

**MUNICIPAL FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA
300 N. DUGAS RD
LAFAYETTE, LA 70507
(337) 291-8762**

A meeting of the Lafayette Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board was held on March 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lafayette Consolidated Government Civil service testing room, 705 West University Avenue, Lafayette, Louisiana. Audio recording of this meeting will become part of the Board's permanent records.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Ron Clark, Vice Chairman L. Wayne Prejean, Christina Olivier, Dwight Prudhomme, Charley Whipp III, Board Attorney Candice Hattan, City Attorney Patrick Ottinger, Attorney Michael Corry, Chief Judith Estorge, Attorney Daniel Landry III, Pratimakone Aphaiyarth, Brittney Ardoin, U.J Prevost, Christy Lipps, Jason Ardoin, Mike Brown, Zoie Lavergne, Russell Champagne, David Azemar, Tim Melancon, Gene Lipps, Human Resource Director Rick Zeno, Shekeitha Pollard, Sarah Cowart, Attorney Allison Melancon, Heather Carrasco, Sarah Dupont, Matt Broussard, James Webb, Lance Boudreaux, Board Secretary Mary Francis, Stephen Marcantel, Candy Leger

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. and opening statement read by Chairman Ron Clark.

1. Board authorization to approve minutes of February 14, 2024 board meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes of February 14, 2024 board meeting by L. Wayne Prejean

Motion seconded by Christina Olivier

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried unanimously

2. Board authorization to approve applications for Fire Training Officer, Fire Captain, Fire District Chief, Fire Assistant Chief, Fire Dept. Records Clerk, ~~Fire Communications Officer II~~, and Police Major exam

Fire Training Officer I

Qualified applicants:

Angelle, Jade K.
Begnaud, Brock J.
Chambers, Clarence J. (Vet Pref.)
Choplin, Quincy G.
Cormier, Tyler A.
Daigle, Cody A.
Devlin, Richard J.
Parker, James
Roy, Nathan D.
Treadway, Christopher P.
Turner, Cody R.
Whipp III, Charley B.
White, Joshua A.

Fire Captain

Qualified applicants:

Bergeron, Matthew S.
Bourque, Joshua M.
Breux, Nathan J.
Broussard, Hagen L.
Broussard, Morrell E.
Chachere, Dustin R.
Choplin, Quincy G.
Cormier, Tyler A.
Credeur, David R.
Daigle, Cody A.
Daigle, Lucas J.
Davis, Robert Z.
Dean, Elliot J. Jr.
Duhon, Destin H.
Edwards, Markeith W.
Gautreaux, James I.
Huval, Brandon J.
Jefferson, Deshawn J.
Joubert, Virginia L.

Meche, John M.
Normand, Robert N.
Prejean, Nicholas A.
Robertson, Cliff C.
Roy, Nathan D.
Sargent, Aaron M.
Savoy, Lance C.
Simon, Jacob L.
Sonnier, Reynauldo K.
Treadway, Christopher P.
Whipp III, Charley B.
Williams, Damien J.

Fire District Chief
Qualified applicants:

Bailey, Coby R.
Bernard, Michael J.
Boudreaux, Lance C.
Broussard, Damon P.
Champagne, Bryan K.
Charles, Jonothan J.
Comeaux, Gregory J.
Credeur, Jason L.
Glenn, Clarence E.
Goulas, Rusty J.
Guidry, Garrett S.
Judice, Jason W.
Kidder, Brandon J.
Leon, Holden M.
Patin, Reggie M.
Perry, Byron L. Jr.
Prejean, Nicholas J.
Simon, Ryan L.
Vidrine, Marline A.

Fire Assistant Chief
Qualified applicants:

Arceneaux, John D.
Belote, Martin Q.
Glaude, Corey J.
Mouton, David W.

Police Major
Qualified applicants:

Azemar, David A.

Motion was made to approve applications by Dwight Prudhomme
Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

3. Board authorization to approve transfer of score for Police Communications I applicants, Kathy Coveney and Deborah McElligott

Transfer of score applicants, Kathy Coveney and Deborah McElligott, both received a valid passing score on the Police Communication Officer I exam on January 24, 2024. Per OSE the scores are set to expire on August 7, 2025.

