

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chapter 9

FIRE DEPARTMENT¹

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Helmetta 6-11-1895. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Fire prevention — See Ch. 35.

¹ Editor's Note: Amended upon adoption of Code, 3-13-74, to change all references to "Board of Commissioners" to "Borough Council."

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Helmetta, in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey:

§ 9-1. Membership. [Amended 5-8-74]

The Fire Department of Helmetta shall consist of a Chief of Department, Assistant Chief of Department, Engineer, Assistant Engineer and as many firemen as are now or may hereafter become lawful members of the fire companies in said borough. No person shall become a member of the Fire Department who is over sixty (60) years of age or under the age of eighteen (18) years, nor unless he is a citizen of the United States, and all members shall serve without compensation.

§ 9-2. Elections.

The Chief of Department and Assistant Chief of Department shall be elected by the firemen by ballot from among their number on the fourth Tuesday in June, between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., at such place as the Council of the borough may direct; and the Secretaries from each company shall act as inspectors. Before receiving the ballots, they shall select from the members of the Fire Department a Clerk and then proceed to take the votes of the Department, and the persons receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected, and the inspectors shall send to the Borough Council, at its first meeting after said election, a certified copy for its confirmation; and if such election shall be confirmed by the Borough Council, the persons so elected shall hold said offices until the next annual election or the election and confirmation of their successors; but if the persons so elected are not confirmed by the Borough Council, then a new election shall be held as in case of vacancy. In case of a vacancy at any time previous to two (2) months preceding an election, the Borough Council shall order a special election to be held, which shall be conducted in like manner.

(Cont'd on page 903)

§ 9-3. Rules and regulations; Board of Officers to govern.

In order to promote harmony among the members of the Fire Department, and to establish uniform rules and regulations in the several fire and hose companies, and for the correct understanding and carrying out of the provisions of this chapter, there shall be organized a Board of Officers of the Fire Department which shall consist of the Chief of Department, Assistant Chief of Department, Engineer, Assistant Engineer and the Foreman and Assistant of each company. The Chief of Department shall be the Chairman.

§ 9-4. Qualifications of Chief, Assistant Chief.

The Chief of Department shall, at the time of his election, be an active fireman who shall have served at least two (2) years in the Helmetta Fire Department, and the Assistant Chief of Department shall be qualified in like manner as the Chief of Department.

§ 9-5. Duty of Assistant Chief.

The Assistant Chief of Department so elected and appointed shall at all times assist the Chief of Department in the performance of his duties and obey and enforce his commands when on duty at a fire. He shall be appointed, styled and known as "Assistant Chief of Department," and in case of the absence of the Chief of Department he shall act as Chief until the arrival of the Chief of Department.

§ 9-6. Power to sell condemned apparatus and implements.^a

The Chief of Department and majority of the Fire Committee of the Council of the borough shall with the approval of

^a Editor's Note: Amended upon adoption of Code.

the Council, have power to sell for cash any old and condemned apparatus or implements and shall pay the money received therefor to the Borough Treasurer.

§ 9-7. Duties of Chief of Department. [Amended 5-6-41]

The Chief of Department and the Assistant Chief of Department shall be ex officio members of each company and shall be entitled to vote. The Chief of Department shall in all cases of fire have the sole control to the exclusion of all other authority. It shall be his duty to direct the Assistant Chief of Department, Engineer, Assistant Engineer and Foremen of companies as to the arrangement of the several fire engines, hose carriages and other fire apparatus in the most advantageous manner, and to cause them to be duly worked for the effectual extinguishment of fires. It shall be the duty of the Chief of Department to examine at least once every year into the condition and number of fire engines, fire pumps, hose wagons and other fire apparatus and to report the same to the Borough Council on the first Tuesday in April in each year, accompanied by a statement of the number of fires that have occurred during the preceding year and such particulars as he may deem proper. He shall also, at the same time, present to the said Council the names of all the members of the Fire Department and the respective companies to which they belong; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Board of Officers, within twenty (20) days after the said returns shall have been presented to and confirmed by the Council, to correct the register of the firemen in his office in accordance with said returns. It shall be the duty of the Chief of Department to present to the Board of Officers at each of its stated meetings such complaints against any firemen as may have been handed to him for presentation.

§ 9-8. Repairs of equipment, apparatus.

The Chief of Department shall take charge and superintend the construction and repairing of fire engines, fire pumps, hose carts, hooks and ladders, hose and other apparatus for the use of the Fire Department in connection with the Fire and Water Committee of the Borough Council, and, with its concurrence, shall repair the same forthwith. He shall examine and certify to the Borough Council all accounts for work done under his supervision and as to the fulfillment or breach of any contract for work required to be done under his direction. No requisition shall be drawn for any bills, accounts or contracts for constructing or repairing fire engines, fire pumps, hose carts, hooks and ladders, hose or other machines and apparatus for the use of the Fire Department, belonging to the said Borough Council, unless certified by the Chief of the Fire Department; but warrants shall be drawn for the payment of requisitions made in accordance with the provisions of this section.

§ 9-9. Engineer, Assistant Engineer; election of company officers.

The Chief of Department shall appoint the Engineer and the Assistant Engineer, each for the period of one (1) year. The members of each company shall choose from their number a Foreman, Assistant Foreman, Secretary, one (1) Trustee and such other officers not inconsistent with this chapter as their bylaws may require, to serve for one (1) year, except the Trustees who shall be elected for the term of three (3) years, or to fill a vacancy; and said officers shall be chosen at the regular meeting of the company, or at a special meeting called for the purpose in writing. Within thirty (30) days after the election of the Foreman, Secretary and Trustees of any company, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the said company to present a return of the names and residences of each

and all of the persons so elected to the Chief of Department, whose duty it shall be to present the same to the Borough Council at its next meeting thereafter; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of each company in the Department, on or about the 15th day of June in each year, to furnish a correct list of all the members of his respective company.

§ 9-10. Duty of company officers.

It shall be the duty of the officers of each company to see that the apparatus and implements used by them are preserved from damage by neglect or otherwise, and report any repairs that may be necessary to the Chief of Department.

§ 9-11. Each company to enact own rules of government; new members.

Each company may enact rules for its own government, not inconsistent with the laws of the state or of the Borough Council of the Borough of Helmetta. New members, with their age, residence and occupation, shall be reported to the Chief of Department, and by him to the Borough Council for approval and certificates.

§ 9-12. Uniforms required.

Each member of an engine, hose and hook and ladder company shall, when on duty, wear the hat or cap provided for that purpose.

§ 9-13. Certificate of membership.

Every newly elected member, on being confirmed by the Council of the borough, shall be furnished by the Chief of Department with a certificate of membership.

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§ 9-14. Causes for fining, suspending or expelling members.

Any member of the Fire Department who shall violate any of the sections of this chapter, or who shall fail to perform his duties at a fire or in practicing, or while on duty refuse to obey the orders of the Chief of Department or his superior officer, shall be liable to be fined, suspended or expelled from the Fire Department by the Board of Officers on approval by the Borough Council, and any member so found guilty of violating this chapter shall be suspended, to be determined by the Borough Council.

§ 9-15. Power of Borough Council.

Nothing contained in this chapter shall deprive the Borough Council of the power to repeal or alter the same at any time it may think proper.