

17

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND
REGULATION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE BOROUGH
OF RIVERDALE

I The Fire Department shall consist of a Chief, an Assistant Chief, a Chief Machinist, and as may firemen between the ages of 18 and 35 as may be elected to membership by the Council of the Borough of Riverdale, but no active fireman now in good standing of the fire department shall be debarred from further active membership in the reorganized department owing to the above age limitations.

II. Any male person possessing the above qualifications desiring to become a member of the Fire Department, shall make application on blanks provided for that purpose to the Council of the Borough, and upon election and on recommendation of the Chief shall be detailed by the Council to duty with one of the companies in the department. Should said fireman at any time desire to change to another company he shall so request in writing ^{at} any regular Council meeting, and the Chief of the department concurring, said change may be made at the pleasure of the Council.

III. Any fireman may resign at any time at any regular Council meeting, said resignation to be made in writing, and credit will be given for time served as a fireman, provided said fireman is in good standing and free from charges at time said resignation is made.

IV. Any fireman who has reached the age of 50 years or who shall become physically unfit before reaching that age, may be retired at any time by the Council.

V. The Chairman of the Fire and Police Committee of the Council, the Chief of the Fire Department and the Chief Machinist of the Fire Department are hereby designated as the

Board of Fire Officers, and they are hereby authorized, empowered and required to inspect from time to time, but at least twice annually, all buildings and other premises within the Borough of Riverdale wherein accumulations of combustible materials and other conditions hazardous from a fire standpoint are liable to exist, and to order such changes or removals made as in their opinion are necessary to insure reasonable precaution against fire. For the purpose of inspection they are hereby authorized and empowered to enter any and all buildings and other premises at any reasonable hours, and any person, company or corporation who refuses them entrance, or fails or neglects to comply with their orders, is subject to a fine of not more than \$50.00 for each day's delay; said fine to be imposed on complaint and conviction before the Recorder of the Borough of Riverdale. But should any person, copartnership or corporation feel that any orders or requirements made by the Board of Fire Officers are unnecessary or unreasonable, they may appeal before trial to the Council of the Borough to have them rescinded or amended, and the decision of the Council shall be final and binding upon the Board of Fire Officers.

VI. The Chief and Assistant Chief shall be elected for the term of one year each by the members of the Fire Department, at a meeting to be held on the second Tuesday in January at 8 P.M., at the fire headquarters, which meeting shall be known as the annual meeting, but said elections are subject to the approval of the Council of the Borough at their next regular meeting. Should the Council not approve of any or all so elected the Borough Clerk shall so notify the Chief of the Fire Department and shall call a meeting of the firemen, to be held at the fire headquarters at 8 PM within one week of the date of said rejection, and should any of the officers elected at this subsequent meeting meet with the disapproval of the

Council, at its next regular meeting, the Council shall then forthwith appoint to fill all vacancies, and all officers so appointed shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Fire Department,

VII. The firemen shall be divided into four companies of not more than twenty-five men each, to be known as the Hook and Ladder Company, the Engine and Hose Company, the Chemical Company and the Salvage and Patrol Company, and the firemen shall do duty with such companies as they may be assigned to by the Council. The members of each company shall themselves elect a captain and a first and second lieutenant, which election shall be held at the same time and subject to the same restrictions as are imposed on the elections of chief and assistant chief. The companies shall at the same meeting elect a president and vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall hold office for one year. Each company may adopt a constitution and by-laws for their civic government, but all constitutions, by-laws, rules and regulations adopted by them shall be subject to the approval of the Council.

VIII. It shall be the duty of said companies, so often as any fire shall break out, to repair immediately upon the alarm thereof to their respective fire houses and to convey their apparatus to the fire, unless otherwise directed by the senior officer present, and to remain under his direction until ordered home, and they shall thoroughly wash and clean all apparatus before returning it to the several places of deposit.

IX. The chief and assistant chief, in the order of their rank, shall have entire charge of the firemen and the apparatus while it is actually engaged in active fire duty, while on parade or inspection, or when employed in drills, and it shall be their duty to see that all apparatus is returned to its

place of deposit on each occasion, properly cleaned and washed. In all cases of fire the chiefs in order of their rank, shall have full and absolute control and command and shall cause the firemen and the apparatus to work in the most advantageous manner.

