

*As circulated* December 2, 2024  
*Jan 14, 2025* Regular Council Meeting  
Elyria City Council

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on December 2, 2024 at 7:01 p.m. by President Stewart. President Stewart requested all cell phones please be turned off or placed on silent mode. President Stewart opened the meeting requesting a moment of reflective silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council member Davis.

**2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Callahan, Cerra, Armstrong, Oswald, Mitchell, Tollett, Lipian, Siwierka, Davis, Schneider, Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brubaker, SSD Pyanowski, Fin. Dir. Pileski, Law Director Deery, Police Chief Pelko, Fire Chief Pronesti, BO Farkas, Supt. Stewart, CD Dir. Scott, Engineer Schneider

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Cerra moved, Mitchell seconded to approve council meeting minutes.

**5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:**

**Mayor Brubaker:**

Mayor Brubaker provided an update regarding a recent visit to Columbus to State Representative Gayle Manning as well as Ohio Mayor's Alliance regarding HB 296. House Bill 296 pertains to the police pension increase, it is currently on the docket and just recently passed at subcommittee. HB 296 is anticipated to be voted on for 2024 in lame duck session per Mayor Brubaker. The pension will provide police the same percentage of 24% from their current 19.5%. Not certain if HB 296 will pass in the senate for 2024. Mayor Brubaker stated that he shared with State Representatives and Senators how the city of Elyria ARPA funds was allocated toward police pension.

Council member Siwierka asked if there any changes to OPERS, Mayor Brubaker responded, no changes to OPERS were made.

Council member Tollett asked if the police pension passes at 24.5% would the city anticipate 1.5 million annually in cost? Finance Director Pileski stated he believed those numbers to be accurate going from 19.5% to 24.0%.

**Safety Service Director:** No report

**Finance Director:** No report

**Law Director Deery:** No report

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**EPD:**

Chief Pelko provided an update on the NIU Unit of thirty-eight arrest since October, two firearm recoveries and numerous drugs. Chief Pelko recognized Officer Brandon Bargheiser, for being awarded CIT, Crisis Intervention Officer of the Year by Nami, he extended congratulations for his outstanding work.

Council member Siwierka asked for confirmation of the officer's name and that this is the second award extended to an Elyria Officer. Chief Pelko confirmed Officer Bargheiser is the fourth officer to receive the award from NAMI.

**EFD:**

Chief Pronesti provided an update on a few serious fires that EFD responded to within the last week. Chief Pronesti explained one fire occurred in Elyria Township, however Elyria Fire did respond. The female member of the house did succumb a few days later.

Chief Pronesti provided an update on minimum staffing to council members. He expressed his appreciation to the administration. He explained the safer grant will add three additional staff.

**BO Farkas:**

Building Official Farkas provided demolition updates to include a porch collapse at 310 13<sup>th</sup> St., similar porch situation at 804 West Ave., garage fire at 1200 Lowell St., 412 Bell, structure removed and pursuing 995 Gulf Rd.

Council member Davis expressed her appreciation for taking care of 412 Bell Ave.

**Supt. Stewart:** No report

**CD Dir. Scott:** No report

**Eng. Schneider:** No report

Council member Tollett shared that Eng. McKillips reached out to the councilmembers and expressed how much that meant and his appreciation.

**6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S:**

1. The matter of the 2016 ½ percent income tax renewal.

**REFERRED BY:** LD DEERY & FD PILESKI

**REFERRED TO:** FINANCE

2. The matter of the part -time seasonal for both the City and Elyria Municipal court in order to comply with the state of Ohio minimum wage increase to \$10.70.

**REFERRED BY:** AFD FARRELL

**REFERRED TO:** FINANCE

3. The matter of entering a contract for Operators of Records at Waste Water Pollution Control.

**REFERRED BY:** SSD PYANOWSKI

**REFERRED TO:** FINANCE

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**6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S: Continued**

4. The matter of council approval of the FOP Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**REFERRED BY: SSD PYANOWSKI**

**REFERRED TO: FINANCE**

5. The matter of authorization to certify high grass bills to the Lorain County Auditor.

**REFERRED BY: SSD PYANOWSKI**

**REFERRED TO: FINANCE**

**7. PETITIONS- LOBBY: None**

**8. PETITIONS-COUNCIL MEMBERS: None**

**9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

Rules

J. Cerra  
V. Stewart III  
T. Callahan

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2024-**

**WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE MATTER OF CHAD SCHNEIDER  
APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.**

Cerra moved, Callahan seconded to pass this committee report.

