

MINUTES
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
GOVERNMENT BUILDING
880 North Alexander Ave. Port Allen, La
Thursday, April 28, 2022
5:15 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the West Baton Rouge Fire Protection District No. 1 Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, April 28, 2022 and called to order at 05:15 PM. Board Chairman Carey Denstel asked that all electronic devices be placed on silent.

2. LOG ATTENDANCE

The following members were recorded as being present: Messrs. Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Atley Walker, Caleb Kleinpeter, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, and Gary Joseph.

Also present were, Mr. Riley Berthelot Jr, Parish President, Mr. Phillip Bourgoyne, Director of Finance, Mr. Jason Manola, Executive Assistant, and Mrs. Michelle Tullier, Board Secretary.

3. CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A.** Approve Minutes from the Quarterly Meeting of January 13, 2022 and the February 24, 2022 Special Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirk Allain, seconded by Mr. Caleb Kleinpeter to approve minutes from the Quarterly Meeting of January 13, 2022 and the February 24, 2022 Special Meeting.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 9 (Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Atley Walker, Caleb Kleinpeter, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Gary Joseph)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 0 (None)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes, the motion **Passed** and the agenda therefore amended.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Fire Chief Charles Stephens was recognized and covered the following items:
Building dedication to honor Chief Alleman;
4 new hires;
Contractor pay increase already resulting in uptick in contractors.

7. COMMUNICATIONS WITH BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

State Fire Marshal Butch Browning was recognized by President Berthelot to speak in regards to the Fire Chief Hiring Process.

Marshal Browning spoke briefly on his role in this process which currently is looking into various things in regards to how the department is currently operating. Some of the items that Marshal Browning covered were:

Lowering costs of various items by streamlining purchases;

Lowering Overtime;

Contract Workers;

Grant application;

Makeup of the department;
Steps to improve fire rating and a setting a reachable goal;
Policies and procedure updates;
Looking into a High School Recruitment course for the future.

Marshal Browning, noted in his opinion some of the things mentioned previously needed to be addressed first and from that point with a stable department, a qualified Chief would be easier to find.

Commissioner Allain suggested maybe having monthly fire meetings in order to keep updated on what is taking place in the Fire Department. There were no objections by the board however, it was suggested that these meetings happen if there are specific items that need to be addressed.

8. **RESOLUTIONS**

9. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kleinpeter and was adopted by acclamation at 05:31 PM.



Carey Denstel, Board Chairman



Michelle Z. Tullier, Board Secretary