the ISO Public Classification as he is looking at ways to improve the Department's ISO rating. He advised ISO requires that all preplans be digitally available in the vehicles, currently the preplans are paper in a file. Assistant Fire Chief Crews applied for a grant for computers and software but did not receive it. Firefighter Ramadka did some research on his own and was able to gain access to the program he needed for free. Firefighter Ramadka gave a presentation of the software which outlines the building inside showing the room layout, entrances etc and the roof which shows where all the heating/cooling components are located. He stated he has the capabilities to do residents homes as well as businesses if they would want to have their home layout on record; but the businesses will be done first. The Departments goal is to complete fifteen businesses a month including layout and preplans.

The Foreign Fire Tax Board purchased notebook computers for the Department. Alderman Walters advised the Committee that the Supervisor of Assessors have some layouts of homes on their software so Firefighter Ramadka may want to contact them also. The Committee thanked Kyle for his presentation and Chief Hackney advised this is an invaluable tool and will help with the ISO rating.

Assistant Fire Chief Crews advised that Janet Wilmoth, Editor of Fire Chief Magazine which is a national magazine is considering doing an article featuring the work that Firefighter Ramadka has done.

Fire Chief Hackney discussed a Light Duty Policy which Assistant Fire Chief Crews has put together after a lot of research and discussion with the Union to keep injured Firefighters working. Their thoughts were if allowed to work light duty when injured if possible this would help keep the employees informed of day to day operations rather than being completely out of the station for a period of time which should help bring down the Workers Compensation Premiums. In the past if someone was injured they were advised to stay out of the Fire Station altogether but if they could make it possible to work Light Duty they had a list of jobs that they could do which would keep them involved but out of harms way such as documenting training, Public Education, keeping the communication room staffed etc. Chairman Burtle thought this was a wonderful idea, but Alderman Heberling advised if you allow an employee which was injured in a non job related injury the City could be taking on more of a liability which would increase the Workers Comp instead of decreasing it. He stated a private sector would never allow an injured person to come back to work. Alderman Burtle felt if released by a doctor that should be sufficient. After discussion the Committee felt it needed to be looked into by the Workers Comp carrier. Chief Hackney was asked how they would know if a firefighter was on light duty or not; the Committee was advised they could wear class B uniforms which is a more casual uniform.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Firefighter Jon Wamsley presented the Committee with a detailed Apparatus Needs Assessment Plan on the Fire Departments equipment. Chief Hackney advised the costs for maintenance is going to start adding up. Chairman Burtle asked how many times the ambulance has been utilized and how the billing has been handled. He stated the ambulance has been utilized four times with about \$4,000.00 being billed which is done through Charleston. They do all the paperwork and the program is going very smoothly. It took about three weeks for the first check to come in.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether or not a resident should be allowed to request which ambulance service they want to respond including the Fire Department. Mayor

Brotherton reminded the Committee that the ambulance service was to be utilized as a backup service only. Chairman Burtle asked that this be placed on next month's Emergency Services Committee Agenda.

Motion by Alderman Heberling and seconded by Alderman Koonce to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Shawn Burtle, Chairman
Emergency Services Committee