Motion was made to approve transfer by Christina Olivier
Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

4. Request for Re-employment of Bernard Anderson from Police Chief, Judith Estorge

Motion was made to approve request by Christina Olivier
Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean
Public comment: None
Opposition: None
Motion carried unanimously

5. Public Hearing: Pratimakone Aphaiyarath vs. Lafayette Consolidated Government (Police Dept.) Appeal of Termination "Potential executive session. Parties notified on February 6, 2024"

Pratimakone "Tommy" Aphaiyarath was represented by Attorney Daniel Landry III while Lafayette Consolidated Government was represented by Attorney Michael Corry. Ms. Candy Leger was the assigned Court Reporter transcribing this hearing. Witnesses were sworn in by Board Attorney Candice Hattan. Ms. Hattan advised all witness of the rules of sequestration. Testimony was given by the following witnesses: Detective Brittney Ardoin, Captain U.J. Prevost, Ms. Christy Lipps, Rick Zeno, Chief Judith Estorge, Major Mike Brown, PO Zoie Lavergne, Russell Champagne, Tim Melancon, Gene Lipps, and Pratimakone Aphaiyarath. Two surveillance videos were played as part of the evidence presented by Mr. Corry.

Christina Olivier made a motion to go into executive session to discuss professional character and competence of Pratimakone "Tommy" Aphaiyarath
Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with Christina Olivier, L. Wayne Prejean, Chairman Ron Clark, Dwight Prudhomme, and Charley Whipp III voting yes

Motion carried unanimously

Board went into executive session at 2:30 pm

Motion to come out of executive session at 3:20 pm was made by Christina Olivier

Motion seconded by Dwight Prudhomme

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Roll was called with Christina Olivier, L. Wayne Prejean, Dwight Prudhomme, Charley Whipp III and Chairman Ron Clark voting yes

Motion carried unanimously

Christina Olivier motioned that the Chief's decision was made in good faith for cause. Her reason for ruling was stated by her and incorporated into these written minutes. She stated that "Tommy, we are aware of your accommodations and awards and we appreciate your service and as a police officer I am sure there are plenty of temptations and offers but it is the expectations that our Police officers are above reproach and I find that your behavior in this situation was inappropriate, unprofessional and unwarranted."

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Roll was called Dwight Prudhomme voted no while Christina Olivier, L. Wayne Prejean, Charley Whipp III, and Ron Clark voted yes, Chairman Clark stated "I don't intend for my vote to contribute in having any relevance to any civil actions that may be pending involving either party or whether Ms. Lipps voluntarily participated in the interactions with the appellant, that was not an issue to be decided by the board. We were called upon to determine if the appointing authorities' actions in terminating the appellant was taken in good faith for cause. I find that the action was."

Public comment: None

Opposition: None

Motion carried

Thus, being done concluding that the board had ruled in favor of upholding Mr. Pratimakone Aphaiyarath's termination.

6. General Board business, if any –

Board member Charley Whipp III provided a brief update on his progress in acquiring iPads for the Board from the IT department. Board attorney Candice Hattan suggested investing in a time clock to keep track of the allotted time during discussions, to avoid interrupting others.

7. Report of Counsel or legal updates, if any –

Information regarding the current lawsuit filed by Fire Training Officer, Cristin Johnson against the board was provided by Ms. Candice Hattan. She discussed the future steps that would be taken while working on the suit. Further discussion was held regarding the details of the matter.

Ms. Hattan also confirmed that all additional suits were dropped, leaving the board left with one suit left to address. Mrs. Christina Olivier gave gratitude to Board attorney Hattan for keeping the board protected during all legal matters and Ms. Hattan also thanked the board as well.

8. Public Comment - None

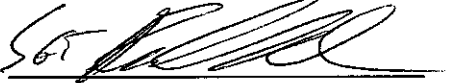
Motion to adjourn by Dwight Prudhomme

Motion seconded by L. Wayne Prejean

Public comment: None

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm



Ron R. Clark
Chairman