

**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 February 27, 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, Dwight Prudhomme, Lane T. Cortez, Charley Whipp III, Fire Chief Robert Benoit, Training Chief Troy Gauthier, Jason Johnson, Board Secretary Mary Francis, Captain Shawn Terro, Brad Ridge, Heather Carrasco

Board Attorney Candice Hattan was not present for the meeting

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

1. Board authorization to approve minutes of January 29, 2025 board meeting

This meeting item was deferred till next meeting

2. Board authorization to approve donation of Annual Leave, if any

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
McNair, Aaron	24	Durio, Grant
Theriot, Larry	24	Durio, Grant
Mercier, Tom	24	Durio, Grant

Motion was made to approve donation of Annual Leave by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

3. Board authorization to approve posting notice for Deputy Chief of Police

Motion to was made to approve posting notice by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

4. Board to vote on approval of final version of proposed new Civilian Crime Analyst position, posting the same, and forwarding same to State Examiner

Chairman Clark noted the Chief of Police request to send final version of new class plan to State Examiner

Motion to approve proposed position by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

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

Motion carried unanimously

5. Request for extension of Hazmat Coordinator Provisional Appointment from Fire Chief Robert Benoit Board

Motion to extend Hazmat provisional by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

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

Motion carried unanimously

6. DISCUSSION regarding Hazmat Coordinator Qualification Requirements

Board member Wayne Prejean shared insights from his recent meeting with the State Examiner and Deputy. He informed them about the department's challenges regarding the qualifications for the Hazmat Coordinator exam. Mr. Wayne noted his agreement with the State to allow all applicants who applied recently for the Hazmat Coordinator exam to take the exam and then adopt the new class plan at a later time. He confirmed that Fire Chief Benoit approved this approach and provided the board with revised copies of the class plan for review.

Fire Training Chief Gauthier pointed out the changes and differences between the revised class plan and the current version. He noted that the revisions should clarify the language that caused the discrepancies and suggested specifying the requirements for accredited certification. Board members shared their thoughts on the wording of some qualifications, and the discussion continued in order to find solutions. While Training Chief Gauthier agreed with the need for these revisions, he emphasized that the final decision rests with the board.

Interim Hazmat Coordinator Jason Johnson emphasized the importance of requiring additional training, noting that Louisiana currently mandates only 40 hours, whereas most other states require more. He stated that he is actively collaborating with the Chief to enhance training for hazmat positions. Additionally, Mr. Johnson suggested that the language regarding the supervisor's qualifications should mirror that of a Fire Captain.

Board member Charley Whipp III sought insights from Fire Chief Robert Benoit regarding the ongoing discussion. Fire Chief Benoit explained that he has given the board the authority to conduct the necessary research to revise the Hazmat class plan qualification requirements.

Chairman Clark suggested that the Hazmat Coordinator posting notices be tabled until all aspects of the revisions are finalized.

7. Board vote to determine if Board will conduct investigation regarding complaint against Major Michael Brown

Confirmation was given to Chairman Clark regarding Mr. Ridge's official petition, which was filed on February 11, 2025. Mr. Ridge emphasized that the board would be best positioned to conduct the investigation related to his complaint against Major Brown.

Chairman Clark informed Mr. Ridge of his rights, including the ability to have witnesses subpoenaed and to present any additional supporting evidence before the next meeting.

Motion to investigate the complaint by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Charley Whipp III

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

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

Motion carried unanimously

8. General Board business, if any – None

9. Report of Counsel or legal updates, if any – None

10. Public comment – None

Motion to adjourn by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 am

  
Ron R. Clark  
Chairman