

**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 July 10, 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, Vice Chairman L. Wayne Prejean, Christina Olivier, Dwight Prudhomme, Charley Whipp III, Board Attorney Candice Hattan, CAO Racheal Godeaux, Captain Shawn Terro, Human Resource Director Rick Zeno, Board Secretary Mary Francis, Megan Wyatt

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

1. Board authorization to approve minutes of May 8, 2024 board meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes of May 8, 2024 board meeting by Christina Olivier
Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

2. Board authorization to approve minutes of May 22, 2024 board meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes of May 22, 2024 board meeting by Dwight Prudhomme
Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

3. Board authorization to approve posting notices for 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 Christina Olivier
Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

4. Board authorization to approve posting notice for Police Chief

Motion was made to approve applications by Christina Olivier
Motion seconded by Charley Whipp III
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

5. Board authorization to approve applications for Police Lieutenant, Fire Prevention Chief, Fire Investigator II, Fire Training Chief, Fire Engineer, Fire Records Clerk, and Fire Records Clerk II

Motion was made to approve applications by L. Wayne Prejean
Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

6. Board authorization to approve transfer of scores for Departmental Records Clerk (Police) applicant, Tashica Francois and Police Communications I applicants, Barbara Prince and Brittany LeDoux

Motion was made to approve transfer by Christina Olivier
Motion seconded by Charley Whipp III
Public comment: None
Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

7. Board authorization to approve transfer of scores for Fire Communications I applicants, Cameron Gray and Katie Deblanc

Motion was made to approve transfer by Christina Olivier

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

8. Board authorization to approve Donation of Annual Leave, if any

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
White, Robert donated	40	Living, Jessica
Leblanc, David donated	16	Alexander, Brandy
Robin, Brad donated	12	Alexander, Brandy
Green, Todd donated	16	Alexander, Brandy
Green, Robin donated	16	Alexander, Brandy
Demouchet, Crystal donated	8	Alexander, Brandy
Starring, Royce donated	24	Alexander, Brandy
Martinez, Johnnie donated	24	Alexander, Brandy
Guidry, Jessica donated	24	Alexander, Brandy
Delaousaye, Toby donated	24	Alexander, Brandy
Goolsby, Kenton donated	12	Alexander, Brandy
Strong, Kristina donated	24	Alexander, Brandy
Benoit, Matthew J. donated	10	Alexander, Brandy
Maldonado, Norman donated	8	Alexander, Brandy
Trouard, Paul donated	16	Alexander, Brandy
Borel, Marion donated	24	Alexander, Brandy
Estorge, Judith donated	8	Alexander, Brandy
Azemar, David donated	16	Alexander, Brandy
Broussard, Trina donated	16	Alexander, Brandy
Reviere, Brooks donated	8	Alexander, Brandy
Regina, Lawrence donated	8	Alexander, Brandy
Wood, Ashley donated	8	Alexander, Brandy
Taylor, Elizabeth donated	8	Alexander, Brandy
Terro, Shawn donated	16	Alexander, Brandy
White, William donated	12	Alexander, Brandy
Mouton, Craig donated	8	Alexander, Brandy

Motion was made to approve request by Christina Olivier

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Rick Zeno requested that the signed donated annual leave documents be received once they are signed by the chairman to complete the process of transferring the donated hours.

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

Removal of Newton, Gerald from Fire Training Chief eligibility list due to Retirement

Motion was made to approve request by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

10. Request for re-employment of Wayne Whatley from Interim Police Chief, Paul Trouard

Motion was made to approve request by Christina Olivier

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

Captain Shawn Terro mentioned that Officer Whatley has requested to rejoin the Lafayette Police Department after working for another agency. Captain Terro explained to the board that rehiring Officer Whatley would not result in him regaining his original rank or seniority, but he will be compensated for his years of experience.

11. Board authorization to accept appeal of suspension, Firefighter Joshua Bullen

Board member Charley Whipp III noted that he will recuse himself from the hearing. He stated that he was unaware of who would be representing Mr. Bullen. The board agreed to schedule a hearing on August 14th due to the open availability on the docket.

Motion was made to approve request by Charley Whipp III

Motion seconded by Christina Olivier

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with Dwight Prudhomme, Christina Olivier, Charley Whipp III, L. Wayne Prejean, and Sgt. Ron Clark all voting yes.

Motion carried unanimously

12. General Board business, if any –

Board Secretary Mary Francis informed the board about a request from Mr. Corry's officer for the approved March 13th meeting minutes. She mentioned that all requests made to the Lafayette Fire and Police Civil Service Officer are reviewed by Chairman Ron and Ms. Hattan before approval. She also clarified that the meeting minutes are available on the LCG website for three months. Chairman Ron suggested that individuals seeking the meeting minutes should access them before the three-month removal.

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

Board attorney, Ms. Hattan, provided an update on the Solomon vs LCG lawsuit, concerning a wrongful death resulting from a shooting at La Bamba Bar in April 2023. The lawsuit names the Lafayette Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board, but Ms. Hattan clarified that the board is not liable for the event. She provided the board with a list of motions she filed and confirmed the motions she filed. Ms. Hattan also discussed the details leading up to the lawsuit being brought to federal court from state court and mentioned the challenges of refiling with the federal court. She briefly read the allegations within the suit. Chairman Ron Clark noted that the officer involved in the matter has never come before the board for disciplinary action related to the shooting. Ms. Hattan mentioned that an executive session meeting would be held for strategy at a later date and confirmed her intentions to keep the budget expenses low while working on this federal case. She advised that she sees no cause of action in the matter.

A hearing is set for July 15th regarding the appeal of the board upholding the termination of Tommy A, and a hearing is set for August 5th regarding the Johnston matter. Ms. Hattan stated that Mr. Landry believes his client was removed from the eligibility list for Fire Training Officer II. She mentioned that the board has the authority to waive class requirements to keep a list of eligible candidates. She clarified that the lawsuit against the board is related to their decision before the appointment of the new Fire Training Officer II and is not connected to the city or the Fire Chief's selection process. Ms. Hattan pointed out that the board has faced six lawsuits in the last year, a significant increase from previous years. She acknowledged the city's new administration for resolving the legal issues and withdrawing the lawsuit against the board. The board expressed its gratitude to Ms. Hattan for her legal advice and updates.

14. Public Comment –

Captain Shawn requested a recount of hours due to an 8-hour discrepancy for Ms. Brandy Alexander. He proposed postponing the discussion to the next meeting, and the board agreed. They decided that moving the matter to next month's agenda would allow for more time to make the necessary corrections.

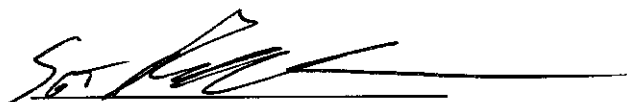
Motion to adjourn by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am



Ron R. Clark
Chairman