

## **CHAPTER 1-5 FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **1-5-1 FIRE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED**

The fire department of the City, shall consist of not less than fifteen (15) nor more than Twenty five (25) men to be appointed by the Council.

### **1-5-2 FIRE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT**

A fire chief and assistant fire chief shall be elected from the men appointed by the Council.

### **1-5-3 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

All present Volunteer Firemen and all other applicants for Volunteer Firemen, shall, before the City Council approves their application, furnish to the City Council, a certificate of good health from a medical doctor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

No applicant for a Volunteer Fireman's position shall be approved unless the medical Certificate, as herein required, shall show the applicant to be in good health.

The City will pay for all examinations required under this Ordinance for firemen on the Roster presented to the City Council by the Fire Chief as active certified members of the Howard Volunteer Fire Department.

Any Volunteer Fireman who fails to receive a certificate of good health, or who refuses or neglects to comply with this Ordinance, shall not be allowed to participate in the duties, rights and benefits applicable to Howard Volunteer Fireman until an appropriate certificate of good health is presented.

### **1-5-4 COMPANY CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Each company may adopt such constitution, by-laws, and regulations for its government as it may deem necessary and proper; and, may also elect a fire chief and assistant fire chief and other such officers as the constitution of the company may require.

### **1-5-5 CONFLICT BETWEEN ORDINANCES AND COMPANY CONSTITUTIONS**

The constitution and regulations of the fire companies are subordinate to any and all City Ordinances.

### **1-5-6 AUTHORITY OF FIRE CHIEF**

The Fire Chief shall in all cases of fire have sole and absolute control over all persons Connected with the fire department.

1-5-7 FIRE CHIEF'S DUTIES AT FIRES

It shall be the duty of the Fire Chief to attend every fire which may occur within the limits of the Fire District and to cause the several engines and other apparatus to be Properly placed and to be worked in the most effective manner possible for the Extinguishment of said fire.

1-5-8 FIRE CHIEF INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT

It shall be the duty of the Fire Chief to examine with care, at least once a year all the Apparatus belonging to the fire department and to report to the Council any repairs And new apparatus or material which may be necessary.

1-5-9 PURCHASE AND REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT

The making of repairs and purchase of new apparatus and material shall be done by the City Council; provided however, that the Fire Chief may, at the expense of the Fire District, without making a report as required by 1-5-8, cause to be made such incidental repairs and maintenance on such apparatus as may be needed.

1-5-10 FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Yearly, the Fire Chief shall transmit to the City Council a full and accurate report containing:

First, a list of all the members of the Fire Department, indicating their respective positions in the department; and,  
Second, a statement of the general condition of the department, the defects, therein required to be remedied, and the changes and improvements therein his opinion necessary or expedient.

1-5-11 CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Chief is required to immediately report to the Council any changes in the membership of fire companies and recommend, when necessary, changes in the membership of the companies to the Council for appropriate action.

1-5-12 ACTING FIRE CHIEF

In the absence of the Fire Chief from any fires, or upon any other occasion requiring the exercise of his official function, the next highest officer in the department who is present, shall act in his stead, and the officer so acting as Fire Chief shall be invested with the authority of the Fire Chief.

1-5-13 DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AT FIRES

The Fire Chief may direct the firemen to pull, cut down, or remove any building or other Structures which may arrest the progress of any fire. Under like necessity, the Fire Chief May, with the concurrence of the Mayor or two members of the Council, cause any building or structure to be blown up with powder or other explosive agents.

1-5-14 FIRE ZONE

The Mayor, Fire Chief, or person in command of the police department may, during a fire, establish limits within which no person except those who reside therein may enter. Members of the fire department and persons admitted by order of the Mayor, Sheriff, or other officer in command of the police shall be permitted to enter the restricted area. The police are charged with the duty of carrying out the provisions of this section.

1-5-15 INTERFERENCE WITH FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS

It shall be unlawful for any person to hinder, or resist any officer or member of the fire department or any police officer in the discharge of his duties at any fire, or without reasonable disorderly or noisy manner at such fire, or without reasonable excuse, refuse to obey the necessary and lawful order of the Fire Chief in charge, or the Mayor, or Sheriff or other police officer of a matter relating to the extinguishment of such fire, or the protection of property.

1-5-16 STORAGE OF FIRE EQUIPMENT

All fire equipment and other apparatus issued by the fire department shall be kept in such place as the City Council may provide.

1-5-17 CONDITION OF FIRE APPARATUS

It shall be the duty of the Fire Company or companies having charge of said apparatus to keep the same in good shape and always ready for use.

1-5-18 PERMISSION TO USE EQUIPMENT

It shall be unlawful for any person not connected with the fire department to take any fire trucks or apparatus for any use without the consent of the Fire Chief.

1-5-19 DRIVING VEHICLES OVER FIRE HOSES

It is unlawful to drive any wagon, cart, automobile or other vehicle over, upon or across any hose, or any other fire apparatus, while the same is in use for the extinguishment of any fire, or at any meeting or exercise or at any time or place.

1-5-20 INEFFICIENT COMPANIES

If any company belonging to the fire department shall be reported to the City Council by the Fire Chief as insubordinate, disorderly or grossly inefficient and proper and satisfactory evidence of such fact shall be produced, such company may be disbanded. All the apparatus and other property in their possession shall be immediately delivered to the Fire Chief.

1-5-21 INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANIES

There shall be no company or association of firemen in the City who are not organized

under this ordinance, and subject to this provision.

**1-5-22 INTERFERENCE WITH ALARM APPARATUS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to deface, injure or interfere with any fire alarm, fire siren, telegraph box or wire or any apparatus used in connection therewith, or in any manner to open or give any false alarm, or cause a fire alarm to be given falsely.

**1-5-23 INTERFERENCE WITH FIRE EQUIPMENT**

It shall be unlawful for any person to unscrew or take off any cap from any water hydrant, or in any way to meddle or interfere with such hydrant, or to meddle or interfere with any fire fighting apparatus or equipment whatsoever, except in such manner as may be provided by ordinance or the rules of the fire department.

**1-5-24 FIRE FIGHTING AGREEMENT WITH OTHER CITIES**

The fire department is authorized through its duly constituted officers to enter into an Agreement or agreements with the township within the vicinity of the City, not to exceed twenty-five miles from the limits of the said city or any associations of said townships to maintain and operate such firefighting equipment supplied by said townships and to provide housing for said firefighting equipment within the City of Howard, upon such terms and conditions as may be approved by said fire department and the City Council. The fire department is further authorized to furnish all qualified and experienced firemen at all times to man said township firefighting equipment and to answer promptly all calls for the same within the area embraced within said townships and to be designated as community firefighting equipment; and, in the discretion of the Fire Chief, said firefighting equipment may be used for answering calls within the City, when and where considered necessary, subject however to the priority of said township for the use of said firefighting equipment in said townships.

**1-5-25 RIGHT OF WAY FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT**

Upon any vehicle or apparatus of the fire department of the City answering an alarm of fire or emergency call, and sounding a bell or siren, the driver of any vehicle other than a vehicle of the aforesaid department or an ambulance of any health department or hospital on an emergency call, shall drive as close to the right curb as possible and stop, and shall not follow within five hundred (500) feet after the vehicle and apparatus after said fire department has passed. No vehicle except by direction of the Fire Chief or officers of the fire department shall approach or park within five hundred (500) feet of a fire at any time.