

CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA  
ORDINANCE NO. 86

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Palmer that a department to be hereafter known as the PALMER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, the object of which shall be the prevention of fire and the protection of life and property within the limits of the City of Palmer is hereby created as follows:

Section 1. Officers

Article 1. The Department shall consist of a Chief, one Assistant Chief and other officers as the Chief and City Council may deem necessary for the effective operation of the Department.

Article 2. The Chief shall be appointed by the City Council for an indefinite period of time, and his tenure of office shall depend upon his good conduct and efficiency. The Chief shall be technically qualified by training and experience and shall have ability to command men and hold their respect and confidence. He shall be removed only for just cause and after a public hearing before the City Council.

Article 3. The Chief shall be held accountable to the City Council only, and shall make written and verbal reports thereto as the Council may require. All other Department and Company officers shall be accountable to the Chief only.

Article 4. The Assistant Chief and all other Department and Company officers shall be appointed by the Chief. Such officers shall be accountable only to the Chief, and subject to removal by him.

Section 2. Duties of the Chief

Article 1. The Chief shall formulate a set of rules and regulations to govern the Department, and shall be responsible to the City Council for the personnel, morale and general efficiency of the Department.

Article 2. The Chief shall determine the number and kind of companies of which the Department is to be composed and shall determine the response of such companies to alarms.

Article 3. The Chief shall at least once a month conduct suitable drills or instruction in the operation and handling of equipment, first aid and rescue work, salvage, a study of building in the City of Palmer, fire prevention, water supplies, and all other matters generally considered essential to good firemanship and safety of life and property from fire.

Article 4. The Chief is hereby required to assist the proper authorities in suppressing the crime of arson by investigating or causing to be investigated the cause, origin and circumstances of all fires.

Article 5. The Chief is hereby empowered to enter any and all buildings and premises at any reasonable hour for the purpose of making inspections and to serve written notice upon the owner or occupant to abate, within a specified time, any and all fire hazards that may be found.

Article 6. Any person so served with a notice to abate any fire hazard or hazards, shall comply therewith and promptly notify the Chief.

Article 7. The Chief shall see that complete records are kept of all fires, inspections, apparatus and minor equipment, personnel and other information about the work of the Department.

Article 8. The Chief shall report monthly to the City Council the condition of the apparatus and equipment; the number of fires during the month, their location and cause, and date of same and loss occasioned thereby; the number and purpose of all other runs made; and the number of members responding to each fire or other run, and any changes in membership.

A1A263



Ordinance No. 86 (con't)

~~Article~~ Article 9. The Chief shall make a complete annual report to the City Council within one month after the close of the fiscal year, such report to include the information specified in Article 7, together with comparative data for previous years and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Department.

#### Section 3, Membership

Article 1. The membership of the Department shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the Chief and shall be able-bodied male citizens residing in or near the City of Palmer, preferably property owners whose business activities are normally within the confines of the City, and who have telephones in their homes. Determination of whether candidates for appointment are able-bodied shall be made by the Chief after a medical and physical examination has been made in a manner prescribed by the Chief and approved by the City Health Officer.

Article 2. Any officer or member of the Department may be suspended or discharged from the Department by the Chief at any time he may deem such action necessary for the good of the Department. On written request of such member to the City Council, he shall be given a public hearing on the charges brought by the Chief.

#### Section 4. Equipment

Article 1. The Department shall be equipped with such apparatus and other equipment as may be required from time to time to maintain its efficiency and properly protect life and property from fire.

Article 2. Recommendations of apparatus and equipment needed shall be made by the Chief, and shall be purchased in such manner as may be designated by the City Council.

Article 3. All equipment of the Department shall be safely and conveniently housed in such places as may be designated by the City Council. Such places shall be heated during the winter season.

Article 4. Suitable arrangement or equipment shall be provided for citizens to turn in an alarm, and for notifying all members of the Department so that they may promptly respond.

Article 5. No person shall use any fire apparatus or equipment for any private purpose, nor shall any person wilfully and without proper authority take away or conceal any article used in any way by the Department.

Article 6. No person shall loiter in or about any place where fire apparatus is housed or handle any apparatus or equipment belonging to the Department unless accompanied by, or having the special permission of, an officer or authorized member of the Department.

Article 7. The Chief, with consent of the City Council, is hereby authorized to enter into agreements or contracts with nearly incorporated communities or governing bodies of other organizations to provide the members of such communities or organizations with fire protection or to establish a mutual aid system.

Article 8. No apparatus shall be hired out or permitted to leave the City of Palmer, except in response to a call for aid at a fire in a neighboring community without the consent of the Chief. The officer in charge of the Department shall have the power to assign equipment for response to calls for outside aid in accordance with Article 7, and in other cases only when the absence of such equipment will not jeopardize protection in the City of Palmer.

#### Section 5. General

Article 1. Each member of the Department shall be issued a badge designating his rank.

Article 2. All motor equipment and all personal cars of Department members shall have right-of-way over all other traffic when responding to an alarm.

Article 3. Each member of the Department driving a car shall be issued a suitable insignia to be attached to the car.

Article 4. No person shall drive any vehicle over fire hose except upon specific orders from the Chief or other officer in charge where the hose is used.

A1A263



Ordinance No. 86 (Con't)

Article 5. No person shall park any vehicle or otherwise cause any obstruction to be placed within 10 feet of the entrance to any fire station or other place where fire apparatus is stored, or within 15 feet of any fire hydrant or cistern.

Article 6. No unauthorized person with any vehicle shall follow within 500 feet of any apparatus belonging to the Department, nor park any vehicle within 300 feet of a fire.

Article 7. No person shall maliciously turn in or cause to be turned in a false alarm.

Section 6. Enforcement

Article 1. Any person violating the provisions of Section 2, Article 6; Section 4, Articles 5 and 6; and Section 5, Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 shall, upon conviction in Magistrate's Court of this City, pay a fine of not more than 300 dollars or be imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Article 2. All regularly appointed members of the Department are hereby given the necessary special police powers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance.

Article 3. It is hereby made the special duty of the Chief of Police and/or other peace officers who may be on duty and available for fire duty, to respond to all fire alarms and assist the Department in the protection of life and property, in regulating traffic, maintaining order, and in enforcing observance of all sections of this ordinance.


Section 7. Special Officers

Article 1. The Department may elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, to be known as Social Officers. Such officers may be elected in any manner and for any term the membership may decide upon, and their duties shall be to arrange for and manage any or all social functions sponsored by the Department.

Article 2. The functions and duties of said Social Officers shall in no wise interfere with those of the regular Department Officers who are charged with responsibility for all fire service activities of the Department.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

PASSED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL and approved by the Mayor this 12 day of MAY 1959.

  
/s/ Wm. T. Zahradnick  
WM. T. ZAHRADNICEK, ACTING MAYOR  
CITY OF PALMER

ATTEST:

/s/ Emilie St. Pierre  
EMILIE ST. PIERRE, CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PALMER

FIRST READING: APRIL 14, 1959  
SECOND READING: APRIL 28, 1959  
THIRD READING: MAY 12, 1959

AIA263

