

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

CHATTANOOGA CITY COUNCIL

August 11, 2020

In Attendance

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the electronic-conducted (virtual) meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present, including Vice-Chairman Ken Smith and Council members Carol Berz, Anthony Byrd, Demetrus Coonrod, Russell Gilbert, and Darrin Ledford, all present via electronic means. Other panelists present via electronic means: Phil Noblett, City Attorney; Lydia Christoph, Administrative Support; and Keren Campbell, Council Support Specialist. Councilmen Jerry Mitchell and Erskine Oglesby, Jr., were not present.

Others in Attendance (via electronic means)

Mayor's Office: Maura Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer, and Tony Sammons, Deputy Chief Operating Officer; Fire: Phil Hyman, Chief; Police: David Roddy, Chief

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Gilbert and seconded by Councilman Ledford, the minutes of the last meeting (August 4, 2020) were approved as published.

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6A, 6B, 6C & 6D

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7A

This item had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7B

Councilman Ledford had questions for Mr. Noblett pertaining to the length of time of the contract and termination protocols. He also asked about the approval process and procedures that could be put in place to ensure the contract comes before the Council with enough time for review. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 7C, 7D, 7E & 7F

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 7G

Councilman Ledford updated the Council on this item. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7H

This item had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Department Report ~ Fire

Chief Hyman gave a presentation [see attached] that covered the following:

- CFD Challenges during Pandemic
- COVID Effects on Incidents
- COVID Effects on Fire Incidents
- Wilder Bridge Impact on Station 10 Times
- Travel Time Pre-Bridge Change
- Travel Time Post-Bridge Change
- Training Division Pre-COVID
- Training Division During COVID
- Staffing Challenges

A discussion ensued wherein the following questions were addressed:

- Auxiliary Training changes (Councilman Ledford)
- Moral through COVID experience (Councilman Ledford)
- Academies to fulfill vacancies (Councilman Smith)
- Reaching out to those who already have some training (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Reaching out to minorities (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Dollar amount to make an Academy happen (Councilman Gilbert)
- Protocol for returning after positive COVID Testing (Councilman Henderson)
- Can Academy be held if we have dollar amount (Councilman Henderson)
- Policy change for number of Firefighter on an apparatus (Councilman Henderson)

Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Purchasing Questions

Councilman Gilbert asked Mr. Sammons if the City used the same company for the pest control contract as the previous year and if there was an increase in service. He requested a list of the companies contracted for pest control. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Future Considerations (3 Week Look Ahead)

Councilman Ledford requested that someone from RPA provide him with an update on the zoning assessment contract and market graphics. Councilman Gilbert asked Ms. Sullivan about the grant locations on the ECD item. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Other

Councilwoman Coonrod inquired about the possibility of a zoning study pertaining to the Area 3 Plan. Chairman Henderson suggested that she meet with John Bridger offline. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

[Editor's Note: Any person may join the electronic-conducted meetings of the Chattanooga City Council at the scheduled time by visiting online at council.chattanooga.gov.]

