

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAMPTON THAT A DEPARTMENT TO BE HEREAFTER KNOWN AS THE CITY OF HAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, THE OBJECT OF WHICH SHALL BE THE PREVENTION AND EXTINGUISHMENT OF FIRE AND THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF HAMPTON AND PLACES DEEM NECESSARY BY THE CHIEF, MAYOR OR COUNCIL IS HEREBY CREATED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I OFFICERS

ARTICLE 1. The Department shall consist of a Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain, two Lieutenants and other officers as the Chief and Mayor may deem necessary for the effective operation of the Department.

ARTICLE 2. The Chief shall be appointed by the Mayor, prescribe by the City of Hampton charter, and his/her tenure of office shall depend upon his/her good conduct and efficiency. The Chief shall be technically qualified by training and experience and shall have ability to command persons and hold their respect and confidence. He/she shall be removed only for just cause and after a public hearing before the Mayor and Council.

ARTICLE 3. The Chief shall be held accountable to the Mayor only, and shall make written and verbal reports thereto as the Mayor may require. All other officers and members shall be accountable to the Chief only.

ARTICLE 4. The Assistant Chief and all other Department Officers shall be appointed by the Chief. Such officers shall be accountable only to the Chief. That appointments are to be approved by the Mayor and Council, and such officers shall be removed only for just cause and after a public hearing before the Mayor and Council.

SECTION II DUTIES OF THE CHIEF

ARTICLE 1. The Chief shall formulate a set of rules and regulation to govern the Department, and shall be responsible to the Mayor for the personnel, morale and general efficiency of the Department.

ARTICLE 2. The Chief shall determine the number and kind of companies of which the Department is to be composed and shall determine the response of such companies to alarms.

ARTICLE 3. The Chief shall at least once a month conduct suitable drills or instruction in the operations and handling of equipment, first aid and rescue work, salvage, a study of buildings in the City of Hampton, fire prevention, water supplies, and all other matters generally considered essential to good firemanship and safety of life and property from fire.

ARTICLE 4. The Chief is hereby required to assist the proper authorities in suppressing the crime of arson by investigating or causing to be investigated the cause, origin and circumstances of all fires.

ARTICLE 5. The Chief is hereby authorized to enter any and all buildings and premises at any reasonable hour for the purpose of making inspections and to serve written notice upon the owner or occupant to correct, within a specified time, any and all fire hazards that may be found.

ARTICLE 6. Any person so served with a notice to correct any fire hazards, shall comply therewith and promptly notify the chief.

ARTICLE 7. The Chief shall see that complete records are kept of all fires, inspections, apparatus and minor equipment, personnel and other information about the work of the Department.

ARTICLE 8. The Chief shall make available a monthly report to the Mayor and Council the conditions of the apparatus and equipment; the number of fires during the month, their location and cause, and date of same and loss occasioned thereby; the number and purpose of all other runs made; and the number of members responding to each fire or other run, and any changes in membership.

ARTICLE 9. The Chief shall make a complete annual report to the Mayor and Council within one month after the close of the fiscal year, such report to include the information specified in Article 7, together with comparative data for previous years and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Department.

SECTION III MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 1. The membership of the Department shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the Chief and shall be able bodied citizens residing within the city of Hampton and who have telephones in their homes. Determination of whether candidates for appointment are able bodied shall be made by the Chief after a medical and physical examination has been made in a manner prescribed by the Chief and approved by the Mayor and Council.

ARTICLE 2. Any member of the Department may be suspended or discharged from the Department by the Chief at any time he/she may deem such action necessary for the good of the Department. On written request of such member to the Mayor and Council he/she shall be given a public hearing on charges brought by the Chief.

SECTION IV EQUIPMENT

ARTICLE 1. The Department shall be equipped with such apparatus and other equipment as may be required from time to time to maintain its efficiency and properly protect life and property from fire.

ARTICLE 2. Recommendations of apparatus and equipment needed shall be made by the Chief, and after approval by the Mayor and Council shall be purchased in such manner as may be designated by the Mayor and Council.

ARTICLE 3. All equipment of the Department shall be safely and conveniently housed in such places as may be designated by the Mayor and Council.

ARTICLE 4. Suitable arrangement of equipment shall be provided for citizens to turn in an alarm, and for notifying all members of the Department so that they may promptly respond.

ARTICLE 5. No person shall use any fire apparatus or equipment for any private purpose, nor shall any person wilfully and without proper authority take away or conceal any article used in any way by the Department.

ARTICLE 6. No person shall enter any place where fire apparatus is housed or handle any apparatus or equipment belonging to the Department unless accompanied by, or having the special permission of, an officer or authorized member of the Department.

SECTION V GENERAL

ARTICLE 1. Each member of the Department shall be issued a badge designating his/her rank.

ARTICLE 2. All motor equipment and all personal cars of department members shall have right-of-way over all other traffic when responding to an alarm.

ARTICLE 3. Each member of the Department driving a car shall be issued a suitable insignia to be attached to the car.

ARTICLE 4. No person shall drive any vehicle over fire hose except upon specific orders from the Chief or other department officer in charge where the hose is issued.

ARTICLE 5. No person shall park any vehicle or otherwise cause any obstruction directly in front of the entrance to any fire station or other place where fire apparatus is stored, or within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant.

ARTICLE 6. No person shall maliciously turn in or cause to be turned on a false alarm.

SECTION VI ENFORCEMENT

ARTICLE 1. Any person violating the provisions of Section II, Article 6, Section IV, Article 5 and 6; and Section V, Article 2, 4, 5 and 6 shall, upon conviction in City of Hampton Recorder's Court, or before a Justice of the Peace, pay a fine of not less than ten (10) dollars or more than one hundred (100) dollars for each offense.

ARTICLE 2. All regularly appointed members of the Department are hereby given the necessary special police powers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance.

ARTICLE 3. It is hereby made the special duty of the Chief of Police and/or other Peace Officers who may be on duty and available for fire duty, to respond to all fire alarms and assist the department in the protection of life and property, in regulating traffic, maintaining order, and in enforcing observance of all sections of this ordinance.

ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL THIS 14 DAY OF June, 1977.

Glenn Mitchell
MAYOR GLENN MITCHELL

John C. Walters III
CITY CLERK JOHN WALTERS III