

**WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

*Minutes of November 19, 2024
Administration Building*

Special Presentations: Kyle Elliott, Matthew French, Gavin Johnston, Sarah Joseph, Dane Miller, Brian Pease, and Tyler Snyder were recognized for their promotions to 3rd Class Firefighters. Firefighter Kimbrell was recognized for his 20 years of service. Derek Bill was recognized for his promotion to Battalion Chief.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. with the following members present: Robert Bennett, Larry Jennis, David Bishop, and Billy Burke. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright administered the oath to Commissioners Bennett and Jennis.

2nd PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #2025-02 CHAPTER 175 AMENDMENT & RESTATEMENT: AA Wright verified that public notice was advertised in The Bradenton Herald on November 10, 2024, and read the ordinance summary. Vice Chairman Burke opened the public hearing for public comments; there were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Commissioner Jennis. There was no Board discussion. Vice Chairman Burke adjourned the public hearing. Commissioner Bishop motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-02 Chapter 175 Amendment & Restatement. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Bishop – Yes; Commissioner Burke – Yes; Commissioner Jennis – Yes; Chairman Bennett – Yes. Motion carried 4-0.

2nd PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION CODE ORDINANCE 2025-03: AA Wright verified that public notice was advertised in The Bradenton Herald on November 10, 2024, and read the ordinance summary. Vice Chairman Burke opened the public hearing for public comments; there were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Jennis. Commissioner Bishop noted that this is not enforceable but gives the District smart guidelines to follow. Commissioner Bishop motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-03 Community Risk Reduction Code. Seconded by Commissioner Jennis. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Bishop – Yes; Commissioner Burke – Yes; Commissioner Jennis – Yes; Chairman Bennett – Yes. Motion carried 4-0.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: AA Wright read two thank you cards, one from a resident that coded in 2023 and was saved by our personnel.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Board Elections: Chief Rigney read a letter from Chairman Warner, who was not in attendance, stating he is very pleased with the work completed by the Board in the past year and would like to serve as Chairman for a second term. Chief Rigney then explained this is when the Board nominates the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary Treasurer. Commissioner Bishop motioned to nominate Commissioner Burke for Chairman; Seconded by Commissioner Jennis; Motioned passed unanimously. Commissioner Bennett motioned to nominate Commissioner Jennis for Vice Chairman; Seconded by Commissioner Bishop; Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Jennis motioned to nominate Commissioner Bishop for Secretary-Treasurer; Seconded by Commissioner Bennett; Motion passed unanimously.
- B. 2025 Meeting Dates: Chief Rigney stated that the 2025 meeting dates have been chosen in accordance with our usual schedule at 6pm on the third Tuesday of every month aside from September when it is on

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the second Tuesday. Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve the 2025 Meeting Dates; Seconded by Commissioner Bennett; Motion passed unanimously.

- C. December Meeting: Chief Rigney explained that typically the December Commission Meeting is cancelled, and that Staff has nothing to report at that time. Commissioner Bennett motioned to cancel the December Commission Meeting; Seconded by Commissioner Bishop. Commissioner Jennis verified with Staff that notice would be given. Chief Rigney confirmed that the cancellation would be advertised. Motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney thanked the Board for allowing Staff to recognize all the promotions and time of service award during special presentations. Deputy Chief (DC) Johnson gave the Board an update on the E-One twin engine purchase. DC Johnson stated that instead of 36-months for both engines, one should be complete in 2025 and the other in May of 2026. Commissioner Bishop asked Staff about hydrant poles he mentioned last meeting to identify hydrants if buried in sand. Chief Rigney stated he is looking into that and water level posts. Commissioner Bennett stated a metal detector may be helpful if buried hydrants need to be located. Commissioner Bishop reiterated that the point of the poles is a marker for all drivers, not just fire personnel. The Board conversed further.

OTHER REPORTS: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bennett thanked Staff. Commissioner Burke congratulated Commissioner's Bennett and Jennis for 4 more years on the Board and thanked WMFR personnel and Staff.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chairman Burke adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary

