

EMERGENCY SERVICES

September 5, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Driskell
Alderman Olive
Alderman Lanzotti
Alderman Bryant

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry
Treasurer Nation
Police Chief Wheeler
Deputy Chief Childers
Fire Chief Crews
Assistant Chief Goodall
Alderman Budd
Alderman Skultety
Kellie Hamell
Carol Endsley
Owen Lasswell
Shirley Sams
Matt Adermann
Jon Wamsley
Ron Holmes

Chairman Driskell called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

PERMISSION TO HIRE REPLACEMENT FIREFIGHTER

Firefighter Price has taken another position with the Springfield Airport Authority. Chief Crews is asking per the City Contract to hire a replacement firefighter to maintain 15 firefighters. The Department is now down 4 Firefighters. Chief Crews stated the Firefighter Eligibility List had been depleted; but they are in the process of testing for a new eligibility list. There are ten candidates he will be interviewing. He advised there is a shortage of Firefighters nationwide at this time.

Captain Adermann was in attendance to thank the Mayor and Council for replacing the Firefighters but advised that the City must do something to retain the Firefighters. There have been four lost and another one coming; the Department is very frustrated. Captain Adermann was asked why these men were leaving; he stated he could not answer for them but two reasons are money and residency requirements. It is not just the new firefighters leaving. Two of the Firefighters that left had nine and thirteen years with the Department. He said the Union is asking Administration for help as the morale in the Fire Department is down and something needs to be done.

Chief Crews stated he is frustrated also; the Department is losing experienced personnel which results in more training. When he does the exit interviews, the men that resigned all said it was a hard decision for them but money and residency were the main reasons they left. The Committee recommended implementing a new program similar to what Police Chief Wheeler has done with the Community Action Team in the Police Department, and ask them for programs to implement outside of the regular routine. Mayor Barry asked Firefighter Holmes if he had any suggestions. He stated he is vested in Taylorville and grew up here. He suggested making different levels similar to the National Guard; after you learn one job you are moved to a higher level to learn new things.

Motion by Alderman Lanzotti and seconded by Alderman Bryant to recommend to the City Council to direct the Mayor to prepare a letter to send to the Police and Fire Commission to begin the hiring process to fill the vacancy in the Fire Department due to the resignation of Firefighter Matthew Price per the contract. Motion carried 4-0.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Total Calls-122
- Business Inspections- 12
- Conducted three BLS-CPR classes of 9 students, five Heart saver CPR/First-Aid/AED classes of 34 students.
- Training on drafting, truck company operations, SCBA and fire extinguishers
- Received a \$2,700.00 AFG Regional Training Grant
- Had a Taylorville Tornado presentation at the IEMA Conference.

All tornado sirens are active. There was not a Tuesday testing of the sirens; after repairs the technician did not reset the time for the weekly testing. The City is obtaining easements to relocate the Boyd Dappert siren due to new safety regulations; it will be moved to the South away from interfering high voltage transmission lines.

The 1942 Seagrave Fire Engine was moved to Kennedy's Metal Works. The truck is being torn down and evaluated for refurbishment.

There was a school safety meeting on September 5, 2019; all school plans were evaluated and revised as needed. The school is going to adopt a "Tactical Pause" approach to evacuations. There was a drill at the Taylorville High School; they evacuated the building in four minutes. A tabletop exercise with the school officials will be conducted on October 24, 2019.

Chief Crews advised that the Department is getting new preplan internet based software to assist shifts with building familiarity prior to incidents. The Department will be helping GSI and HSHS to prepare plans for their buildings as an active shooting drill.

Alderman Olive commended the Fire Department for their quick response to an incident he observed in his neighborhood stating they did a great job.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Calls for service-1616 August 2019 1700-August 2018
- Received two payments of the new \$500.00 fee for towing
- Had the National Night Out at the Fire Station
- He will have several speaker engagements this month

Chief Wheeler advised that there were three search warrants this last month and 21 drug arrests. The Committee was also provided with a Monthly Activity Chart and a worksheet listing each Officer and number of arrests. Chief Wheeler was asked if someone took a picture of a driver talking on a cell phone if that would be permissible in court; it would be if the person taking the picture would be willing to testify.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Alderman Driskell rode along with the Police Department for four hours. She was very impressed with the way the Department operates and commended the Officers on the work they do.

Alderman Budd asked if the speed sign could be placed on Cherokee Street by the North School. He has already seen people talking on cell phones and speeding past the school with students present. Superintendent Speagle advised that a speed sign was purchased with Safety Grant money and can be used at the school.

Motion by Alderman Olive and seconded by Alderman Lanzotti to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 P.M.

Kathy Driskell, Chairman
Emergency Services Committee

