

PATTERSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Patterson that a department to be hereafter known as the Patterson Volunteer Fire Department, the object of which shall be the prevention and extinguishment of fire and the protection of life and property within the limits of the City of Patterson 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 Council may deem necessary for the effective operation of the Department.

Article 2. The Chief shall be appointed by the Council for an indefinite period of time, and his tenure of office shall depend upon his good conduct and efficiency. The Chief shall be technically qualified by training and experience and shall have the ability to command men and hold their respect and confidence. He shall be removed only for just cause after a hearing by the Council.

Article 3. The Chief shall be held accountable to the Council only, and shall make written and verbal reports thereto as the Council may require. All other Department and Company officers shall be accountable to the Chief only.

Article 4 The Assistant Chiefs and all other Department officers shall be appointed by the Chief. Such officers shall be accountable only to the Chief. All appointments are to be approved by the Council.

SECTION II

Duties of Chief

Article 1. The Chief shall formulate a set of rules and regulations to govern the Department, and shall be responsible to the Council for the personnel, morale and general efficiency of the Department.

Article 2. The Chief shall at least once a month conduct suitable drills or instruction in the operation and handling of equipment, first aid and rescue work, salvage, a study of buildings in the city, fire prevention, water supplies, and other matters generally considered essential to good foremanship and safety of life and property from fire.

Article 3. 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 4. The Chief is hereby empowered 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 abate, within a specified time, any and all fire hazards that may be found.

Article 5. Any person so served with a notice to abate any fire hazard or hazards, shall comply therewith and promptly notify the Chief.

Article 6. 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 7. The Chief shall report monthly to the 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 numbers 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 8. The Chief shall make a complete annual report to the Council within one month after the close of the fiscal year, such report to include the information specified in Article 6 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, preferably property owners whose business activities are normally within the confine of Patterson, and who have telephones in their homes. Determination of whether candidates for appointment are able bodied shall be made by the Chief and approved by the Council.

Article 2. Any member of the Department may be suspended or discharged by the Chief at any time he may deem such action necessary for the good of the Department.

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 Council shall be purchased in such manner as may be designated by the Council.

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

Article 4. Suitable arrangement or 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 willfully 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 special permission of, an officer or authorized member of the Department.

SECTION 7 General

Article 1. Each member of the Department shall be issued a badge designating his rank or membership.

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 officer in charge where the hose is issued.

Article 5. No person shall park any vehicle or otherwise cause any obstruction to be placed within 25 feet of the entrance to any fire station or other place where fire apparatus is stored, or within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant or cistern.

Article 6. No Person shall maliciously turn in or cause to be turned in a false alarm.

SECTION VI Enforcement

Article 1. Any person violating the provisions of Section II, Article 5; Section IV, Article 5 and 6; and Section V, Articles 2, 4, 5, and 6 shall upon conviction in Mayor Court of this City 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 officer 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 AT THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD Thursday, November
2, 1978.

WITNESS:

Edna W. Tatum
EDNA W. TATUM,
CITY CLERK-TREASURER

S. W. Gardner
S. W. GARDNER, MAYOR
CITY OF PATTERSON, GEORGIA