



## County Council Committee Minutes

### Personnel and Finance Committee January 28, 2019

The Personnel and Finance Committee of Spartanburg County Council met on Monday, January 28, 2019, in County Council Chambers of the County Administrative Office Building. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of this meeting was provided in advance to the local news media and other interested parties. The following were in attendance: Honorable Bob Walker, Chairman; and Honorables Whitney Farr and Jack Mabry, Committee Members; along with Honorables Manning Lynch, Michael Brown, David Britt, and Roger Nutt, Council Members. Also attending were Cole Alverson, County Administrator; Jim Hipp, Deputy County Administrator; John Harris, County Attorney; and Ginny Dupont, County Attorney.

#### I.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

#### II.

- A. Mr. Chris Massey, Director, Emergency Services Academy, and Interim Fire Chief, Trinity Fire Department, presented information in reference to the **Fire Chief position for Trinity Fire Department**. The Trinity Fire Department, along with the Fire Prevention and Protection Advisory Committee, recommend upgrading the current Interim Fire Chief position to a permanent fulltime Fire Chief position at Trinity Fire Department. With the merger of Cross Anchor, Enoree, and Hobbysville Fire Departments in July of 2018 and the pending merger of the Woodruff Fire Department in July of 2018, staffing issues in the growing area, call volumes, equipment, and personnel have become overwhelming to Mr. Massey as Interim Fire Chief and Director of the Emergency Services Academy. With the merger of Woodruff, the fire department will have grown to approximately a 125 square mile area and will be covered with approximately five to six fire stations. The estimated call volume is from 900 to 950 per year. This will be a major increase from the 150 to 200 we currently have in the Trinity area at this time. With the merger of Woodruff, the volunteer

staff will go to about 65 members. Mr. Alverson stated they knew back in July when they initially set up the budget for Trinity Fire Department, there was going to be a series of unknowns associated with the department. As a result, they put a fairly healthy amount into the contingency account for just such an eventuality as this. The contingency amount is sufficient to cover the remainder of the costs for this year. The contingency account has more than enough in it to be able to disperse the amount needed out to the salary account such that it would not necessarily change the overall budget. Mr. Alverson stated this position will be a grade 86. It has a starting salary of about \$60,000. For the purposes of budgeting, Administration is estimating that we may need a little more in order to attract a qualified candidate, so they are estimating somewhere in the \$65,000 range. They would have the ability to move additional funds from contingency should we find a candidate that is qualified and the salary needs to be set a little higher in order to attract them. Mr. Farr asked if the Fire Prevention and Protection Advisory Committee will have input as far as hiring the Chief. Mr. Massey stated they recommend that the Fire Prevention and Protection Advisory Committee will have input in the interview process. Mr. Farr stated that he feels they should be involved. When the merger of Woodruff Fire Department takes place, this Fire District will be 1/7 the size of Spartanburg County. Motion made by Mr. Farr to approve the recommendation. Motion seconded by Mr. Mabry and carried.

B. Updated financial data and personnel vacancy reports were received.

Meeting adjourned.