Attachment:
Fire Dept. Presentation

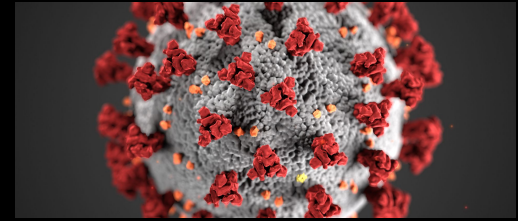
Chattanooga Fire Department



City Council Presentation - August 2020



CFD Challenges During a Pandemic

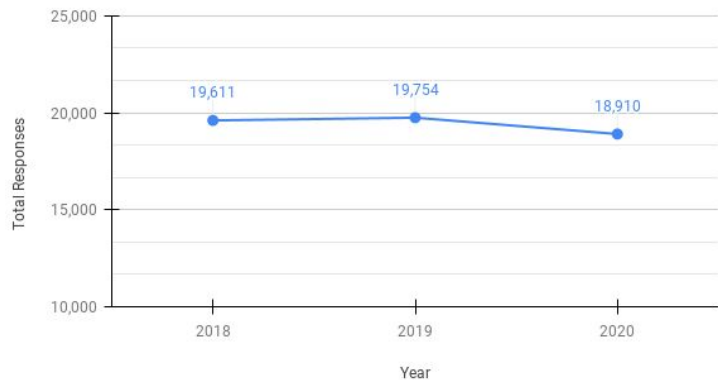


- EMS calls and protocol changes
- Massive tornado response
- Wilder Street bridge closing
- Adaptations to training techniques
 - Online platform
 - CDC Guidelines and restrictions on group training
 - Taking advantage of the pandemic
 - Effects on overall staffing
- Adaptations to operating protocols
- Staffing Challenges



COVID Effect on Incidents

Total Responses Per Year



EMS Responses Per Year



FY 2020	EMS
Jul-19	663
Aug-19	700
Sep-19	649
Oct-19	653
Nov-19	666
Dec-19	600
Jan-20	664
Feb-20	628
Mar-20	409
Apr-20	166
May-20	187
Jun-20	372
FY Totals	6357
Mon Avg	529.75

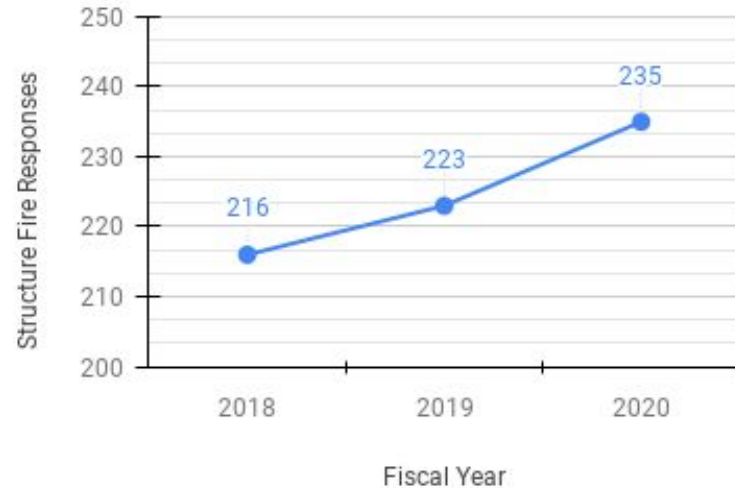
In April, the CFD worked with HCEMS and HC911 to adjust the response protocols for EMS-related emergencies to protect first responders from unnecessary exposure. As a result, overall responses and EMS-related responses are trending down similarly. From 2019, our overall responses dropped about 4.5% and our EMS responses followed a similar trend dropping even more deeply at almost 15%. The last 3 months have yielded the lowest EMS calls since 2010. The drop is specifically COVID-related and has begun to trend upward again.



COVID Effect on Fire Incidents

As anticipated, though **overall emergency calls went down, fires occurring in structures have maintained pace and even increased slightly**. It's speculated that more people are home, which of course increases the likelihood of cooking and other accidental fires.

