**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President, Andrew Dale.**

**Members Present: President, Andrew Dale, Vice President, Linda Gray, Qiana Clemens, Andrew Popp, and Secretary Jim Mochal. Others present: Chief, Robert Mead, Attorney, Mark Ervin and Recording Secretary, Samara Riley.**

**Approval of August 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes: After review, Qiana Clemens made the motional to accept the August 11th minutes, Linda Gray seconded, and the August 11th Fire Merit Meeting Minutes were accepted with a unanimous vote.**

**Approval of August 18, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes: The special meeting was held to give a conditional offer of employment to Trey Baer. Andrew Popp made a motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting held on August 18, 2022, thereafter was seconded by Qiana Clemens and the August 18th, 2022 special meeting minutes were accepted with a unanimous vote.**

**Business from Fire Chief, Robert Mead: None at this time.**

**Business from Attorney, Mark Ervin: None at this time.**

**Denise Moore Stewardship Award:** Chief Mead had great pleasure in nominating Captain Dewitt with the Denise Moore Stewardship Award. Chief Mead has been amazed with Captain Dewitt’s work ethic and the way he selflessly gives back to the Muncie Fire Department. Captain Dewitt’s sets a great example of what great stewardship, professionalism and what leadership is all about. Chief Mead and Qiana Clemens together, presented the Denise Moore Stewardship award to Captain Dewitt.

**Old Business:**

**Evaluation Task Force:** Linda Gray explained to the commission and attendees that the evaluation task force had come up with two evaluations. The probationary and yearly evaluations and she believes that the task force had come to a much agreement and is ready to release to the fire department body to look at. Fire personnel will have until September 30, 2022 to send back feedback to the task force for further review. The task force will review any and all feedback and have the evaluations ready to be approved for the October 2022 meeting. Andrew Popp moved to introduce the two evaluations to be considered at the October 2022 meeting, and Linda Gray seconded and the fire merit commission voted unanimously to accept.

**Video Services for Commission Meetings:** The commission spoke about the best avenue for members to participate in meetings they are unable to attend. By state statue and by city ordinance that if a commission member could not be present the meeting should be live streamed and the member could still be present virtually via laptop. Andrew Popp made a motion that the commission were in an agreement that in January 2023 the fire merit meeting would be live streamed, Linda Gray seconded, and the fire merit commission accepted with an unanimous vote.

**Comments from the attendees:** Union President, Jason Chafin expressed his agreeance with live streaming. He said with fire personnel being busy, and on duty or off duty, they would be able to watch the live streamed meeting.

**New Business:**

**2023 Fire Merit Commission Budget:** The commission discussed theappropriate action to address the 2023 budget with the city council. Andrew Popp suggested that since he was council appointed that he too goes in front of the council with President Dale regarding the budget. The commission voted to unanimously support the effort to engage city council and the controller’s office to remedy any deficiencies in the current budget as submitted.

**Comments from the Attendees:**  Lieutenant, Chris Short asked the commission why they chose to not promote the four individuals whom were up for promotion. President Dale explained that the commission wanted to be more prepared and the promotion would take place at a special meeting on September 28, 2022. The Fire Merit Commission conducts business in the most favorable and in a stance that aids the business of the fire department. Lieutenant Short expressed his concern on the individuals losing money during the two-week break in between meetings. He was assured that the individuals would be compensated with back pay as the and would in no way lose out any money earned during this time. Caleb Maddox expressed his “displeasure” in how this issue was handled as he and the others put a lot of time into studying and preparing for the promotional tests and interviews. President Dale explained that since the reorganization of the commission board, that any requests to make additions to the agenda that it would be submitted well in advance. Linda Gray expressed that her appointment to the commission and the willingness to serve on the commission is a volunteer effort. The commission puts in a lot of time and effort making the best decisions for the department, and she respectfully would like to have information and some background on who is being promoted. Sergeant Edmonson would like to know if the department could get clarification on time when individuals would be up for promotions. Caleb Maddox voiced his confusion what background was needed after the testing and after the interviews that the commission administered. President Dale responded that the commission members that were apart of administering the interviews spent an upward of 130 hours, but the commission still needs time to discuss the promotion because it is substantial and he wants to assure the commission gives those being promoted the respect deserved. Qiana Clemens expressed her thoughts of having a deadline for additions to the agenda, such as promotions, presenting awards, etc., and having that be public knowledge is a great idea and something she wants to propose so everyone gets the recognition deserved. - Lieutenant Christopher Spencer switched gears and made the commission aware of his retirement that was taking place on September 1, 2022. Lt. Spencer came on the department in September of 1990 and spent 32 years serving Muncie Fire Department and the City of Muncie. He thanked all of the commission members, the city of Muncie, the firemen that came before him, and the current firemen on the department. The commission gave Lt. Spencer a standing ovation on his retirement and service to the department.

**Motion to adjourn made by Secretary Mochal at 6:44PM, seconded by Andrew Popp, with unanimous vote to accept.**