

HIGH POINT PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, May 8, 2025 - 9:00 AM
Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260

Prosperity and Livability Committee - Council Member Monica Peters, Chair

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Harman called the Meeting of the High Point Prosperity, Livability, & Safety Committee to order at 9:00 AM and stated the following members were present:

Present: Council Member Patrick Harman, Council Member Vickie McKiver, Council Member Tyrone Johnson

Absent: Chair Monica Peters

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2025-165 **High Point Fire Department 2024 Annual Report**
Staff will provide a presentation on the 2024 High Point Fire Department Annual Report.

Brian Evans, Fire Chief, presented the High Point Fire Department (HPFD) Annual Report for 2024. He provided an overview of the topics that would be covered in the presentation, including data analytics, services provided, community risk reduction, and the future of the fire services.

He spoke on the different Accreditations and recognitions held by HPFD and said the department operated locally but was recognized nationally. He talked about the Center for Public Safety Excellence (SPSE) accreditation and said that the department met high standards for performance, planning, and community risk reduction. He explained the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 rating and said that HPFD was highly rated. He pointed out that HPFD was one of only 120 departments in the U.S. to hold both credentials. He thanked staff for their hard work on obtaining these credentials.

He spoke on the HPFD model of continuous improvement and how they meet goals through strategic planning and SWOT analysis.

Chief Evans went over the operational footprint of the department and provided an overview of the facilities and coverage, including 19 facilities, 14 fire stations, and 3 battalion districts. He spoke on the apparatus in service, as well as the personnel and the 24-hour rotational schedule. He shared that there were 16,515 incidents and 35,020 responses in 2024 and pointed out that total responses were down from 2023. He indicated that the top incident types in 2024 were medical incidents and pointed out

that all firefighters were CPR-certified. He said there were 534 fires in 2024, with 128 structure fires, and 406 related to cooking, vehicles, and brush/trash. He shared that there were zero fire fatalities for the year. He went over the investigative process and spoke on the community risk outreach efforts to educate the community on fire prevention. He said there had been 108 public education events, with a total attendance of 70,750 in 2024.

He spoke on the smoke detector services provided by the department, and shared that 616 total alarms and batteries had been installed in 2024 by HFFD.

Chief Evans outlined the different services provided by the department, including emergency medical response, fire response, hazardous materials' response, technical rescue, bike teams, and dive teams. He pointed out that HPFD was an all hazards agency. He spoke about the ROV underwater robot owned by the department and said that it is also used to assist other municipalities in rescue efforts. He pointed out the robot was only one of three in the state of North Carolina.

He showed a short video outlining drone services and that HPFD hoped to invest in a drone program in the near future.

He shared a photo of patches designed by staff at different stations to show pride.

Acting Chair Harman thanked Chief Evans for the update.

Council Members Johnson and McKiver thanked him for the presentation and thanked the Chief and HPFD staff for risking their lives to keep the community safe.

In response to Acting Chair Harman, Chief Evans said that ISO certification did reduce insurance rates for residents and businesses. He said they did not have an issue with vacancies thanks to the early training of staff to replace retiring members of the department. He said the cost of the DSR drone in the video was around \$30,000.

In response to Council Members Johnson and McKiver, Chief Evans said anyone in the community could receive a smoke detector and that Fire Marshals install them to residents in need every Wednesday. He spoke on the application process to obtain a smoke detector and shared the details on the June 7th smoke detector canvassing event on Barbee Avenue and surrounding streets.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity, Livability, & Safety Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Harman, Acting Chair

Attest:

Alison Glynn, Deputy City Clerk