**The August 10, 2023 meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President, Andrew Dale.**

**Members Present: President, Andrew Dale, Vice President, Linda Gray, Andrew Popp, Mike Whited. Others present: Chief, Robert Mead, Attorney, Mark Ervin, and Recording Secretary, Samara White.**

**Approval of July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Having reviewed the minutes, Linda Gray moved to accept the minutes as presented, Andrew Popp seconded, and the Commission accepted the minutes with unanimous vote.**

**Business from Fire Chief, Robert Mead:**

**Promotions of Lieutenant, and Sergeant:**

**Sergeant, Mike Hill’s retirement on August 12th, 2023, opens the rank position of Sergeant. The next individual on the Sergeant’s promotion list is Timothy Adam Smalley. Chief Mead, requested that Timothy Adam Smalley would be promoted to the rank of Sergeant with an effective date of August 12, 2023. Secretary Popp made the motion to accept, Mike Whited seconded the motion, and the Muncie Fire Merit Commission voted unanimously to accept to promote Timothy Adam Smalley to Sergeant.**

**Sergeant, Donald Potter retirement September 8th, leaves another Sergeant’s position open. The next individual on the Sergeant’s promotion list Edward (Willie) Eviston. Chief Mead, asked the merit commission to promote Willie Eviston to the rank of Sergeant with the effective date of September 9th, 2023. Secretary Popp moved to accept, VP Gray seconded, and the Fire Merit Commission made a unanimous vote to accept.**

**Captain Mike Rector’s retirement on September 11, 2023 will leave a Captain’s position open for promotion. BC Wilkins submitted a letter asking to be reinstated to the rank of Captain, and resigning his commission appointed position of Battalion Chief with the effective date being September 12, 2023. Chief Mead then shared the letter with the Fire Merit Commission. Chief Mead requested that the Merit Commission take the letter under advisement. Secretary Popp recommended the MFMC table this decision, and discuss it at a further meeting. VP Gray seconded Secretary Popp’s motion to table, the commission voted unanimously to discuss the matter at the August 24, 2023 meeting.**

**When Commission Popp made above-noted motion, retired Muncie firefighter Terry Moore voiced his objection by stating that the decision, by the Merit Commission to table BC Wilkins’ request for reinstatement to captain, is “bullshit”. President Dale immediately asked who in the attendance made the statement and retired Muncie firefighter Terry Moore apologized. President Dale stated that speaking out of turn and using foul language will not be tolerated and that a Muncie firefighter should not use such language in public. Retired Muncie firefighter Terry Moore stated that he’s no longer a member of the Muncie Fire Department to which President Dale stated that once a firefighter one should consider themselves always a firefighter. Retired firefighter Terry Moore apologized again.**

**2024 Muncie Fire Commission Budget: President Dale submitted the previously discussed MFMC budget to the City’s Controller, and the Controller will present it to the city council for consideration.**

**Business from Attorney, Mark Ervin: None**

**Public Comments:**

**BC Wilkins expressed that he submitted his letter of resignation to the Chief and to the MFMC within the parameters of past practice and that he hopes that the Merit Commission will take that under consideration.**

**Retired firefighter Terry Moore stated that there has been past practice for individuals being reinstated to lower rank but that they Merit Commission Rules and Procedures need amended to make clear the reinstatements can occur and that by changes a couple of words that it can be addressed. He implored Mark Ervin, Merit Commission legal counsel to do so.**

**President Dale stated that the Commission intends to meet in executive session on August 24, 2023 to discuss the matter of the tabled request. (It should be noted that a few days after the Merit Commission’s August 10, 2023 regular meeting that BC Wilkins informed Chief Mead of his reconsideration of the request; therefore, necessitating no further action by the Merit Commission.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Sectary Popp at 6:14pm, seconded by Mike Whited, with unanimous vote to accept.**