

EAST PEORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

201 W. Washington Street

East Peoria, IL 61611

Phone: (309) 427-7671



TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Commissioner Seth Mingus

DATE: October 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Promotion of Deputy Fire Chief

DISCUSSION: As a result of budget revisions that were made in FY20-21, one of the two Deputy Fire Chief positions remains open. After thirty-one years in the fire service, Chief Knapp has announced his intent to retire from the East Peoria Fire Department effective May 7, 2022. Because of his leadership abilities and vast knowledge base of the department, Chief Knapp has recommended that the Council appoint Lt. Bobby Zimmerman to the open Deputy Fire Chief position effective November 1, 2021. His appointment better positions the command staff to ensure a smooth transition at the time of Chief Knapp's retirement and the appointment of his successor. Upon Chief Knapp's retirement and the appointment of his successor, one of the two Deputy Fire Chief positions will become and is to remain open. Upon the appointment of Lt. Bobby Zimmerman to the Deputy Fire Chief position, the East Peoria Fire and Police Commission will then need to fill his current position with the next available firefighter on the Lieutenant eligibility list. The Commission will at the same time, need to take the actions necessary to maintain the staffing of thirty-three firefighters.

RECOMMENDATION: Please consider moving forward with the promotions as outlined above.

cc: City Clerk Morgan Cadwalader

RESOLUTION NO. 2122-067

**East Peoria, Illinois
October 19, 2021**

RESOLUTION BY COMMISSIONER _____

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY INCREASE IN THE
NUMBER OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEFS AND EXTENDING THE TEMPORARY
INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS IN
THE EAST PEORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, Title 1, Chapter 5, Section 2.1 of the East Peoria City Code authorizes the City Council to determine from time to time by Resolution the number of individuals to hold each rank on the East Peoria Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, in December 2018, pursuant to Resolution No. 1819-106, the City temporarily increased the number of firefighters on the Fire Department by three to a total of 33 firefighters in an effort to minimize overtime costs in the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution No. 1819-106, the temporary increase to 33 in the number of firefighters in the Fire Department that was approved in December 2018 will then decrease back down to 30 through attrition of members leaving the Fire Department after April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 1920-131 approved in April 2020, the temporary increase in the number of firefighters in the Fire Department to 33 was extended through April 30, 2021, while also decreasing the number of Deputy Chiefs due to budget issues with the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief John Knapp has announced his intent to retire from the Fire Department effective May 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure a smooth transition at the time of Chief Knapp's retirement and the appointment of his successor, it is in the best interest of the City to temporarily increase the number of Deputy Fire Chiefs by one until a new Fire Chief is appointed; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also seeks to extend the temporary increase in the number of firefighters in the Fire Department to 33 through April 30, 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THAT:

Section 1. Effective November 1, 2021, the Fire Department of the City of East Peoria shall consist of the following personnel:

- A. One Fire Chief
- B. Two Deputy Fire Chiefs
- C. Three Assistant Fire Chiefs
- D. Nine Lieutenants
- E. Thirty-Three Firefighters
- F. One Paid on Call Firefighter

Section 2. Effective November 1, 2021, Robert E. Zimmerman, III is appointed to fill the second Deputy Fire Chief position in the Fire Department of the City of East Peoria.

Section 3. The Fire Chief is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Police and Fire Commission of the change and to request the Police and Fire Commission to undertake the process of appointing a new Lieutenant and Probationary Firefighter to fill the open positions hereby created.

Section 4. Subject to further action by the City Council, effective on April 30, 2022, the Fire Department of the City of East Peoria shall consist of the following personnel upon attrition to the staffing levels established in this Resolution:

- A. One Fire Chief
- B. Two Deputy Fire Chiefs
- C. Three Assistant Fire Chiefs
- D. Nine Lieutenants
- E. Thirty Firefighters
- F. One Paid on Call Firefighter

Section 5. Effective upon the appointment of a new Fire Chief, the Fire Department of the City of East Peoria shall consist of the following personnel upon attrition to the staffing levels established in this Resolution:

- A. One Fire Chief
- B. One Deputy Fire Chief
- C. Three Assistant Fire Chiefs
- D. Nine Lieutenants
- E. Thirty Firefighters
- F. One Paid on Call Firefighter

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk