

Town of Hamden
Fire Commission Special Meeting
Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Meeting recording:

Hamden Fire Commission: Special meeting on January 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/m38UyzNnHi7FM_Hk4iffdmq_ZT9-PAPKNE57jojWIHmQIMIHRfIDrpqtHAvma0ue.WNEVQwIE4vcR0U7s

Passcode: SM#P1iz?

A special meeting of the Hamden Fire Commission opened on January 26, 2023 via Zoom.

Commissioners in Attendance: Nancy Hill, Samod Rankins, Gary Tinney, Chair, and Victor Mitchell. Also in Attendance: Clerk for the Commission, Patrice LeMoine, and Fire Chief Jeffrey Naples. Absent: Cherlyn Poindexter.

Also in attendance were Russell Quick, Nelson Hwang, Brigitte Cogswell, Nadia Balassone, Erica Blue, Andrea Lobo, and Curt Andrews, including residents from the town.

- 1. Call to Order:** Mr. Tinney called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A roll call was taken, confirming a quorum was present.
- 2. Public and Media Comments regarding the Agenda:** Several residents of the town were welcomed and invited to speak to the Commission, for a maximum of two minutes. The option was added for anyone to send a message to the Commission's email address, which is HBC_fire@hamden.com.

Several residents attended this evening to comment on agenda item #4 (vote to remove from employment a member of the fire department (Russell Quick)).

In support of Mr. R. Quick, the following resident's requested to speak before the Commission:

Richard Parmelee, Grace Glennon, Robert Mordecai, Lindsey Dahlheim, Matt Glennon; and Mr. Tinney then noted Mr. Russell Quick requested a moment to speak to the Commissioners. Mr. Quick thanked the Commissioners for their time to listen to him regarding his position on the matter of being passed for the open position of Fire Inspector. He strongly believes the decision not to appoint him to this role is due to his disability, and he asks the Commissioners to strongly reconsider his qualifications, noting he is professionally trained and certified, to carry out this role, and not terminate his employment with the Town. He asked the Commissioners to listen to the comments

from the public and review the information thoroughly, carefully, and postpone making a final decision this evening.

Before going into executive session, Mr. Quick agreed to have a letter from Fire Chief Naples read in open session. At this time, Fire Chief Naples provided the letter of recommendation regarding the department’s decision to continue Mr. Quick’s employment.

A letter dated January 25, 2023, addressed to the Hamden Fire Commission, “I, Fire Chief Naples, and Ms. Brigitte Cogswell, Personnel Director, conducted an interactive process with Firefighter Russell Quick, and after completion of this process, we determined that Mr. Quick is unable to perform the essential job functions as a firefighter. With this information, we are recommending that he (Mr. Quick) is removed from the Town as a firefighter.” (end of letter)

- 3. Executive Session:** Mr. Tinney requested a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the removal from employment of a member of the fire department (Mr. Russell Quick). At 6:23 p.m. Mr. Mitchell motioned to go into executive session and was seconded by Ms. Hill. The chair then called for a vote.

N. Hill	yea	S. Rankins	yea
V. Mitchell	yea	G. Tinney	yea

The vote passed unanimously (4 in favor, 0 against, no abstentions).

End Executive Session: Mr. Tinney requested a motion to end the executive session. At 6:58 p.m. Mr. Rankins motioned to end executive session and was seconded by Ms. Hill. The chair then called for a vote:

N. Hill	yea	S. Rankins	yea
V. Mitchell	yea	G. Tinney	yea

The vote passed unanimously (4 in favor, 0 against, no abstentions).

- 4. Vote:** To remove from employment a member of the fire department, Mr. Russell Quick. At this time, Mr. Tinney requested a motion.

Mr. Rankins motioned to table agenda item #4 this evening and to revisit the item at the Fire Commission’s regular meeting, scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15, 2023** at 6:00 p.m. at Memorial Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hill.

The chair then called for a vote:

N. Hill	yea	S. Rankins	yea
V. Mitchell	yea	G. Tinney	yea

The vote passed unanimously (4 in favor, 0 against, no abstentions).

- 5. Adjournment:** Mr. Tinney requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rankins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Mitchell seconded, and all were in favor.

Submitted by:

s/Patrice A. LeMoine
Clerk for the Commission