

ORDINANCE NO. 15

An Ordinance Providing for the Establishment and Government of a Volunteer Fire Department for the Village of Medicine Lake

Be it ordained by the Council of the Village of Medicine Lake that to better protect the lives and property of its citizens, a department to be hereafter known as the Volunteer Fire Department is hereby created. Its object shall be the prevention of fire and the preservation and protection of life and property from and during such fires as may occur.

Section 1. The Department shall be equipped with such apparatus and accessories as may be required from time to time to maintain its efficiency.

Section 2. All of the equipment of the Department shall be safely and conveniently housed in such station or stations as may be designated by the Council.

Section 3. The Department shall be composed of not less than 9 active members, and as many in excess of 9 as may be deemed necessary for the adequate protection of the community.

Section 4. The operation officers of the Department shall be a chief, an assistant chief, and such other company officers as the chief may deem necessary for the effective operation of the department.

Section 5. The Chief shall be appointed by the Council for an indefinite period of time. The Chief's tenure of office shall depend upon his good conduct and efficiency, and the Chief shall be removed only for just cause and after a fair and impartial hearing before the Council.

Section 6. The Chief of Department shall be held solely accountable to the Mayor only. All other department and operation officers shall be held accountable to the Chief of Department only.

Section 7. The Assistant Chief and all other operation officers shall be appointed by the Chief, accountable only to the Chief, and subject to removal by him at his discretion.

Section 8. The active membership of the Department shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the Chief, or by the Council with the approval of the Chief, and shall be able bodied volunteers who are 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and who present a high level of moral character.

Section 9. Any 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.

Section 10. The Chief shall formulate a set of rules and regulations to govern the department, and shall be responsible to the Council for the personnel, morale and general efficiency of the department.

Section 11. The Chief shall also call the entire department together at least once each month for the purpose of conducting suitable drills in the operation and handling of equipment, first aid and rescue work, salvage, a study of buildings in the city, and all other matters generally accepted as having a bearing upon good firemanship.

Section 12. The department, if it so desires, may elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, to be known as Social Officers. Such officers may be elected in any manner 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. However, the functions and duties of said Social Officers shall in no wise overlap or interfere with those of the Operation Officers, who are charged with responsibility for all fire service activities of the department.

Section 13. The Chief of the fire department is hereby required to cause inspections to be made of all buildings within the Village of Medicine Lake with the exception of those used exclusively for residential purposes, not less than twice each year, and to serve written notice upon the owner to date, within a specified time, any and all fire hazards that may be found therein.

Section 14. Any citizen so served with an order to abate any fire hazard or hazards, shall comply with said order and promptly notify the Chief.

Section 15. No unauthorized person shall ride upon, race with, trail or follow within 600 feet, any apparatus belonging to the fire department when actively responding to a fire alarm.

Section 16. No person shall drive any vehicle over a fire hose except upon specific orders from the Chief of Department, and then only with due caution.

Section 17. All personal cars of fire department members shall have right-of-way over all other traffic when responding to a fire alarm. Firemen's cars to be designated as such, if necessary.

Section 18. No person shall park any vehicle of any description or place any material or obstruction within twenty feet of the entrance to any fire station, or within fifteen feet of any fire hydrant or fire cistern, nor park any vehicle within three hundred feet of a fire.

Section 19. No person shall maliciously sound a false fire alarm.

Section 20. No person shall use any fire apparatus or equipment for any private purpose, nor shall any person wilfully and without proper authority remove, take away, keep or conceal any tool, appliance or other article used in any way by the fire department.

Section 21. Any person violating the provisions Sections 14-15-16-17-18-19 or 20 shall, upon conviction in the Police Court of this city, or before a Justice of the Peace, pay a fine not less than \$100.00 and no more than \$500.00.

Section 22. All regularly appointed members of the Fire Department are hereby given the necessary special police powers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 23. It is hereby made the special duty of the Chief of Police, Policemen, and such other Peace officers as are on duty at the time, to respond to all fire alarms and assist the fire department in the protection of life and Property of the citizens, and property of the fire department, and in controlling and regulating traffic and maintaining order, particularly in reference to violation of Sections 15-16-17-18-19 and 20 of this ordinance.

Section 24. All ordinances and sections of ordinances in conflict with the foregoing are hereby repealed.

Adopted and approved this 14th day of August, 1950.

A. Wentworth, Mayor

Attest: Chas. Pauly, city clerk.

Amended by ordinance 121 adopted on December 4, 2017.

Scott Marks, Mayor

Attest: Nancy Pauly, city clerk.