

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

***Thursday, August 8, 2024
7:00 PM***

Please note, due to severe weather this meeting was held virtually.

Commissioners Present

Chair-Anita Powell
Commissioner-Hilary Miller
Commissioner-Jane Callen
Commissioner-Tony Coleman
Commissioner-Mark Dempsey

Staff Present

Fire Chief-Corey Smedley
Assistant Chief-Frantz Pinthiere
Division Chief-Dee Howard-Richards
FRS Staff-Heather Jeffrey

100 – CALL TO ORDER

101—APPROVAL OF FESC MINUTES

Staff is working to update the website so that all of the agendas and minutes are posted.

102 – FESC CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

No Report

103 – FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

No Official Report, but Chief Smedley introduced himself to the group; this is his first meeting. He speaks about his leadership philosophy and 100-day plan; today, we signed Bill 7-24 into action. The updated EMS Billing Draft will go to Council in September, two main things we do soft billing, will take the word Transport out of the legislation, which allows us to take advantage of resources when we administer care in place, we will also be able to ask who your insurance is through, for example if you have Kaiser we could take you to a Kaiser facility.

Today we went Live with Whole Blood-

Asst Chief Kaufman- Whole Blood is relatively new only 8-10 years old in the country. State Police medivac troopers were the first to carry whole blood. They’ve been doing it for a few years; Howard County Fire and Rescue started carrying it last year, and today, we became the 3rd agency. So we can give [whole?] blood when someone is in hemorrhagic shock. The supervisor can administer [whole?] blood and stay with the patient until they get to the hospital. MCFRS started the program today.

Fire Chief -Working through the 100-day plan, preparing for the FY 26 Budget process, adamantly documenting our needs, and requesting what we need.

Chairperson Powell-Will we have a chance to comment on the Ambulance Billing?

Fire Chief- I will review the purpose of the FESC and will follow the guidelines set forth.

Chairperson Powell- What do the Commissioners think?

Member Miller—This bill originates under the County Council. The County Council is not under any obligation to request comments from the Commission, but it is a public bill, so we can comment as the public, but we are not required to as a commission. It's not a big deal to get it and comment on it.

Chairperson Powell- Any other comments on the Bill or for Asst Chief Kaufman or the Fire Chief Smedley

Commissioner Callen – as discussed and per agreement with former Chief Goldstein, members of the FESC would appreciate the opportunity to review the draft MCFRS budget before it is finalized.

Member Dempsey—Chief, your efforts in getting out in the Field are very well reciprocated. This is a great step toward getting out and getting known.

Chairperson Powell- Any other Comments?

No other comments

104 – COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Powell- We had an incident a few weeks ago where a young child drowned at Bohr Park, is there anything we could have done differently?

Fire Chief- The County is conducting an After-Action Review (AAR) with all the stakeholders. The goal of the AAR is to identify actions taken by all and to determine if there are opportunities to improve our plans.

Chairperson Powell- Thank you

200 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

300 – DISCUSSION

301 – OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Powell, we have missing minutes. We need to update them not only internally but also post them. I am working with Heather Jeffrey to get these updated and online.

Fire Chief- Who has the responsibility to update and compile the minutes.

Chairperson Powell- George Giebel, but I will work with Heather to get this up to date.

Commissioner Callen - Started drafting the Annual Report, including identifying what minutes and agendas are missing, , etc... Hopefully, this draft will be a good starting point. Once the document is complete, we will be able to share this with the CE and Council, in accordance with Chapter 21

Commissioner Callen - Interested in hearing what Comments from the Commission were accepted or Denied on the Master Plan. (This is also stipulated in Chapter 21.)

302 – NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Powell, please revise the Annual Report and put it on the agenda for next month. By then, we should be able to circulate it and have comments from other commissioners.

Commissioner Callen - Need for transparency, need for sharing information, the possibility of developing a website would be an excellent tool that we could use to archive information and would be easy for the public to view... maybe we could get a staff person in the county or an intern to help make a website? Wants to put it out there to see what the other commissioners think... It should be very easily accessible; she doesn't want the public to have to go deep into the county website to find out about the FESC but instead it should be easy for the public to access documents to see everything.

Fire Chief- Is there a standard approach for commissions? If there is, we should follow that. Is there a guideline on how to display information to the community? We would like to make sure that we are in compliance.

Commissioner Callen -She has reached out to Beth Gochrach for guidance.

400 – ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Callen seconded the motion to adjourn.