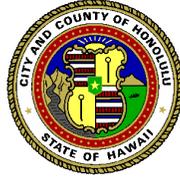


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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WILLIAM HONG

DENNIS MORTON

CRAIG NAGAMINE

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium
Wednesday April 17, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wataru called the regular meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Wataru, Stefanie Lee, Max Hannemann, Charlotte Nekota, William Hong, Dennis Morton and Craig Nagamine.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton (HFD), Assistant Fire Ron Rico (HFD), Chief Nathan Ramos (HFD), Battalion Chief John Bowers (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Kato (HFD), Battalion Chief Brian Soares (HFD), Battalion Chief Damien Kahalelio (HFD), Battalion Chief John Pacheco (HFD), Battalion Chief Wayne Masuda (HFD), Battalion Chief Carlton Yamada (HFD), Battalion Chief Jeff Hooker (HFD), Battalion Chief Alan Park (HFD), Battalion Chief Keith Yasui (HFD), Battalion Chief Craig Uchimura (HFD), Battalion Chief Mark Nakagawa (HFD), Battalion Chief Jeff Sanchez (HFD), Battalion Chief David Morgan (HFD), Battalion Chief Brett Mau (HFD), Brian Ancheta (Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY. Chair Wataru asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to give public testimony. There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2019. Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of March 20, 2019. Fire Chief Neves mentioned a minor correction on page 5, 3rd sentence above Assistant Fire Chief

Nathan Ramo's report. Fire Chief Neves indicated that the sentence should have read, "The band is free but it comes with a service fee". There being no further comments or corrections Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Lee seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2019. Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of January 15, 2019. There being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved as adopted

V. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2019. Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of March 20, 2019. Counsel Ancheta mentioned that he had sent out an email earlier this afternoon with minor corrections to the executive session minutes and asked the Commission if they've gotten a chance to review. Counsel Ancheta asked Chair Wataru if they would like to adopt these new changes or adopt the minutes as originally distributed. The Commission adopted the original minutes as distributed and there being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved as adopted

VI. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Fire Chief Neves passed out copies of his monthly report for March 2019 and highlighted the following:

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 9 structural fires and highlighted a few. Details of the fire incidents can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident that took place in Makakilo that was caused by an unspecified arc in the refrigerator.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident in Kaimuki that was caused due to combustibles being close to the stove top while burner was on. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that this is a common cause of fire that the department responds to.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there was a fire intentionally set in a Waipahu dwelling and it has been referred to the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) for further investigation.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident in Ewa Beach that was cause by unattended cooking on the stove top.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident that took place in Kaaawa and mentioned that the departments rescue watercraft were able to rescue two children and an unresponsive adult female.

2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department responded to 21 weather-related emergencies.

3 Downed trees
5 Water evacuations
6 Downed power lines
7 Arcing wires

3. Equipment Status. Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission that there are eight frontline apparatuses and one auxiliary apparatuses that are currently out of service and a backup is ready should there be a need.
4. Vacancies. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there are 133 vacancies as well as a recent promotion of Captains and FF III's. Fire Chief Neves explained the reasoning for the 64 FF I vacancies and indicated that 43 fire fighter recruit I's will be reallocated to FF I in April 2019. Fire Chief Neves also indicated that a new recruit class will be starting on May 13th with 50 recruits and other class starting in August.
5. Injuries- Report of Industrial Injury or Illness (ISWC). Fire Chief Neves went over the injury list with the Commission as well as the loss of time incidents.

Fire Chief Neves explained a recent brush fire incident and while extinguishing the fire fighters found something and out of concern they filed a precautionary workman's comp.

Fire Chief Neves explained the incident regarding the Waia lua structure fire and indicated that 11 personnel filed workman's comp as a precautionary.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were a total of 26 workman's comp and 2 lost time due to sprain/strain.

6. Grievances. Fire Chief Neves went over the grievance with the Commission and went over pending grievances. Details are in the monthly report.

The Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of March, HFD received 4 complimentary correspondences, and 1 complaint that was responded to. Details are in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there are only 4 personnel's within the department who have access to department cars for personal business.

Chair Wataru asked for clarification regarding the four who use department's vehicles.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned it's the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and Assistant Chief of Operations (1, 2, 3) and Public Information Officer (PIO).

Chair Wataru asked if it was an administration rule.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that it's in their policy.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there are other city vehicles that are used all the time but are not assigned to just one individual like the fire investigators and mechanic shop.

2. Fire Chief Neves went over station visitations.

September-December 2018 (39/1,130)

January-March 2019 (26/1,156)

3. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the 105th Fire Fighter Recruit Class graduation will be held on May 10, 2019, at 11 a.m. in the Hawaii Okinawa Center's Legacy Room.
4. Fire Chief Neves had each member of the executive staff give a brief description of their section's recent activities.

Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that Chief Camara is out on sick leave and will give his report next month.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Administrative Services. Chief Lawton went over a recent acquisition of a new mobile air compressor for self-contained breathing apparatus with the Commission.

Chief Lawton explained that this acquisition is an addition to the existing one with higher capacity, higher volume and is updated to the latest NFPA standards which will help enable the department to refill two cylinders.

Chief Lawton mentioned that this air compressor can also fill SCBA/scuba cylinders.

Commissioner Morton asked where it will be stored. Chief Lawton answered the training center.

Fire Chief Neves explained due to training it's good to have the compressor there.

Chief Lawton indicated that there is also a fixed compressor located at the Waipahu SCB facility.

Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos- Support Services. Fire Chief Neves spoke on behalf of Chief Bratakos and mentioned that Chief Bratakos is currently in a City Council hearing.

Fire Chief Neves explained Bill 7 and mentioned that it's a bill relating to housing shortage with plans of development to mid-rise apartments, approximately 60 feet high.

Fire Chief Neves explained to keep cost down the department has made adjustments to its fire code.

Fire Chief Neves went over Bill 96 regarding life safety evaluation and installation of residential sprinkler systems

Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos- Planning and Development. Chief Ramos mentioned that this week is National Public Safety Telecommuters Week (NPSTW) and it occurs every year on the second week of April.

Chief Ramos mentioned in Honolulu it recognizes a group of 911 dispatchers which consist of police, fire, and ocean safety.

Chief Ramos explained that they are the life line to the community and to our public safety resources link between responders.

Chief Ramos mentioned that both the Governor and Mayor held proclamations to honor these men and women.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department's dispatchers are uniformed fire fighters and you have to be a fire fighter II, fire fighter III, and Captain to work in this position.

Commissioner Hannemann addressed Fire Chief Neves regarding an email that the Commission received regarding fuel usage.

Chair Wataru mentioned that he spoke to the individual and it has been resolved.

Chief Wong stood up and Fire Chief Neves introduced him to the Commission. Chief Wong explained that this incident was brought up by a Captain to a code he found. Chief Wong explained the code and mentioned that it's classified under a Class 1 fuel for open flame.

Chief Wong indicated that both parties are currently working on a solution.

VII. COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 18-298 re: Fire Recruit Terminations. Chair Wataru mentioned that it's currently before City Council and explained that the Commission will not take any action until they hear the final outcome.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Annual Evaluation of the Fire Chief. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded that the Commission go into executive session regarding the evaluation of the Fire Chief "to consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employer or employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved" [HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(2)], and to "consult with the board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities" with regard to these matters [HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(4)]. The Commission went into Executive Session at 2:26 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 2:58 p.m.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at 2 p.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

X. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business the Commission ended its meeting. It was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

JAMES WATARU, Chair