

**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 January 29, 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, Lane T. Cortez, Charley Whipp III, Board Attorney Candice Hattan, CAO Rachel Godeaux, Human Resource Manager Rick Zeno, Interim Police Chief Paul Trouard, Board Secretary Mary Francis, SGT. Dorian Brabham, Captain Shawn Terro, Brad Ridge, Megan Wyatt

Board member Dwight Prudhomme was not present for the meeting

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. and opening statement read by Chairman Ron Clark.

1. Board authorization to approve minutes of November 13, 2024 board meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes of November 13, 2024 board meeting by L. Wayne Prejean  
Motion seconded by Lane Cortez

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

2. Board authorization to approve posting notices for Departmental Records Clerk II (Police), Firefighter First Class, Fire Inspector II, Fire Communications Officer II, and Fire Investigator

Motion was made to posting notices by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Charley Whipp III

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

3. Board authorization to approve scores for Police Chief and Police Captain

Chairman Clark read all passing scores aloud.

Motion to was made to approve scores by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Lane Cortez

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

4. Board authorization to accept appeal of discipline, Officer Rob Green

Motion to accept appeal of discipline by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

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

Motion carried unanimously

5. Board authorization to accept appeal of discipline, Firefighter Britt Richard

Item number withdraw, Board member Charley Whipp III noted that Mr. Richard resigned and will not be moving forward with the appeal. Human Resource Manager Rick Zeno confirmed Mr. Richard resignation.

6. Board reconsideration of placing complaint of prohibited political involvement by Police Major Michael Brown on agenda in light of Major Browns Objection

Chairman Ron Clark requested clarification regarding Major Brown's objection. Board Attorney Hattan reiterated that Major Brown objected a similar complaint that happened in the past stating the board refused to hear the complaint involving a board member but noted that the information

contained in the objection- to her recollection was not the same; she recalls the Board referring to the Chief of Police because the complaint was given to the department.

Ms. Hattan suggested to Chairman Clark that the board place the item back on the agenda in good faith to review the objection. She then provided specifics regarding the mentioned past complaint that caused the objection. Noting that on February 16, 2016, Ms. Marja Broussard filed her complaint for prohibited political activity against a board member with the Police Department. The Chief then initiated the 60-day investigation subsequently the same complaint was filed with the board 5 days later and placed on the agenda. Ms. Hattan explained that Interim Chief Thomas contacted the board member regarding the initiation of the investigation. As a result, the board decided to defer to the Chief for a status report, leading to the withdrawal of the complaint in May due to the 60-day timeframe lapsing.

Board member Whipp III emphasized the significance of where the complaint is initially filed and whether the 60-day time frame has expired.

Ms. Hattan reassured the Board that she has conducted thorough research, reviewing nine years of sources to ensure her memory was accurate. She mentioned that the statute requires the appointing authority to investigate complaints, but the Chief can also request that the Board conduct the investigation.

Chairman Clark confirmed that Ms. Broussard's complaint was initially received in the Police Internal Affairs Department. He consulted with Mr. Brad Ridge regarding his preference for which department should handle the investigation. Mr. Ridge noted that Internal affairs would be more equipment but he has no preference.

To avoid any potential conflicts or perceptions of favoritism, Interim Chief Trouard preferred to refer the complaint to the Board. He also confirmed that he had not received the complaint nor did he initiate an investigation.

Motion to place discussion of complaint on the next agenda by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with L. Wayne Prejean, Lane T. Cortez, Charley Whipp III, and Chairman Ron

Clark voting yes

Motion carried unanimously

7. Public Hearing: Proposed revisions to the Civil Service Board Rule VIII, Section 3 revision now posted for 30 days

Motion to adopt revisions by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with L. Wayne Prejean, Lane T. Cortez, Charley Whipp III, and Chairman Ron

Clark voting yes

Motion carried unanimously

8. General Board business, if any –

Board Secretary Francis discussed yearly meeting dates and read all dates aloud.

A request for a list of applicants who participated in the Police Chief exam was requested by Ms. Megan Wyatt. Her request was fulfilled in a timely manner.

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

Board attorney Hattan provided an update on the Staley matter, noting that he was removed from K9 duties. The board voted to reduce his suspension but upheld his transfer. Hattan mentioned that Staley filed a lawsuit against the board and the city in federal court; however, his suit was dismissed for not filing in a timely manner.

She also briefed the Board on the status of two lawsuits filed by Tommy A. One lawsuit is against the Board, while the other is an appeal of his termination. Hattan noted that the case is now in the third circuit, and Mr. Landry is filing for an extension, which will defer the Board brief until the end of February. She mentioned that the filing fee for his appeal against the termination was possibly covered by a defense fund, but it hasn't been verified whether the costs associated with the lawsuit against the board have been covered. An extension was requested for this cost, but if it is not paid in time, his appeal will be denied.

Ms. Hattan also provided an update on the Solomon case in federal court, stating that deadlines are set for a later time.

Regarding the Glover matter, a writ was filed with the Supreme Court, but it has not been successful so far.

10. Board discussion of new Civilian Crime Analyst position

Interim Police Chief Trouard provided insight on his request to create a new class plan for a Civilian Criminal intelligence analyst. He provided the board with a sample of the class plan from Baton Rouge. He stressed the importance of implementing the analyst within the department to lift the duties from others. Further discussion was held between the Chief and Board.

Ms. Hattan recommended that a job description will be needed to incorporate the new position into the class plan. Assuring that the new class plan will be taking through the proper channels. Chairman Clark also noted that he is willing to assist in constructing the new positions class plan.

11. Public comment –

Rachel Godeaux, CAO, requested that an additional item be added to the agenda regarding the extension of Interim Chief Paul Trouard's status until the Mayor-President selects a new Chief of Police. Board attorney Ms. Hattan clarified that this request is valid due to the recent approval of the scores, which allows the appointing authority a 60-day window to make a selection for the new Chief of Police. She emphasized that extending Chief Trouard's interim status will ensure his continued presence during the decision-making process. Ms. Hattan recommended that the Board make a motion to extend Interim Chief Paul Trouard's status until March 29, 2025.

11a. Motion to amend agenda to add item as stated

Motion was made to add agenda item by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Lane Cortez

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

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

Motion carried unanimously

11b. Motion to extend Interim Chief Trouard interim status till March 29, 2025

Motion was made to extend status by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Lane Cortez

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

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

Motion carried unanimously

Motion to adjourn by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Lane Cortez

Public comment: None

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am

  
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Ron R. Clark  
Chairman