

WAKE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
Thursday, November 19, 2009
ADOPTED Minutes

(Audio Replays of the meeting are available upon request)

A meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission was held on Thursday, November 19th, 2009, 7:00 PM, in the Wake County EMS Training Facility, Carya Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lucius Jones called the meeting to order.

The following members were present: Ms. Ann Suggs (via telephone), Commissioner Paul Coble, Chief Freddy Lynn, Ms. Barbara Poole, Mr. Billy Myrick, Mr. Keith Gregory, Mr. Robert Stagg, Chief Mark Haraway, Chief David Cates, Battalion Chief Lee Price, and Chief Jimmy McCauley.

Members absent were: Chief Tony Mauldin, Chief Cecil Parker, Chief A.C. Rich and Chief Rodney Privette.

The following County officials and staff were present: Director of Fire and Emergency Management Raymond Echevarria, Budget and Management Analyst Jason Horton, and Public Safety Business Manager Demetric Potts.

Mr. Myrick gave an invocation.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

MINUTES

Upon motion of Commissioner Paul Coble and second by Mr. Robert Stagg, the Fire Commission unanimously approved minutes of the July 16th, 2009, regular meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Paul Coble and second by Mr. Robert Stagg, the Fire Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the October 8th, 2009, special called meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

PROPOSED FIRE CONTRACT REVISIONS

Director Raymond Echevarria provided a report from the Fire Contract Committee and informed the Fire Commission of the Committee's recommended changes for the next fire contract. The Committee's goal is to complete the contract prior to July 1, 2010, with the new contract effective July 1, 2010.

During the discussion, Fire Commission members directed the Contract Committee to revise two of its proposed revisions:

- Revise the minimum fund balance requirement to require fire departments to maintain a minimum fund balance of at least 5% of their annual operating appropriation
- Revise the driver license check provision to require fire departments to participate in the Transit Driver Program provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The Wake Forest Fire Department currently participates in the program.

After discussion, Ms. Suggs motioned to accept the Contract Committee's proposed revisions with the two changes directed by the Fire Commission. After a second by Chief Price, the Fire Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Director Echevarria also informed the Fire Commission that the Contract Committee discussed developing an ethics policy and nepotism policy. The Committee recommends that the Fire Commission continue work on both policies and consider including in the Fire Service Compensation Guidelines.

INFORMATION AGENDA

CALENDAR YEAR 2010 MEETING DATES

Director Echevarria provided the Fire Commission a list of Fire Commission meeting dates and times for 2010. He informed the Fire Commission that the May meeting may be rescheduled to accommodate the FY 2011 budget recommendation.

FIRE TAX FINANCIAL REPORT

Jason Horton provided a fire tax financial report. Mr. Horton informed the Fire Commission that preparations are underway for the FY 11 budget process and that the Board of Trustees for the North Carolina Local Government Employees' Retirement System may increase contribution rates for the retirement system.

FACILITY COMMITTEE

Chief Ron Roof provided the Facility Committee report. The report contained information on the status of the Garner Fire Station #4 project, Fuquay Varina Headquarters Renovation Project, Bay Leaf Headquarters Reconstruction Project, Fire Station Closure Process Review, and Fire Station Dormitory Renovation Project.

CHAIR REPORT

No report.

FIRE/RESCUE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Echevarria informed Fire Commission members that notebooks with previous fire studies are available for members after the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Price informed the Fire Commission that he was reelected as President of the Wake County Firefighters' Association. Chief Price also presented a request for Mr. Horton to review Eastern Wake Fire Department's funding for VFIS insurance on behalf of Eastern Wake. Mr. Horton advised he would research the issue and provide a report at the next Fire Commission meeting.

Chief Price inquired about the process for fire departments to request FY 10 funds currently held in reserve. He asked how fire departments request funding. Chairman Jones informed the Fire Commission that the Budget Committee will develop guidelines for fire departments to request funding.

Chief David Cates informed the Fire Commission that Western Wake Fire Department will celebrate 50 years of service on Saturday, November 21, 2009. He invited Fire Commission members to attend the celebration.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.