

ORDINANCE NO. O-26-19

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ORDINANCE 2-9
REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE
WEST LONG BRANCH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the West Long Branch Fire Department and both Fire Companies have been studying the concept of merging the two fire companies, a prospect that the governing body has favored for many years; and

WHEREAS, with the reduction of active fire fighters in both houses and the pool of firemen for both officer and administrative positions have heightened the need for a solution to the existing two-company organization; and

WHEREAS, both the Fire Department and both Fire Companies have endorsed the several changes being made herein to Ordinance 2-9, and the Council's Fire and EMS Committee has recommended these changes; and

WHEREAS, the governing body has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to consolidate the two fire companies into one, keeping both firehouses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch as follows:

SECTION 1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 2-9.3(a)(1)

No person shall become an active member unless above the age of 18 years and not over the age as set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:14-56, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the Borough of West Long Branch or Towns listed in paragraph A7 below, and County of Monmouth for six months or more, have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate, and is able to read, write, and speak the English language well and intelligently, is of good moral character and has not been convicted of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude. He/she shall be physically fit to perform the duties of fireman evidenced by a certificate to that effect provided by the appointed Borough of West Long physician, a practicing physician of the State of New Jersey. After a physical examination for that purpose, fees associated with the physical examination will be covered by the borough.

SECTION 2. ELECTIONS. TERMS OF OFFICE

The second and third sentences of Ordinance 2-9.4 are amended as follows:
The Fire Chief shall serve for a term of one year. ~~two years and the position shall alternate between companies on a bi-annual basis. The Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief shall not be members of the same company.~~

SECTION 3. Ordinance 2-9.5b

Fire Chief. If for any reason the term of Fire Chief cannot be completed by the elected Fire Chief, a ~~qualified nominee from the company which the vacancy arose from~~ will be voted upon in a special departmental election the Assistant Fire Chief shall become

~~the Fire Chief, to serve the remainder of the Fire Chief's term. Said election shall be held within 30 days of the vacancy and follow the annual election criteria.~~

SECTION 4. Ordinance 2-9.5c

Assistant Fire Chief. If for any reason the term of Assistant Fire Chief cannot be completed by the elected Assistant Fire Chief, a qualified nominee from the department ~~company which the vacancy arose from~~ will be voted upon in a special departmental election to serve the remainder of the Assistant Fire Chief's term and follow the annual election criteria.

SECTION 5. ELECTION OF FIRE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT CHIEF

[The first four sentences of Ordinance 2-9.7a shall remain unchanged]

Ordinance 2-9.7a is amended to read:

The mayor and the council shall canvas returns and declare the result and the persons so declared to be elected as the Fire Chief, ~~and Assistant Fire Chief shall hold office for two years from the~~ Assistant Fire Chief, Captain, 1st Lieutenant and 2nd Lieutenant, all of whom shall hold office for one year from the first of January next ensuing the election.

SECTION 6. LINE OFFICERS

A. Ordinance 2-9.8a is amended to read:

- a. Each company in the Fire Department of the Borough of West Long Branch shall ~~elect the Line Officers of Captain and Lieutenant~~ nominate candidates for Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain, 1st Lieutenant and 2nd Lieutenant to serve for a term of one year ~~two years.~~ [Balance of section remains unchanged.]

B. The positions in Ordinance 2-9.8b shall remain the same, however "2. Lieutenant" shall be changed to read "2. 1st Lieutenant and 2nd Lieutenant."

SECTION 7. EXHIBIT A MINIMUM TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS FOR LIEUTENANTS

Ordinance 2-9.8.1 is amended as follows:

- A. References to Lieutenant prior to the listing of qualification requirements shall be amended to read "2nd Lieutenant and 1st Lieutenant."
- B. Qualifications numbered 4, 5 and 6 are hereby removed and repealed.
- C. Qualifications numbered 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 8. EXHIBIT A MINIMUM TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CAPTAIN

Ordinance 2:9-8.1c is amended to delete requirements numbered 4 and 7. Requirement numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 9. EXHIBIT A MINIMUM TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS FOR ASSISTANT CHIEF

Ordinance 2:9-8.1d is amended to have requirement number 2 read as follows:

“Meet the training requirements of ~~two~~ three years’ service as a WLBFD line officer and held the position of Captain for one year.”

SECTION 10. EXHIBIT A MINIMUM TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHIEF

Ordinance 2:9-8.1e is amended to have requirement number 2 read as follows:

“Meet the training requirements of ~~three~~ four years’ service as a WLBFD line officer.”

SECTION 11. EXHIBIT A MINIMUM TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS FOR DRIVER OPERATORS

Ordinance 2:9-8.1f is amended to have requirement numbers 1, 2, 7 and 10 read as follows:

“1. Meet the training requirements of an active firefighter in the Borough for ~~three~~ two years. The Chief may, at his discretion, approve any new member transferring from another Fire Department that has the required classes and has previous years of experience from that Fire Department.

“2. Said drivers shall be appointed by the ~~company officers~~ Department Line officers.”

“7. Drivers of AERIAL/QUINT apparatus shall have completed, prior to driving, a minimum eight-hour course in AERIAL PLACEMENT as well as TRUCK COMPANY Course; or its equivalent.”

“10. Said drivers, who must be 21 years of age or older, shall at all times obey all traffic laws when operating any Borough vehicle or apparatus when driving under normal conditions, as well as in emergency response mode.”

SECTION 12. CHAIN OF COMMAND IN THE FIRE CHIEF’S ABSENCE

The first sentence of Ordinance 2-9.14 is amended to read:

“In the absence of the Fire Chief, his command shall devolve upon, and his duties be performed by, the Assistant Fire Chief, or in his absence, by the ~~Senior Company Line Officer Captain; or in his absence by the 1st Lieutenant; or in his absence by the 2nd Lieutenant.~~”

SECTION 13. FIRE DEPARTMENT DRIVERS

The words “~~Fire Company(s) Officers~~” shall be changed to read the “Fire Department Line Officers” throughout Ordinance 2-9.22.

SECTION 14. REPEALER

Any current ordinance which conflicts with this ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of its inconsistency.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to law.

[Language that is ~~lined through~~ is being removed from the current ordinance.
Language that is underlined is new.]

Introduced:

Passed:

Adopted:

MAYOR

BOROUGH CLERK