Fires in Structures



Avg # of structure fires - prior to COVID (Jan-Mar 20) = 18

Avg # of structure fires - during COVID (Apr-Jun 20) = 22

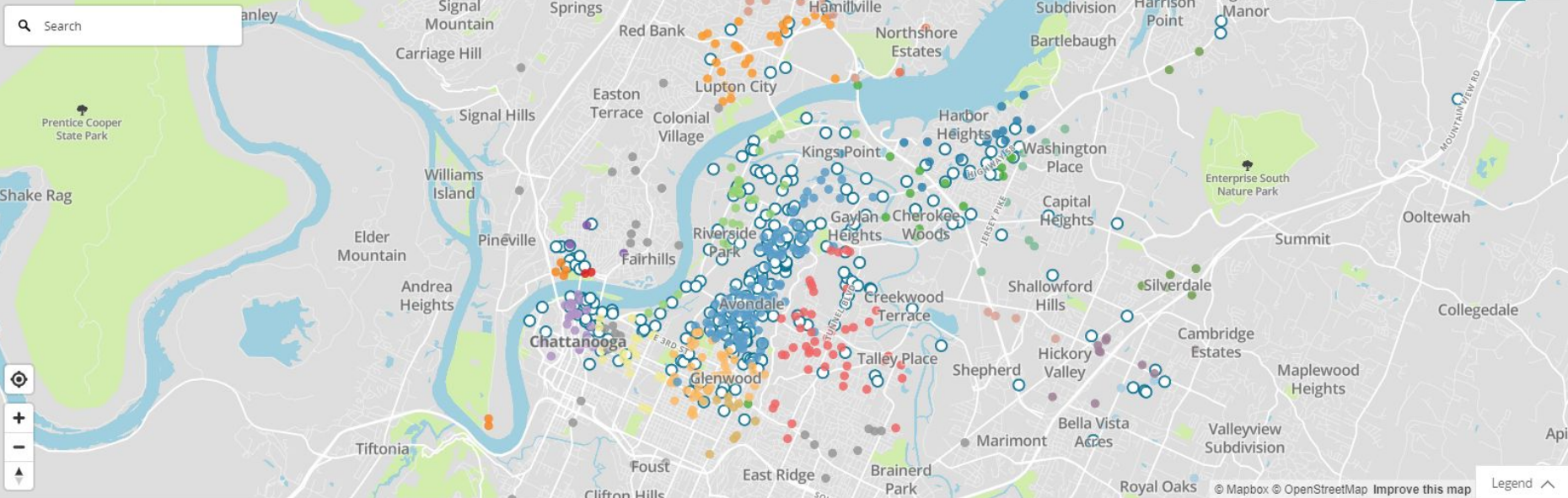


Wilder Bridge Impact on Station 10 Times

31% of the Incidents Station 10 (Quint 10/Engine 4) responds to occur in Station 4's district across the Wilder Street bridge

Quint 10/Engine 4 Responses

Location of responses Quint 10/Engine 4 have responded to in current calendar year.





Travel Times Pre-Bridge Change

Effective April 10th, large/overweight trucks are unable to travel over the Wilder Street bridge

All Fire Travel Time Pre Bridge

Ended

2.92

Minutes

4/1/20 - 4/30/20

Measuring



Quint 10/Engine 4 Travel Time Pre Bridge

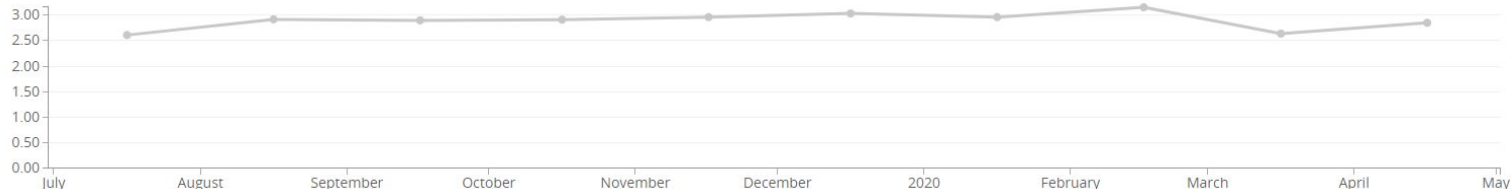
Ended

2.85

Minutes

4/1/20 - 4/30/20

Measuring



Before April 10th, the average travel times to a response for Station 10 and All Fire Stations was around 3 minutes



