

**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 December 10, 2025 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, Vice-chairman L. Wayne Prejean, Charley Whipp III, Dwight Prudhomme, Lane T. Cortez, Board Attorney Candice Hattan, Interim Fire Chief John Bourgeois, Chester Bergeron, Sandra Bergeron, Attorney Daniel Landry, Tyler Cooley, Justin Denais, Loyd Denais, Chief Antoinette Gerald, Mia Terry, Human Resource Manager Rick Zeno, Paula Broussard, Chief Forrest Chaisson, Terry Castille, Clebe Stutes, Bryan Champagne, Board Secretary Mary Francis, Debbie Allen, and Latreasha Davis

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

1. Board authorization to approve minutes of November 12, 2025 board meeting

This item was moved to the next meeting.

2. Motion and Order to continue board vote to find a determination on whether a failure to post the Fire Communications Officer II July 26, 2023 exam is a nullity because it was not posted pursuant to law

Chester Bergeron was represented by Attorney Daniel Landry III, while Lafayette Consolidated Government was represented by Attorney Tyler Cooley in place of Attorney Michael Corry. Ms. Debbie Allen was the assigned court reporter transcribing this agenda item.

Motion was made to continue by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with L. Wayne Prejean, Charley Whipp III, Lane T. Cortez, Dwight Prudhomme, and Chairman Ron Clark voting yes

Motion carried unanimously

Vice Chairman Prejean requested that a motion be added to the agenda for a vote on whether an investigation should be granted at the January meeting to investigate the claims by Mr. Landry's clients.

Board member Whipp made a motion to add an agenda item to vote to have an investigation on the issues of the posting test for July 26, 2023.

2a. Motion was made by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: Ms. Paula Broussard requested clarity from the board on the independence of the investigation. The board assured her that the investigation would be independent of the Fire Department during a public meeting. Mr. Landry noted that communication should start as soon as possible since Mr. Corry received short notice of the matter.

Opposition: None

Roll was called with L. Wayne Prejean, Charley Whipp III, Lane T. Cortez, Dwight Prudhomme, and Chairman Ron Clark voting yes

Motion carried unanimously

Board member Whipp motioned to conduct an investigation that will commence at the 2026 January meeting.

2b. Motion was made by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with L. Wayne Prejean, Charley Whipp III, Lane T. Cortez, Dwight Prudhomme, and Chairman Ron Clark voting yes

Motion carried unanimously

3. Board authorization to approve yearly Public Meeting Notice for 2026 Lafayette Police and Fire Civil Service Board

Motion was made to approve by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

4. Request by Justin Denais to address his Fire Chief qualifications

Mr. Denais requested a review from the board of his qualifications and credentials. Noting that his application was disqualified due to his education requirements for the Fire Chief exam. He provided an insight into his educational background. Mr. Denais stated that he possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, College of Engineering, with a minor in business. He noted that he was originally approved and then denied, and wanted to make sure his credentials were clear to clarify the compliance of a related curriculum. He assured the board that he had contacted the OSE but was informed that the OSE is an advisory board and is unable to make a ruling. Ultimately, Mr. Denais wanted to ensure that his disqualification was done on the right measure and that the board was aware of all aspects of his degree. He also emphasized not wanting to hold up the process, but to ensure

President of Lafayette Firefighters Association, Mr. Terry Castile, stated for the record that he was not head-hunting a certain person; he added that he felt as if a few people shouldn't have moved forward at last month's meeting. Mr. Castile stated that the board of the association is staying neutral to allow the mayor to appoint, so that they may work with the new Fire Chief moving forward. He emphasized his disagreement with the process taking place, from applications not being vetted to the language concerning the Fire Chief class plan, noting it as an injustice and disrespect towards some firefighters. Mr. Castile expressed his hope that the next Fire Chief will rewrite the class plan with less ambiguity while moving the department forward as an asset to protect the citizens.

Board Attorney Hattan clarified that the Fire Chief class plan was created in collaboration with the then Chief and Mayor, LCG, HR, and the OSE for board approval. She noted that at the time, no one came before the board as they do now. Mr. Castile affirmed his agreement and hopes that the next Chief will update the class plan with definitive language. The board confirmed its agreement with Mr. Castile.

Board member Whipp noted that he does sympathize with Mr. Denais and how leaving his opinion out of it made the decision hard.

Motion was made to up hold previous decision by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by Lane T. Cortez

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with Charley Whipp III, Lane T. Cortez, Dwight Prudhomme voting yes, and

Chairman Ron Clark and L. Wayne Prejean voting no

Motion carried unanimously

5. Board authorization to approve scores for Fire Investigator II, Fire Records Clerk II, Fire Training Chief, Police Lieutenant, and Criminal Intelligence Analyst

Chairman Clark read all passing scores aloud.

Motion was made to approve scores by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with Charley Whipp III, Lane T. Cortez, Dwight Prudhomme voting, Chairman Ron Clark, and L. Wayne Prejean voting yes

Motion carried unanimously

6. General Board business, if any – None

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

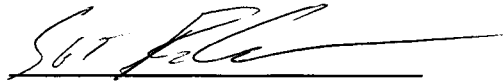
Board attorney Hattan confirmed the dismissal of the Solomon case involving the La Bamba nightclub and the Police Department. She noted that there was no pending litigation at this time.

Chairman Clark inquired if there were any open PIRs. Board secretary Francis confirmed that all requests were completed.

Ms. Hattan expressed her concerns regarding the issue with subpoenas due to Mr. Corry's office, noting that the request was hand-delivered, while the notice was only stated via email only. She highlighted the ramifications of not following the rules, noting that an appeal filed improperly becomes a nullity. She advised informing the Chairman if there is an irregularity regarding a subpoena. Chairman Clark advised Ms. Francis to inform requestors to respond by using the proper channels.

8. Public comment – Mr. Rick Zeno noted for the record that the Lafayette Consolidated Government's position is to do the right thing.

Motion to adjourn by Dwight Prudhomme  
Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean  
Public comment: None  
Motion carried unanimously  
Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.



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Ron R. Clark  
Chairman