

**Eastlake City Council
Ordinance Committee Meeting
July 8, 2025
6:30 p.m.**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

All members of Council present. Attending from Administration are Law Director Klammer, Mayor Overstreet, Fire Chief Kovacic, Finance Director Schindel, and City Engineer Meluch.

The meeting was opened by Councilman Gulley.

Finance Director Schindel says regarding item #1, she feels that adding the extra day would be beneficial for the City.

Ms. Schmidt motions to move it forward. Ms. Kostelnik second. Mr. Gulley says it will move forward to Council as a Whole.

Chief Kovacic comes to explain item #2. The changes they are requesting is mostly housekeeping. Some language changes like “firemen” to “Fire fighters”. The most importance is for the area which they can recruit from. They want to include adjoining counties to expand their area for recruiting. They are also asking to go to the max age of 35 adjustable for service time for hiring age. So if you had 5-6 years of pension somewhere else, and you were 40 or 41, it would have you leaving the department at the same age. This also gives them a bigger pool of candidates. Most of the cities in this area have made this adjustment. They also want to be able to hire at 20 instead of 21. It would give us an opportunity to get to these kids a bit quicker. Police and fire recruitment is currently difficult. They are hoping to hire two kids in the next couple days. One would be directly affected by this, he is 33, but he did a bunch of military service time. They are hoping to make a job offer to him, but he is over 31. He does not want to exclude quality individuals.

Mr. Gulley asks if he can also explain probationary period.

Chief Kovacic says they went from part time to full time and went different classifications from there. They want to go from probationary and then first class firefighter instead of As and Bs. It is just a change of words.

Ms. Schmidt asks, out of curiosity, how long is the program to become a firefighter?

Chief Kovacic says paramedic is about 10 months, fire academy is about 8 weeks. There is also a precursor semester. It could be a year to two years. It is hard to take those classes on top of each other to be done in a year, so closer to 2 years. Interestingly enough, WE schools are looking to start a fire program. Us adjusting the age to 20 gives us an opportunity to get those kids in the door before anyone else can look at them.

Ms. Schmidt says it seems like it could be a good thing. She thanks Chief Kovacic.

Ms. Krajnyak says that "able bodied persons" was also stricken. Was that for a reason?

Mr. Gulley says that it is in the next paragraph.

Chief Kovacic reads the next paragraph. He says that is the replacement.

Ms. Kostelnik motions to move forward. Ms. Schmidt second. Mr. Gulley says it will move forward.

No public wishes to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

in



JOHN MEYERS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED: 8/26/25

ATTEST: 

ALYSSA MORAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL