

## SAFETY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2010

The April 13, 2010 Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Chad Smith, Chairman. Safety Committee members present were Kyle McColly, Chad Smith, and Scot Swinehart.

Others present included: Scott Washburn, Mayor; Mark Ellis, Law Director; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the qualifications for an appointment for the position of fireman with the City of Upper Sandusky.

Safety Committee members reviewed Section 133.02 Fireman's Qualifications as contained in the City's administrative code. The current existing requirements are:

### 133.02 FIREMAN'S QUALIFICATIONS.

In any appointment of a full-time fireman, the applicant:

- (a) Must become a resident of the City or establish residency as defined in Section 151.01 within thirty (30) days after serving their probationary period;  
(Ord. 182-11. Passed 6-2-08.)
- (b) Must be at least five feet six inches tall;
- (c) Must not be over thirty-five years of age, unless transferring from another Fire Department or transferring from the City's Volunteer Fire Division;
- (d) Must be an American citizen or declare intent of becoming an American citizen;
- (e) Must be of good moral character; and
- (f) Must pass a Civil Service exam for full-time firemen.  
(Ord. 205-6. Passed 5-16-77.)

Safety Committee members discussed the residency requirement as set forth in (a) above. Mr. Ellis explained that according to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 9.481 in order to ensure adequate response times by certain employees of political subdivisions to emergencies or disasters, the legislative authority of the political subdivision may adopt an ordinance that requires any individual employed by that political subdivision, as a condition of employment, to reside either in the county where the political subdivision is located or in any adjacent county in the state. Mr. Ellis indicated that residency requirements for emergency personnel can be no more restrictive than that. It was noted that under Section 151.01 (a)(1) Residency Requirements of the City's Codified Ordinances all full-time employees of the City (including full-time firemen) are required to live within a five (5) mile radius of the corporation limits. Safety Committee members agreed that the residency requirement for full-time firemen should be the same as contained in Section 151.01 (a)(3), stating that: All members of the Upper Sandusky Police Auxiliary, part-time Police Dispatchers, full-time Police Dispatchers, Police Officers, and Police Lieutenants shall be residents of the City or must reside in the area consisting of Wyandot, Marion, Hardin, Hancock, Seneca, and Crawford counties, except that the Safety Committee may, on a case by case basis, permit individuals with special experience, training, or expertise and who live outside the defined area to become a member of the Upper Sandusky Police Auxiliary. Safety Committee members also agreed that the residency requirement for the Police Captain and Police Chief as contained in Section 151.01 (a)(4) and requiring them to live within Wyandot County should be eliminated and their residency should also be included in Section 151.01 (a)(3).

Safety Committee members discussed the height restriction as set forth in (b) above. It was agreed that the height restriction should be eliminated. Discussion was held concerning the possibility of replacing this section with a requirement that a candidate must pass a medical examination, and drug and alcohol screening by a licensed physician designated by the City, certifying that the applicant is free of cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases and show that he or she meets the physical requirements necessary to perform the duties of fireman in the

City of Upper Sandusky, Ohio. The possible requirement for candidates to submit to a psychological examination was also discussed.

Safety Committee members discussed the age and transferring provisions addressed in (c) above. It was agreed that an individual seeking an original appointment should be at least eighteen years of age and less than thirty-six years of age for an original appointment unless transferring from a full-time paid fireman position with another Fire Department. It was determined that a transfer from the City's Volunteer Fire Division would be considered an original appointment and these candidates would have to meet the age requirements set forth.

Safety Committee members agreed that the language contained in sections (d), (e), and (f) as stated above should remain the same.

Safety Committee members discussed the possibility of requiring candidates to be high school graduates or possess a General Education Diploma (G.E.D.).

Mr. Ellis also suggested that a provision be added requiring that the candidate has received a certificate evidencing satisfactory completion of a firefighter training program as required by ORC.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Swinehart, to recommend to City Council to adopt the following changes to the City's Administrative Code:

Residency Requirements - Section 151.01 (a)(3) All members of the Upper Sandusky Police Auxiliary, part-time Police Dispatchers, full-time Police Dispatchers, Police Officers, Police Lieutenants, and full-time Firemen shall be residents of the City or must reside in the area consisting of Wyandot, Marion, Hardin, Hancock, Seneca, and Crawford counties, except that the Safety Committee may, on a case by case basis, permit individuals with special experience, training, or expertise and who live outside the defined area to become a member of the Upper Sandusky Police Auxiliary.; and

Section 133.02 FIREMAN'S QUALIFICATIONS.

In any appointment of a full-time fireman, the applicant:

- (a) Must establish residency as defined in Section 151.01 within thirty (30) days after serving their probationary period;
- (b) Must pass a medical examination, and drug and alcohol screening by a licensed physician designated by the City, certifying that the applicant is free of cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases and show that he or she meets the physical requirements necessary to perform the duties of fireman in the City of Upper Sandusky, Ohio; and if required, by the City, must submit to a psychological examination by a psychologist designated by the City;
- (c) Must be at least eighteen years of age and less than thirty-six years of age for an original appointment, unless transferring from a full-time paid fireman position with another Fire Department;
- (d) Must be an American citizen or declare intent of becoming an American citizen;
- (e) Must be of good moral character; and
- (f) Must pass a Civil Service exam for full-time firemen; and
- (g) Must be a high school graduate or have obtained a general education diploma (GED);
- (h) Must have a certificate evidencing satisfactory completion of a firefighter training program as set forth in Ohio Revised Code.

Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Swinehart, to recommend to City Council that the City's existing Section 151.01 (a)(4) pertaining to the residency requirements of the Police Captain and Police Chief be deleted, and these positions be included in Section 151.01 (a)(3) of the City's residency requirements. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

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Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

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Chad Smith, Chairman