

CITY OF CHARLOTTE, COUNTY OF EATON, STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-027

**A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE CITY MANAGER'S
APPOINTMENT OF TYGER FULLERTON AS FIRE CHIEF**

WHEREAS, Section 6.2 of the City Charter provides that the City Manager shall appoint the administrative officers of the City subject to confirmation of said appointments by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has appointed Tyger Fullerton to the position of Fire Chief effective May 1, 2021 to fill a vacancy created through retirement; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has requested the City Council to confirm said appointment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council does hereby confirm the City Manager's appointment of Tyger Fullerton as Fire Chief.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member _____ and supported by _____.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

Aye:

Nay:

Absent:

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Charlotte, County of Eaton, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City of Charlotte at a regularly scheduled meeting held on Monday, March 1, 2021, relevant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, the original of which is on file in my office as part of council minutes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature this 1st day of March 2021.

Pearl Tidwell, City Clerk / Treasurer
City of Charlotte



Memo

Date: February 26, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor Armitage; City Council
From: Erin LaPere, City Manager
Re: Fire Chief Appointment

Background

In April, the Fire Chief will be retiring which necessitates the appointment of a replacement. Chief Fullerton has served the department and the City of Charlotte for a significant period of time. Given the importance of this role in the community as well as the time needed to properly ensure a smooth transition, the process to consider his replacement has begun. In addition to serving the city residents, the Charlotte fire department provides fire and emergency services to five neighboring townships through a contract with the Rural Fire Association (RFA).

Appointment Process

Per the City Charter the administrative officers of the city, except the attorney, are appointed by the manager and confirmed by Council. Additionally, Section 6.12 states that primary consideration of the appointment of Fire Chief shall be given to the recommendation made by the members of the Fire Department. In a letter dated December 9, 2020 the members of the Volunteer Fire Department voiced their recommendation to appoint Assistant Chief Fullerton as the replacement Fire Chief. Council was presented the recommendation letter in December and I have included a copy of that letter for reference.

In addition to the Charter provisions, the terms of the contract with the RFA outline a process by which a selection committee is established to hire a Fire Chief. There is a clause in that section which bypasses the RFA process if the City and the Fire Department concur on the desired candidate. At their meeting held February 11th the RFA was given an opportunity to exercise their right to form a selection committee and they declined. They expressed confidence in the ability of the City and Fire Department to find a candidate through the process as outlined in the Charter for appointment of a Fire Chief.

Pursuant to the City Charter, I am recommending the appointment of Tyger Fullerton to be the Fire Chief effective May 1, 2021. Mr. Fullerton has firsthand knowledge of the department and the city, as such he has a thorough understanding of the opportunities and obstacles facing Charlotte and will be a key role in working with the Council and the other members of city administration to ensure the long-term success of the fire department and the city as a whole.

Tyger has voiced his enthusiasm at rising to the challenge. He has 14 years of experience in the fire department, beginning as a volunteer in 2007 working his way up to captain in 2011. In addition to his full-time position as a captain, Tyger was voted to serve as the assistant chief by the volunteer department in 2013. Outside of the fire department, he served the city in the DPW department from 2007 to 2011. He also works as an instructor for fire training through the Eaton County Fire School and Lansing Community College. Given his experience in the fire department and history of service to the community along with the recommendation from the Volunteer Department, I am optimistic that Mr. Fullerton will provide the leadership necessary to guide the department into the future.

A resolution of approval of this appointment is included for your review and consideration.

eel

attachment

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT
& RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION
111 E. Lawrence Avenue

CHARLOTTE
Ph. 517-543-0241



MICHIGAN
48813

KEVIN FULLERTON
Fire Chief

December 9, 2020

To: City Manager Thomas and Charlotte City Council

From: Charlotte Volunteer Fire Department

Re: Fire Chief Selection

In the recent organizational analysis conducted by Vettraino Consulting L.L.C. and Municipal Analytics, the recommendation was made that "... Charlotte and the RFA begin the selection process for a new Fire Chief as soon as possible... following the FSA process first then following the Charter process." For reference, the existing Fire Service Agreement dated 12/19/2006 includes the following verbiage in regard to Fire Chief Selection:

"Appointment of a New Chief. If at any time, the City of Charlotte seeks to hire, promote, or otherwise replace the Fire Chief, the City of Charlotte shall establish a Fire Chief Selection Committee, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement... **If the Fire Department and the City of Charlotte agree on who to appoint as the new Fire Chief, the mutually agreed upon Fire Chief shall be appointed without the need for the creation of a Fire Chief Selection Committee."**


In keeping with the recommendation made by the consulting service, the volunteers recommend Tyger Fullerton, the current Asst. Chief, be selected as the next Fire Chief of the Charlotte Fire Department effective the day the current Fire Chief, Kevin Fullerton, retires. All that is needed now, is for the manager to appoint Tyger as Fire Chief and for the council to approve the appointment. Accepting our recommendation now will ensure continuity in leadership of the Fire Department without incurring the additional expense of contracting a recruiting service.

There are several reasons that the volunteers feel that Asst. Chief Fullerton is the right choice to take over as Fire Chief:

1. He is well trained and very familiar with the current operations of the department.
2. The volunteers have full trust in the Asst. Chief's decision-making ability under high stress and dangerous situations to keep us all safe.
3. He has the respect and trust of the Fire Chiefs in many neighboring departments.
4. He has accumulated several credentials including fire officer, fire inspector, fire instructor, Haz-mat technician, arson investigator, and National Incident Management System certification.

The history of the Charlotte Fire Department and Charlotte Police Department is that the Chief has been promoted from within the ranks.

Please take the recommendation of the volunteers into consideration and make the right choice for the City of Charlotte and the Charlotte Fire Department & Rural Fire Association.


Jeff Wertz
Secretary/Treasurer