

**TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA  
FIRE COMMITTEE  
Monday, April 5, 2021  
12:45 p.m.  
Municipal Complex, Council Chambers  
100 Ann Edwards Lane, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chair, Tom O'Rourke; Kathy Landing; Howard Chapman  
**Members Absent:** Jake Rambo  
**Staff Present:** Eric DeMoura, Town Administrator  
Mike Mixon, Fire Chief

**1. Call to order**

Mr. O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes from the [January 4, 2021](#) meeting**

*Mr. Chapman moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. All present voted in favor.*

**3. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**4. Budget Review FY 2022**

**a. Fire Department operating expenditures**

Mr. DeMoura said the Fire Department has an overall decrease of 3.7% and the budget does include salaries for three new positions. He stated there has been a significant addition of manpower over the last few years, and this budget includes the wage compensation proposal, as well as the one percent for the mandatory retirement. There are five frozen positions, and that money is not in this budget, which helps to contribute to the reduction on the salary side, but it is housed over non departmental, and being public safety positions, they receive a priority when revenues improve.

**b. Fire Department capital projects and maintenance expenditures**

Mr. DeMoura stated there are some notable increases such as fuel costs rising so there is an increase in the budget for that next

year. Mr. DeMoura stated vehicle replacements will include a replacement ladder truck which will cost over a million dollars, a pumper truck, three F150s and a Ford Ranger. Fire station #4 was just completed, and while we are looking into the future to try and remodel and rebuild other stations, there is nothing proposed for the next fiscal year. Mr. DeMoura stated that concludes the budget highlights and he is available to answer any questions.

Mr. Chapman said there is a member of the public that continually comes in and says we need more people, and we are doing that. Mr. O'Rourke said the last three and a half years he believes seven positions have been added.

Chief Mixon presented the following information.

# Strategic Plan

## Objective 1.16

<b>Objective 1.16</b>	<b>Improve operational efficiency by increasing staffing on all fire engines to a minimum of four personnel daily.</b>
<b>Timeframe</b>	• Throughout the duration of the plan
<b>Critical Tasks</b>	• Develop recruiting tactics to identify and hire 18 additional firefighters. • Draft training plan to educate and certify recruits. • Obtain personal protective equipment, uniforms, and consumables for new employees. • Adjust policies and task assignments to reflect revised staffing model.





- FY2019– Six additional Captains positions created
- FY2020- SAFER Grant award added six firefighters
- FY2022 – Three new firefighter positions proposed
- Total staffing increase from 122 to 137
- 15 operational personnel since July 2018



Mr. O'Rourke said safety trumps everything and he appreciates that we are able to keep this front and center, but does not think this is a finish line as it needs to be looked at every year.

*Ms. Landing moved to recommend to accept the budget for the Fire Department for Fiscal Year 2022, seconded by Mr. Chapman. All present voted in favor.*

## **5. Discussion and possible action with regard to holding an inaugural Firemen's and Policemen's Ball**

Ms. Landing stated the past year has been difficult with regard to celebrating events in the Town, so she has been discussing with Chief Mixon and Chief Ritchie and various other staff members about the idea that as we emerge from this difficult time, it would be great to have a community-building event such as a ball. This could be an event in Mount Pleasant, open to the public, tickets sold and possibly sponsorships. There could also be a fundraising aspect as well as a celebration of accomplishments.

Mr. DeMoura said he would be happy to have staff start looking into the possibility of having this event.

Mr. O'Rourke said the emphasis should be on not using any Town funds to hold the event.

**6. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Barrett  
Clerk of Council  
April 5, 2021