Travel Times Post-Bridge Change

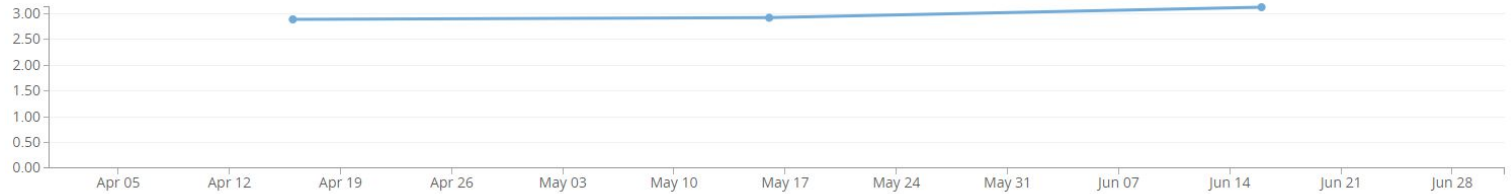
All Fire Travel Time Post Bridge

3.13

Minutes

6/1/20 - 6/30/20

Measuring



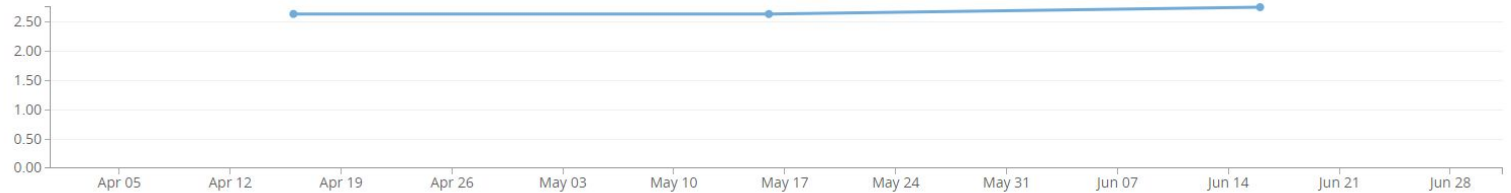
Quint 10/Engine 4 Travel Time Post Bridge

2.75

Minutes

6/1/20 - 6/30/20

Measuring



After the change, average travel times citywide have maintained around 3 minutes, and Quint 10/Engine 4 travel time to Station 4 district responses has decreased slightly. This may correspond somewhat to lower traffic volumes along Amnicola and downtown



Training Division Pre-COVID

- Annual In-Service Training:
 - 18 weeks of classroom training (40 hrs/wk)
 - 20-25 students per week
 - 10-12 operations personnel pulled from apparatus each shift
- Traditional Fire Courses
 - Fire Instructor-1 (40 hr), Fire Officer-1 (80 hr), Fire Officer-2 (40 hr), Fire Apparatus Operator (90 hr), and HAZMAT Technician (80 hr)
 - 10-15 students per class
 - 4-6 operations personnel pulled from apparatus each shift



Training Division During COVID

- **Target Solutions is our Learning and Training Records Management System**
 - Ability to use stock training material or create new training material
 - Allows training to be assigned and completed online
 - Records and Documents training more effectively
- **Annual In-Service Training**
 - Hybrid course of 20 hours online training and 20 hours practical training
 - Practical training is completed on duty
 - No operational personnel are pulled from apparatus for training
- **Traditional Fire Courses**
 - ResourceOne allows for additional online training
 - FDI-1, FO-1, and FO-2 completed fully online
 - FAO hybrid of 60 hours online and 30 practical training
 - HAZMAT hybrid of 40 hours online and 40 hours practical training
 - Minimal affect to operation staffing



Staffing Challenges

- **Operations Division Staffing:**
 - **Fully Staffed** - 130 ops personnel per each of the CFD's 3 shifts (5 FF's per apparatus)
 - **Normal Staffed** - 104 ops personnel (4 FF's per apparatus)
 - **Minimum Staffed** - 78 ops personnel (3 FF's per apparatus)
- **Challenges:**
 - **COVID-Related**
 - Over 80 firefighters have been either exposed or tested positive since April
 - Of those, 16 individuals have tested positive
 - Most are back to work
 - **IOD or Light Duty or Personal Injury or LWOP** (not COVID)
 - 20 individuals
 - **Vacant Firefighter Positions**
 - 28 positions