X. The chief machinist shall be appointed by the Mayor at the annual meeting of the Borough Council, subject to ratification by the Council and shall receive such compensation each year as the Council may determine. He shall have entire charge of all fire-fighting apparatus at all times, except when it is actually engaged in responding to alarms, while on parade or inspection, or at drill, and shall be held responsible for its working condition and mechanical efficiency. Except in response to fire alarms, or to participate in parades approved by the Council, or for inspection ordered by the Council, no apparatus shall be taken from its respective place of deposit without his consent.

XI. Should both of the chiefs be absent from any fire the several companies shall work under the command of their company officers in the order of their rank.

XII. It shall be the duty of the chief and the chief machinist to report monthly to the Council at its first regular meeting the condition of all fire-fighting apparatus and appurtenances, the number of hydrants in use and condition of the same, the number and date of all fires during the past month, with the location, probable cause and estimated loss on the same, and the number of active members in each company, and to make at that time such recommendations as will in their opinion make for the efficiency and betterment of the department. In the interim between Council meetings the Board of Fire Officers are hereby empowered to make such emergency repairs or replacements to the fire-fighting apparatus as may in the judgment of the chairman of the Fire and Police Committee

in the Borough Council be necessary to keep the fire department up to the highest standard of efficiency.

XIII. The chief in command at any fire is hereby clothed with full and complete police authority and is hereby authorized and directed to require and secure the removal of any and all obstructions from in front of and around hydrants and is hereby authorized to call upon the head of any municipal department for aid and assistance.

XIV. Any fireman or officer, while on duty at any fire, drill, parade or inspection, who shall refuse or wilfully neglect to obey or execute any orders from the officer in charge shall for that offence be subject to reduction in rank, suspension or expulsion from the department, but the officer or fireman so charged shall be permitted by the Council to be heard in his defence at the pleasure of the Borough Council.

XV. No person not an active fireman shall be permitted to handle any apparatus or fire equipment or appurtenances belonging to the fire department without the consent of the chief machinist. No persons shall be allowed in any fire house, other than firemen, ~~exempt~~ firemen and borough officers unless accompanied by active firemen, or exempt firemen or a borough officer.

XVI. No fire apparatus or appurtenances shall be taken from the borough in order to fight fire in neighboring communities without the consent of the Mayor or in his absence without the consent of the chief, or in his absence without the consent of the chairman of the fire and police committee in the Borough Council; and only such firemen as volunteer to go shall be required to man any apparatus responding to alarms outside of the limits of the borough, but all volunteers for fire duty outside of the borough become subject to all rules and regulations as though the fire were within the borough.

XVII. If any company in the department shall vote for the expulsion or suspension of any of its members the same shall be reported to the Council at its next regular meeting and the expelled or suspended member shall have the right to appeal by appearing or stating reasons in writing, or both, why said expulsion or suspension should not be confirmed; and in case of his non-appearance, or in case his appeal is not sustained, the Council may thereupon confirm the suspension or appeal.

XVIII. The chief and assistant chief while on duty shall wear white helmets, the company officer, red helmet, and the firemen black helmets. The Company uniforms shall be decided by the respective companies, subject to the approval of the Council.

XIX. It shall be the duty of the chief to call a drill for practice, for one or more companies, whenever he deems it necessary, and any company commander may do likewise for his own company, but no automobile apparatus shall be taken from the place of deposit for drill purposes without the consent of the chief machinist. Any fireman who refuses or wilfully neglects to respond to such call for drills shall be liable to expulsion or suspension from the department on complaint of the chief to the Borough Council.

XX. All vacancies in staff or company officers shall be filled by election, subject to the same conditions covering annual elections. All fire-fighting apparatus used in the Borough of Riverdale is to be solely the property of the Borough, and all personal property owned by the firemen while deposited in any borough fire house is subject to the jurisdiction of the Borough Council.

XXI. This ordinance is to take effect August 1, 1926, and the election of chiefs and company officers for the balance of the year 1926 is to take place Monday, July 26, 1926, at 8 P.M. daylight saving time. Only firemen who have made

made application for membership and who have been elected by
the Borough Council may vote at the election held July 26,
1926.

Introduced: June 18, 1926 BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE.

Passed: June 18, 1926

Approved: July 16, 1926 BY John F. Strael
Mayor

ATTEST: James G. Dodd
Borough Clerk.