

§ 30.18 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

(A) *Established.* There is hereby established in the city a Volunteer Fire Department, consisting of a Chief, and not less than 23, nor more than 29, firefighters.

(B) *Election (appointment).* The Chief of the Fire Department shall be elected annually by the members of the Department, subject to confirmation by the Council. Each shall hold office for one year and until his or her successor has been duly elected; except that, he or she may be removed by the Council for cause after a public hearing. Firefighters and probationary firefighters shall be appointed by the members of the Department, subject to confirmation by the Council. Firefighters shall continue as members of the Department during good behavior and may be removed by the Council only for cause after a public hearing.

(C) *Duties of Chief.* The Chief shall have control of all the firefighting apparatus and shall be solely responsible for its care and condition. He or she shall make a report, semi-annually, to the Council at its meeting in March and September as to the condition of the equipment and needs of the Fire Department. He or she may submit additional reports and recommendations at any meeting of the Council, and he or she shall report each suspension by him or her of a member of the Fire Department at the first meeting of the Council following the suspension. He or she shall be responsible for the proper training and discipline of the members of the Fire Department and may suspend any member for refusal or neglect to obey orders pending final action by the Council on his or her discharge or retention.

(D) *Records.* The Chief shall keep, in convenient form, a complete record of all fires in accordance with the general records retention schedule for Minnesota cities. Such a record shall include the time of the alarm, location of fire, cause of fire (if known), type of building, name of owner and tenant, purpose for which occupied, value of building and contents, members of the Department responding to the alarm and other information as he or she may deem advisable or as may be required from time to time by the Council or the state's Insurance Department.

(E) *Firefighters.*

(1) The Assistant Chief and firefighters shall be able-bodied and not less than 18, nor more than 70, years of age.

(F) *Compensation.* The members and officers of the Fire Department shall receive compensations, which compensation shall be determined by the personnel policy, subject to the approval of the Council.

(G) *Relief association.*

(1) The members and officers of the Fire Department may organize themselves into a firefighters' relief association.

(2) Any existing relief association shall be considered official and shall continue.

(M) Interference with Department. It shall be unlawful for any person to give or make, or cause to be given or made, an alarm of fire without probable cause or to neglect or refuse to obey any reasonable order of a firefighter at a fire or to interfere with the Fire Department in the discharge of its duties. (Ord. 1-73, passed 5-7-1973) Penalty, see § 30.99