

**MUNICIPAL FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA
300 N. DUGAS RD
LAFAYETTE, LA 70507
(337) 291-8762**

A meeting of the Lafayette Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board was held on August 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lafayette Consolidated Government Civil service testing room, 705 West University Avenue, Lafayette, Louisiana. Audio recording of this meeting will become part of the Board's permanent records.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Ron Clark, Lane Cortez, Dwight Prudhomme, Charley Whipp III, Board Attorney Candice Hattan, Fire Chief Robert Benoit, Captain Shawn Terro, Human Resource Director Rick Zeno, Board Secretary Mary Francis, Megan Wyatt

Vice Chairman L. Wayne Prejean was not in attendance for the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. and opening statement read by Chairman Ron Clark.

Chairman Ron Clark welcomed Governing Authority Board member, Lane T. Cortez, to the board. Mr. Cortez was sworn in before the meeting.

1. Board authorization to approve minutes of July 10, 2024 board meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes of July 10, 2024 board meeting by Dwight Prudhomme
Motion seconded by Charley Whipp III

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

2. Board authorization to approve applications for Police Chief, Police Corporal, Police Major, Police Communications Officer I, Departmental Records Clerk (Police), Fire Inspector, Fire Records Clerk, and Fire Communications Officer I

Motion was made to approve applications by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

3. Board authorization to approve waiver for Fire Training Chief posting notice

Fire Chief Robert Benoit advised against approving any waivers unless he specifically requested one. Chairman Ron recommended tabling the agenda item until Chief Benoit speaks with the Office of State examiner.

Motion was made to table by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: Fire Training Officer Johnston requested clarity on which qualifications were being waived and which guidelines call for waivers.

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

4. Board authorization to approve transfer of scores for Fire Communications I applicants, Brandon Montgomery, Kylie Arceneaux, and Kindsay Hardy

Motion was made to approve applications by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by Charley Whipp III

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

5. Board authorization to approve Donations of Annual Leave, if any

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
Vernon, Stacey donated	20	Alexander, Brandy
Trouard, Paul donated	8	Alexander, Brandy

Captain Shawn Terro made note that during the last meeting Chief Trouard' s 8 hours of donated leave were not included in the last meetings count. He also mentioned an additional 20 hours of donated leave from Stacey Vernon. Bringing an additional 28 hours to the total board- approved donated leave hours. Mr. Rick Zeno and the board all agreed with Captain Terro. was not counted for and that an additional 20 hours of donated leave will be added from Stacey Vernon.

Motion was made to approve request by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by Lane Cortez

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

6. Board authorization to approve Removal of Names List, if any

Removal of Sassau, Aaron from Fire Fighter First Class eligibility list due to Transfer

Motion was made to approve request by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

7. Request for re-employment of Carter Mouton from Interim Police Chief, Paul Trouard

Captain Terro mentioned that Mr. Carter Mouton was hired in October 2023 and completed Police Academy training but later resigned for personal reasons. He stated that Chief Trouard required Mr. Mouton to fulfill recommendations, such as lateral laws, before returning to the department, which he later completed.

Motion was made to approve request by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by Charley Whipp III

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with Dwight Prudhomme, Lane Cortez, Charley Whipp III, and Sgt Ron Clark all voting yes.

Motion carried unanimously

8. General Board business, if any –

Board Secretary mentioned changes to the office of state examiner entry level exams. Noting that, starting August 1st, the OSE advised against calling for Departmental Records Clerk, Fire Communications Officer, Jailer, Police Communications Officer, and Secretary to the Chief, in addition to the Firefighter and Police Officer exams due to Act 230 of the 2024 LA Legislative session.

9. Report of Counsel or legal updates, if any –

Ms. Hattan, the board's attorney, provided updates on various legal matters. She first discussed Tommy A's appeal. The district court upheld the Board's decision to terminate his employment, and his attorney objected to the \$1847.43 court cost.

Regarding Solomon's case involving a police shooting at La Bamba night club, Ms. Hattan noted that the officer involved in the shooting was exonerated. She was confused about the board being included in the lawsuit, as the matter was never heard or brought up to the board, indicating that the board has no responsibility in the matter. She briefly discussed her strategies for the upcoming Scheduling Conference on September 23rd. Chairman Clark clarified that the officer involved has never received discipline, nor has it been brought before the board.

10. Public Comment – None

Motion to adjourn by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by Charley Whipp III

Public comment: None

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 am



Ron R. Clark
Chairman