

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole
July 23, 2018

Members: Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Chair
Mr. Brillhart
Mr. Gorbach
Mr. Iona
Mr. Iula
Mr. James
Mr. Miller
Mr. Pallotta
Mr. Colavecchio
Mrs. Pyke
Mr. Reilly

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members were present.

Discussion:

Mayor Walters stated that, tonight, they have the honor to carry on the great tradition of the Fire Department with the appointment of a new chief. It does not take effect yet, but with the Council break in August and the need to backfill some lower ranks, it needs to take place in August, so they can do what they need to do within that department. Chief Paul Moledor is retiring after 36 years of service. He's been Fire Chief for 10 years and has been serving as the 14th Fire Chief in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. His last day will be September 28th. The swearing-in ceremony for the new chief will be announced at a later date.

Mayor Walters stated that he is asking for Council's confirmation of Assistant Fire Chief Fred Jackson as the next Fire Chief. He would be the 15th Fire Chief in Cuyahoga Falls. That's effective 12:01 a.m., September 29th, 2018. Mr. Jackson was hired as a Cuyahoga Falls firefighter on April 16th, 1986, which gives him 32 years of service. During that time, Mr. Jackson has risen through the ranks and was promoted to Assistant Chief in July of 2008, so he's been in that position 10 years. His credentials, education and certification are second to none. He attended NEOUCOM, Kent State University, Malone University and has a bachelor's degree in Organizational Management and a master's degree in Business Administration. Some of his certifications earned over the years are Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Fire Service Instructor, Fire Safety Inspector, EMS Instructor, EMS Site Director and Special Operations Instructor, which includes the following: Rope, confined space, trench, building collapse, water rescue, ice rescue, SWAT training with the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, Active Shooter Response Team, among many others. He is also a member of the National Fire Protection Association. For the third year, he is the President of the Summit County Fire Chiefs Association. He is a member of the Northampton Rotary and is very involved in his neighborhood and community. He is a long-time resident of the City of Cuyahoga Falls and has a passion for the City. Mayor Walters stated that, as Safety Director, his job is to maximize the safety of the residents of Cuyahoga Falls and minimize risk or harm to persons or property. Mr. Fred Jackson will serve the City extremely well as Fire Chief. He respectfully asked for Council's confirmation of his appointment as Fire Chief.

Mr. Iona stated that Fire Chief Moledor has done a great job. Assistant Chief Jackson's credentials are phenomenal. He's civic minded. He's involved with in the community. The City couldn't get

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a better guy. Mr. James stated that he has known Chief Moledor since 1973. What better man can step into his shoes than Assistant Chief Jackson. He is very proud of both of them. He is going to hate to see Chief Moledor go. Mrs. Pyke stated that, first of all, Chief Moledor is way too young to retire. No one from the class of 1977 should be retiring. They graduated from high school together. He is such a great guy. His are big shoes to fill, but if anybody can fill them, Mr. Jackson can. She stated that she and Mr. Jackson have come up 21 years together, have been through a lot and have worked together. It is so important when a member of Council can call a chief their friend, and she can honestly say that Police Chief Davis is her friend, Fire Chief Moledor is her friend and Assistant Chief Moledor is her friend. It helps Council members do their duties having them there.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that it has been a pleasure every time she has had contact with both Chief Moledor and Assistant Chief Jackson. They are both really knowledgeable and a great resource. The City is very lucky to have had Chief Moledor, and, now, Chief Jackson. Over the weekend, she had the pleasure of volunteering with the Habitat For Humanity house across the street from the Fire Station. The City's Police Department and Fire Department are responsible for putting up the walls and the framing inside of that house. The two firefighters there said what a great choice Mr. Jackson is. Knowing he has that respect and knowing how good he is and what a good job he is going to do goes a long way. That's also an impressive part of his resume. Mr. Colavecchio congratulated Chief Moledor and Assistant Chief Jackson. He stated that Assistant Chief Jackson's accomplishments are very impressive.

Assistant Chief Jackson stated that this was a tremendous opportunity. He thanked the members of Council, Mayor, Cabinet, the Fire Department, and all the citizens that are present. It's an honor to be able to serve the citizens of this fine city. He is looking forward to leading the City's tremendously-talented group of firefighters into the future. He will do his very best, each and every moment, to serve the City's citizens and members by continuing to ensure the department provides unmatched emergency service. The City's Fire Department family continues to look forward to helping their extended family, their citizens, by addressing their needs. They are problem solvers and will continue to solve citizen's problems to the best of their abilities. Their service model will be with the citizens to the center, surrounded by firefighter-paramedics, surrounded by officers, surrounded by the Mayor and his administration, with an umbrella over that group of City Council. He is excited to work towards completion of the City's latest fire station and help modernize many aspects of the department. Their motto will be to be nice and always do the right thing. He thanked everyone present for the opportunity to be able to serve.

Fire Chief Moledor stated that he can't think of anybody more capable, more passionate and more involved in the department. Mr. Jackson is very knowledgeable about everything they do and will take a lot of the programs that they started and develop them into even better programs. He looks for a lot from Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Pallotta moved to approve the Mayor's appointments, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (11-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.