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

**10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:**

Finance

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024- 43**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LIST OF PROPERTIES FOR  
THE COLLECTION OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY REPAIR  
COSTS AND DIRECTING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO  
CERTIFY SAID COSTS TO THE LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR.**

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of the rule.

SUSPENSION

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT:0

MOTION CARRIED

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**10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:**

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024- 44**

A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CITY HAS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of the rule.

SUSPENSION		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

**11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None**

**12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None**

**13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:**

*Companion to above Resolution*

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 175**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA TO DISPOSE OF CITY PROPERTY THAT IS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

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**13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:** Continued

**Sponsored by**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1131.02, CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA, OHIO, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, TO REZONE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT BRUNSWICK DRIVE AND WEST RIDGE ROAD, ELYRIA, FROM B-N BUSINESS-NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT TO R-MD RESIDENTIAL-MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

***Public Hearing TBD***

**Sponsored by**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-**

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 1135 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA, OHIO, TO RIDGE WATER LTD. FOR A CLUSTER HOME DEVELOPMENT, AT REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT BRUNSWICK DRIVE AND WEST RIDGE ROAD, ELYRIA OHIO.

***Public Hearing TBD***

**Community Development**

- T. Callahan
- A. Lipian
- C. Schneider
- D. Mitchell
- K. Oswald

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 176**

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (CHIP) POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL UPDATES AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF SAME TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS.

Callahan moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION  
 AYE: 11  
 NAY: 0  
 ABSENT: 0  
 MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE  
 AYE: 11  
 NAY: 0  
 ABSENT:0  
 MOTION CARRIED

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**13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:** Continued

**Community Development**

- T. Callahan
- A. Lipian
- C. Schneider
- D. Mitchell
- K. Oswald

**Finance**

- P. Tollett
- M. Siwierka
- B. Davis
- C. Schneider
- J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 177**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PY 2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACTION PLAN, THE 2025-2029 CONSOLIDATED PLAN, ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE AND SLUM AND BLIGHT RECERTIFICATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT THE PY 2025 ACTION PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

Callahan moved, Tollett seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

**Community Development**

- T. Callahan
- A. Lipian
- C. Schneider
- D. Mitchell
- K. Oswald

**Finance**

- P. Tollett
- M. Siwierka
- B. Davis
- C. Schneider
- J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 178**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-169, APPROVING AN EXTENSION AND REIMBURSEMENT INCREASE FOR THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC REDEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT 124 MIDDLE AVENUE, ELYRIA, OHIO.

Callahan moved, Tollett seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

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**13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued**

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 179**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MCCAULLEY & COMPANY LLC FOR GRANT CONSULTING AND WRITING, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT:0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 180**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SECOND AMENDED WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH RURAL LORAIN COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (RLCWA) FOR SERVICES IN THE CHESTNUT COMMONS AREA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

**Utilities**

D. Mitchell  
B. Davis  
V. Stewart III  
K. Oswald  
B. Armstrong

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 181**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR CHEMICALS FOR THE WATER PUMPING PLANT FOR YEARS 2025 AND 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

Mitchell moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
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Minutes Approved

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**13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:** Continued

AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

**Utilities**

D. Mitchell  
B. Davis  
V. Stewart III  
K. Oswald  
B. Armstrong

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 182**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR CHEMICALS FOR THE WASTEWATER POLLUTION CONTROL (WWPC) PLANT FOR CHEMICALS FOR YEARS 2025 AND 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

Mitchell moved, Armstrong seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 183**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BLACK & VEATCH MANAGEMENT CONSULTING, LLC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED



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**13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:** Continued

**Utilities**

- D. Mitchell
- B. Davis
- V. Stewart III
- K. Oswald
- B. Armstrong

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 184**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ODOT FOR AN URBAN PAVING PROJECT OF SR 301 (ABBE RD.) AND CLEVELAND ST. TO CHESTNUT RIDGE RD.

