

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
CIVIL SERVICE CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604
DECEMBER 1, 2011

MINUTES

Commissioner Guedes called the December 1, 2011 special meeting of the Civil Service Commission to order at 12:07 p.m. Present were Commissioners Correa, McBride, Plummer, and Rodgers. Also attending were Personnel Director David Dunn, Clerk to the Commission, Deborah Brelsford, and City Attorney John Mitola.

Mr. Dunn explained to the Commissioners that they were asked to come to a special meeting so they could discuss and approve two (2) Lieutenant promotions and two (2) provisional Captain appointments in the Fire Department.

Mr. Dunn explained that on Monday, December 5, 2011, six (6) Fire Inspectors will begin to work as Fire Marshals in the Fire Marshal Division. People taking their places will have to go back to another position.

Mr. Dunn explained that Lieutenant Scott Foss and Lieutenant Darrien Pennix would be appointed as provisional Captains. Attorney Mitola added that Chief Rooney, as head of the Fire department, needs 2 provisional Captains. This is under the Chief's authority and Section 2.14 of the City Charter.

Attorney Mitola reminded the Commissioners that two (2) years ago, there was a Fire Lieutenant lawsuit regarding the weighting of exams. Firefighter Joseph Pelaggi made Lieutenant but the list was changed after Mr. Ralph Jacobs conferred with the City Attorney's office about modifying the weights. Then the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Ricci vs. New Haven, Connecticut case. At the time, Attorney Bucci represented Mr. Pelaggi. The two (2) intervening parties agreed to be demoted and placed on a Lieutenant list. Two firefighters were promoted to Lieutenant: Connolly and Shepard. There was also a recall list per the Agreement. The recall list would expire on Friday, December 2, 2011.

Commissioner Correa questioned if there would be back pay or remuneration and both Chief Rooney and City Attorney Mitola replied that there would not be.

Commissioner Guedes asked City Attorney Mitola if Mr. Pelaggi was satisfied with this and City Attorney Mitola replied that he had spoken with Attorney Bucci in the morning and that his client is happy with this. He also said he had a letter from the fire union withdrawing the grievance on the matter. Attorney Mitola further explained that this complies with the Charter and it also gets rid of the federal motion for contempt, that is pending.

Commissioner Correa asked if there were damages in the 2009 Settlement Agreement and City Attorney Mitola replied that the City paid some attorney fees for the lawyer representing

plaintiffs in that case. City Attorney Mitola added that the City has been in compliance with the Agreement the entire time.

Mr. Dunn added that this is a win-win situation for all those involved. He said that Mr. Scott Foss is the last name on the Captain list and Mr. Darrien Pennix is a subject matter expert for the upcoming entry level firefighter test. Commissioner Correa commented that both men are competent and fill the requirements of the position.

Lt. Dobbs stays where he is as a Lieutenant and Firefighter Pelaggi becomes a Lieutenant.

On a motion made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Correa, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the promotions of Mr. Joseph Pelaggi and Mr. David Dobbs as lieutenants in the Fire department.

On a motion made by Commissioner Plummer and seconded by Commissioner Rodgers, Lieutenants Scott Foss and Darrien Pennix were promoted to provisional Captain by the Commission unanimously.

Fire Chief Brian Rooney thanked the Commissioners for coming to this special meeting and for approving the Lieutenant promotions and provisional Captain appointments in the Fire department.

Mr. Dunn introduced Tony Carlino, unpaid intern from University of New Haven, to the Commissioners. Mr. Dunn explained that Tony would be working with Lisa Kollman in the Civil Service department on Thursdays and Fridays and he is a Masters Degree candidate in the Industrial/Organizational field.

Mr. Dunn reminded the Commissioners that the next regular monthly Civil Service Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 in the Wheeler A and B rooms of City Hall and would start at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Dunn also invited the Commissioners to the Civil Service/Labor Relations/Human Resources holiday luncheon on December 16th at 12:00 noon. He also told them that the date of the Mayor's holiday party is December 22nd at the Annex from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Commissioner Correa and seconded by Commissioner McBride, the special meeting of the Civil Service Commission adjourned at 12:25 p.m.