

**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 September 23, 2024 at 1:30 p.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 Cortez, Dwight Prudhomme, Charley Whipp III, Board Attorney Candice Hattan, Mayor- President Monique Boulet, CAO Rachel Godeaux, Human Resource Director Rick Zeno, FFFC Gabe Musso Board, Captain Shawn Terro, Secretary Mary Francis, Megan Wyatt

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. and opening statement read by Chairman Ron Clark.

1. Board authorization to approve minutes of August 14, 2024 board meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes of August 14, 2024 board meeting by L. Wayne Prejean
Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

2. Board authorization to approve scores for Police Lieutenant, Fire Prevention Chief, Fire Records Clerk II, Fire Investigator II, and Fire Records Clerk

Chairman Ron Clark read all passing scores aloud.

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

3. Cancellation of the initial Chief of Police exam and Board authorization to approve a new posting notice with a 30-day posting period

Mayor-President Monique Boulet explained her decision to reopen the job posting period. She mentioned that the previous posting notice might have been cleared prematurely, and she highlighted her efforts in collaborating with professional associations and raising the salary for the Police Chief position. Mayor-President Boulet acknowledged that the current applicants are qualified and expressed good faith in the Interim Chief, Paul Trouard. She assured that her aim is to conduct a strategic healthy hiring process to attract qualified candidates nationally for a long-term role.

CAO Rachel Godeaux clarified to the board that the job posting period would be open for 30 days. She also mentioned her hope of a new Chief of Police being selected by the end of this year.

Motion was made by to approve new 30-day posting notice by Dwight Prudhomme
Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean
Public comment: Fire Training Officer Johnston requested clarity on which qualifications were being waived and which guidelines call for waivers.
Opposition: None
Roll was called with L. Wayne Prejean, Charley Whipp III, Ron Clark, Dwight Prudhomme, Lane Cortez all voting yes
Motion carried unanimously

4. Request by Vice Chairman, L. Wayne Prejean to discuss Fire Department Class Plans

Vice Chairman Prejean has proposed making changes to certain classification plans within the Fire Department. He mentioned that he will collaborate with stakeholders to implement these improvements. His suggestions for updating the classification plans also involve adding a requirement for higher education coursework.

Board attorney Candice Hattan pointed out that implementing these changes will require a strong collaborative effort and a significant amount of time to complete.

5. Request by Fire Chief, Robert Benoit for 30-day extension of Administrative Leave w/ Pay for FFFC Gabe Musso

Agenda item tabled due to lack of Fire Department representation.

6. General Board business, if any –

A Public Information request was fulfilled for Ms. Heather Carrasco of Joy Rabalais' s office; they were provided with a copy of the meeting minutes from October 7, 2019, in a timely manner.

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

The board attorney, Ms. Hattan, provided a summary of the Johnston matter and assured the board that their decision was upheld. However, she expressed her concerns about the matter. She mentioned the difficulties surrounding the non-disciplinary matter, which led her to thoroughly explain the separation between the submissions and the board records. She suggested that the board consider changing the rules regarding non-disciplinary matters to allow the board the opportunity to vote on whether the provided documents and exhibits are admissible and appropriate for inclusion in the official board record.

Ms. Hattan also confirmed that the Glover and Tommy A. matter is now in the 3rd Circuit court and expanded on the Solomon case. She expressed hope of hearing from the Judge regarding the resubmission of her documents from the state to the Federal court. She mentioned that Joy Rabalais assisted in keeping the court costs down, but due to the Plaintiff's attorney not complying with deadlines, the Scheduling Conference has been continued to October.

Chairman Ron thanked Ms. Hattan for all of her efforts in counsel.

8. Public Comment – None

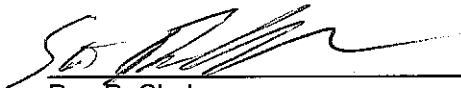
Motion to adjourn by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Lane T. Cortez

Public comment: None

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm



Ron R. Clark
Chairman