

EMERGENCY SERVICES

August 1, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alderman Koonce
Alderman Heberling
Alderman Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT

Alderman Burtle

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Brotherton
Police Chief Herpstreith
Alderman Budd
Acting Fire Chief Crews
Shirley Sams

Acting Chairman Bruce Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2014 SAFER GRANT

Acting Fire Chief Crews advised if the City promotes from within they would have the opportunity to apply for a SAFER Grant to fill a firefighter position. The Department would be in the top two criteria to meet the SAFER Grant requirements. He would like permission to apply for the 2014 SAFER Grant to fill the vacancy if this circumstance occurs. It takes ten days to start the process and the deadline is August 31st. The grant that funded the last two firefighters is for three years due to both being veterans.

Acting Fire Chief Crews advised Alton and Chatham have both had to turn down the grant in the past due to different financial situations which red flags them as poor performers. If they applied for another grant after turning one down, the computer would likely throw their applications out.

Motion by Alderman Heberling and seconded by Alderman Koonce to recommend to the City Council to allow Acting Fire Chief Crews to begin the process of applying for the 2014 SAFER Grant for one firefighter. Motion carried 3-0.

FUTURE HIRING PRACTICES

Acting Fire Chief Crews informed the Committee the current list expires October 2014. He recommends changing the requirements to become a firefighter as it is very tough to get through two years of Paramedic training and then pass the State Boards. He feels the City shouldn't be responsible for paying for this training as he recommends being a Paramedic a pre-requisite for being a firefighter. Firefighter Wamsley and Volunteer Firefighter Stoner had both put themselves through the training before testing.

He spoke with the Fire Chief of Normal, in the future they are going to require that the applicants have an Associate's Degree and already be a Firefighter and Paramedic.

Charleston and Mattoon both stipulate that you have to be a paramedic before being eligible to be hired. If the candidate goes to training for two years and then doesn't pass the boards it is a waste of money.

He recommends in addition to putting a notice in the paper that the City is going to start testing for a firefighter that you go to the colleges and job placement agencies to inform them of the testing to try to get a wider range of applicants. Alderman Heberling stated he thought the requirements had just been changed. Acting Fire Chief Crews stated not that he was aware of; the Mayor and Human Resource Manager Cindy Brown both remember something changing recently but it was a terminology change.

He was asked if an R.N. applied for the firefighter position but did not have an E.M.T. License or Paramedic License would they be qualified. He stated he didn't think so, that they would have to take classes to bridge over to be a Field Registered Nurse.

Alderman Jones asked if this is something that needs to be addressed now by the Board of Fire and Police Commission. He was informed by Acting Fire Chief Crews and Human Resource Manager Cindy Brown that they have to adopt new rules and regulations as this has not been done since 1980. Mrs. Brown stated that she had assisted the past Human Resource Manager Elizabeth Schaefer in preparing a manual of new rules and regulations in 2009, but they never got approved.

Mayor Brotherton and Committee members agreed more research needs to be obtained; there may be requirements by State Statutes. Mrs. Brown advised the Firefighters requirements change frequently whereas the Police Officers do not. Mr. Crews will do more research and report next month.

Chief Herpstreith was in attendance and was asked that if the rules and regulations are not current don't they automatically follow State Rules and Regulations. He and Mrs. Brown both advised no; they have had some problems arise and were told by Attorney John Broihier, Legal Counsel for the Board of Police and Fire Commission that legally the City has to go to the last set of adopted rules and regulations, which ours is 1980.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Acting Fire Chief Crews advised that Overtime and calls were up a little this month.
- Had training classes which included: Drafting Operations, Saints flight landing zone and air bags.
- Regional Training was conducted by TFD instructors for each County Fire Department on SCBA Confidence Course and Hose Deployment
- Scuba Team Update-They had three dive sessions at the YMCA and three days of diving at Lake Taylorville which emphasized the need for an underwater communication system. They experienced some equipment problems and there was no way to communicate. He approached the Fire Protection District and they are going to purchase approximately \$15,000.00 of communication gear as it is a life safety issue.
- Reported that Firefighter Wamsley is going to do the maintenance on the fleet at a cost of \$25 Overtime which will result in a substantial savings to the city. He advised ATI Fleet Services charges \$87.00 an hour drive time and \$73.00 an hour labor; Cross Roads Ford charges \$90.00 hour labor, Cutters Edge \$75.00 hr. labor and an Independent Fire Truck Repair is \$55.00 hour.
- They have been busy with company inspections and car seat installations.
- He received the first bill of academy expenses of \$2,100.00 which was paid for by the Taylorville Fire Protection District.

Motion by Alderman Heberling and seconded by Alderman Koonce to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Bruce Jones, Acting Chairman
Emergency Services Committee