**Finance**

- P. Tollett
- M. Siwierka
- B. Davis
- C. Schneider
- J. Cerra

Mitchell moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

**Utilities**

- D. Mitchell
- B. Davis
- V. Stewart III
- K. Oswald
- B. Armstrong

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 185**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, IF OFFERED, THE PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SPECIAL SOLICITATION GRANT, THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

**Finance**

- P. Tollett
- M. Siwierka
- B. Davis
- C. Schneider
- J. Cerra

Mitchell moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

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**13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:** Continued

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 186**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF ACQUIRING A ROADWAY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS, AND ITS SITE, LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF ROUTE 57 AND CHESTNUT RIDGE ROAD IN THE CITY.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

**ROLL CALL:**

SUSPENSION: Callahan, Cerra, Armstrong, Oswald, Mitchell, Tollett, Lipian, Siwierka, Davis, Schneider, Stewart

PASSAGE: Callahan, Cerra, Armstrong, Oswald, Mitchell, Tollett, Lipian, Siwierka, Davis, Schneider, Stewart

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 187**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO CREATE A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT FUND.

moved, seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

**SUSPENSION**

AYE: 11  
NAY: 0  
ABSENT: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PASSAGE**

AYE: 11  
NAY: 0  
ABSENT:0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Finance**

P. Tollett  
M. Siwierka  
B. Davis  
C. Schneider  
J. Cerra

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 188**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-46, KNOWN AS THE "2024 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE," TO CHANGE FUNDS IN VARIOUS ACCOUNTS.

moved, seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

**SUSPENSION**

AYE: 11  
NAY: 0  
ABSENT: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PASSAGE**

AYE: 11  
NAY: 0  
ABSENT:0

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**14. ORDINANCES--SECOND READINGS:** None

**15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING:** None

**16. COMMITTEE CALLS:**

**JOINT FINANCE/ UTILITIES**

Mon. 12/9/2024 Immediately following Finance All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

**FINANCE**

Mon. 12/9/2024 Beginning at 6:00 PM All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

**COUNCIL/STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Mon. 12/16/2024 Immediately following Council Meeting All Referred Items Council Chambers W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Director, Law Director, Engineer

**17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

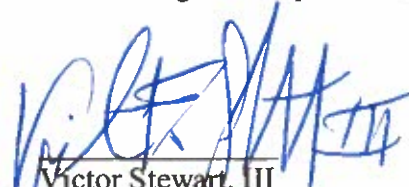
Council member Schneider expressed his appreciation to Council member Callahan for his years of service as Community Development Chair. He expressed his appreciation to all council members for their consideration of nomination to him as incoming Chair. He stated he is looking forward to working with Department Leadership. President Stewart expressed his appreciation to Council member Callahan as well. He congratulated council member Schneider on his new role. Mayor Brubaker shared Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> is the Festival of Lights. All are welcome to come join the festivities. Mayor Brubaker shared the phenomenal job of the Parks and Recreation department with decorations and the newest addition of the abdominal snowman over watching Ely square.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mitchell moved, Cerra seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:47 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

  
Michael J. Letko, III  
Clerk of Council

  
Victor Stewart, III  
President of Council

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaqfNYygHU0>

/rlp





Firefighters from multiple departments at the scene of a fire at 43259 North Ridge Road. C

# Victim of Elyria Township fire on Nov. 26 <sup>2019</sup> died the next day



The Chronicle-Telegram Dec 03, 2024 8:03 PM

The woman rescued from a house fire in Elyria Township on Nov. 26 died the next day, according to local officials.





Armbruster had been pulled from her home on the 43000 block of North Ridge Road by firefighters just before 5 p.m. Nov. 26. She was treated for cardiac arrest but while being transported to Mercy Health - Lorain by LifeCare, Elyria Township Scarborough said.

Armbruster later was transported by helicopter to MetroHealth in Cleveland,

Six local departments responded to the fire, and firefighters crawled over piles of clutter to remove Armbruster.

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Up Next - Biden rejects Nippon Steel's proposed deal to acquire US Steel, and other top s



**BIDEN REJECTS NIPPON STEEL'S PROPOSED DEAL TO ACQUIRE US STEEL**

READ MORE



On the day of the fire, Elyria Fire Chief Joe Pronesti told The Chronicle that the home did not have electricity and was in "deplorable" condition, with little room for firefighters to move around.

The state fire marshal is still investigating the fire, and no cause for the blaze had been released as of Tuesday night.







## EFD Inter-Office Correspondence

**Date:** December 2, 2024

**Topic:** EFD Daily Minimum Staffing

**To:** City Council

**From:** Chief Pronesti

### Correspondence:

It has been a while since I have updated City Council on the fire department's minimum staffing, I thought I would take the opportunity to let you know that this year we will be under \$300,000.00, a number that I can say has not been this low in my entire career.

City Administration's commitment to staffing has no doubt helped in keeping this number low but I also want to thank my members who have dedicated themselves to this city and their residents.

If I can be of any further assistance please feel free to reach out at any time.

Happy Holidays to you and yours.



