

**WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

*Minutes of September 7, 2021
Administration Building and via Zoom*

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop, Al Robinson and George Harris. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

Chairman Jennis asked if there was a motion to approve the excused absence for Commissioner Harris from the August 17, 2021, meeting? Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve; seconded by Commissioner Bennett; motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Harris abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2021-05 AMENDING & RESTATING FF RETIREMENT PLAN: Administrative Assistant Berggren verified that public notice was advertised in the Bradenton Herald on Sunday, August 29th, 2021. She then read the Ordinance. An Ordinance of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District, Manatee County Florida, further amending Ordinance No. 2013-04 restating the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District Firefighters' Retirement Plan, as subsequently amended; amending Section 6, benefit amounts and eligibility; amending Section 7, pre-retirement death; amending Section 9, vesting; amending Section 10, optional forms of benefits; amending Section 16, minimum distribution of benefits; providing for severability of provisions; providing for the repeal of conflicting ordinances; providing an effective date. Chairman Jennis opened the public hearing for public comments; there was none. Chairman Jennis closed the public hearing. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-05 Amending and Restating the FF Retirement Plan; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION 2021-06 2021 FIRE ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATION: Administrative Assistant Berggren verified that public notice was advertised in the Bradenton Herald on Sunday, August 29th, 2021. Chairman Jennis opened the public hearing for public comments; there was none. Chairman Jennis closed the public hearing. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve Resolution 2021-06 2021 Fire Assessment Certification; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION 2021-07 2021-2022 BUDGET: Administrative Assistant Berggren verified that public notice was advertised in the Bradenton Herald on Sunday, August 29th, 2021. Chairman Jennis opened the public hearing for public comments; there was none. Chairman Jennis closed the public hearing. Commissioner Harris motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-07 for the 2021-2022 budget; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; roll call vote. Commissioner Robinson – yes, Commissioner Harris - yes, Commissioner Bennett - yes, Commissioner Bishop - yes, Chairman Jennis - yes. Motion passed 5-0, unanimously.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Harris motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: Administrative Assistant Berggren read two communications to the board. The first was an appreciation letter from the Fire Chief of Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue for the mutual support provided during an August 21st, 2021, commercial fire. The second was a Proclamation from the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners regarding a 'Tribute to Heroes Day' for all to remember the impact of September 11th, 2001. Commissioner Bishop also highlighted the efforts and thanked the District for its continued dedication as first responders. Commissioner Harris asked Chief Rigney to further explain some details about the commercial fire that occurred and how we provided support to Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. *Revision of Chief Rigney's Employment Contract:* Chairman Jennis briefly recapped the proposed revision. Chief Rigney highlighted the contract extends the duration and is effective October 1st, 2021. Commissioner Harris specified all his questions were answered prior to the meeting. Commissioner Bennett agreed the revision

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meets the needs for courses initially agreed upon and Commissioner Bishop concurred with his statement. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve the revision of Chief Rigney's Employment Contract as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bennett; motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Revised Rules of the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals:* FM Kwiatkowski stated that the Manatee County Fire Chief's Association hired legal counsel to draft this document. It has been endorsed by the Chief's Association along with the participating fire district's and those district's legal counsel along with ours. Commissioner Bishop thanked FM Kwiatkowski for his time and work that was involved in this; it was a very transparent process. Chairman Jennis also thanked FM Kwiatkowski for his efforts in this. Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve the Revised Rules of the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney thanked the Board having faith in him for the past 2 years and extending his contract. DC Johnson stated that the 9/11 tribute will start at 9:00 a.m. on the 11th at the Bradenton Riverwalk memorial site. He also gave a brief COVID update. Chief Rigney also stated we have zero employees out due to COVID and wanted to thank everyone on the budget and the assistance from staff.

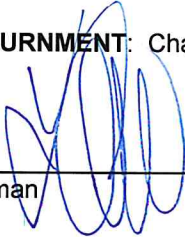
OTHER REPORTS: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bishop stated that we completed a lot of business in a short time and even though there might be different opinions, everyone is respectful of each other. Commissioner Bennett stated that the Manatee County Fire Commissioners' Association meeting will be at our building on October 4th. Commissioner Harris stated he was happy with all the unanimous votes.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at Administration Headquarters.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Chairman



Secretary

