

**Township Council**  
1 Municipal Plaza  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

**Louise M. Palagano**  
*Municipal Clerk*

<http://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com>

Meeting: 02/06/23 07:00 PM

**2023 ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 37, "FIRE DEPARTMENT" IN THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD, ESSEX, COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bloomfield, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1.** Chapter 37 "Fire Department" of the Code of the Township of Bloomfield, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Article I Definitions**

§ 37-1 Terms defined.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**DEPUTY CHIEF**

The Deputy Chief of the Fire Department of the Township of Bloomfield shall be part of the Chief's executive team within the Department and shall assist with the conduct, efficiency and management of the Department under the direction of the Fire Chief.

**BATTALION CHIEF**

The Battalion Chief of the Fire Department of the Township of Bloomfield who is on duty and in command of the on-duty shift of the Bloomfield Fire Department line force.

**Article II Chain of Command**

§ 37-3 Deputy Chiefs.

The Deputy Chiefs shall be part of the Chief's executive team within the Fire Department and shall be charged with the policy-making, planning, management and administration of the Department and all personnel therein, and shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Fire Department under the direction of the Fire Chief.

§ 37-3.1 Battalion Chiefs.

The line force shall be divided into four groups. Each group shall be commanded by a Battalion Chief under the direction of the Fire Chief.

§ 37-4 Captains.

The force at each fire station shall consist of as many officers and firefighters as may be deemed necessary by the Fire Chief. There shall be a Captain assigned to each fire station. The Fire Chief

OKD 23  
1

shall designate one Captain from each station as Station Commander. The Station Commander shall report directly to their Battalion Chief.

### **Article III Qualifications**

§ 37-10 Promotion to Battalion Chief.

Captains with one year of prior service in rank shall be eligible for promotion to Battalion Chief.

§ 37-10.1 Promotion to Deputy Chief.

Battalion Chiefs with one year of prior service in rank shall be eligible for promotion to Deputy Chief.

### **Article V, Part A, Deputy Chiefs.**

§ 37-15 Powers and duties.

- A. Assist with the policy-making, planning, management and administration of the Department and all personnel herein under the direction of the Fire Chief.
- B. Promptly and officially report to the Fire Chief if they are for any reason unable to perform their duty.

### **Article V, Part B, Battalion Chiefs.**

§ 37-16 Rank; general duties.

The Battalion Chief of the Fire Department shall rank next below the Deputy Chief, and it shall be their duty to carry out the orders and instructions of the Fire Chief with respect to their command in a prompt and efficient manner.

§ 37-16.1 Supervision of groups.

A Battalion Chief shall be in charge of each group.

§ 37-16.2 Powers and duties.

Each Battalion Chief shall:

- A. Attend all fires in conformity with the schedule prescribed in the running chart while on duty and promptly report their arrival to the officer in command. When at a fire, they shall assume command and have full control and shall direct the movements of the officers and staff so as to extinguish the fire with the least possible damage from fire, water or otherwise until relieved by the Chief of the Department.
- B. Cause all staff and apparatus not needed at fires to return to quarters.
- C. See that all reports and records required from their shift are properly made.
- D. Promptly and fully investigate all violations of the rules and regulations of the Fire Department or any neglect of duty that may come to their notice and shall make a full report thereon to the Fire Chief. If any such violation or neglect of duty comes to

their notice while they are not on duty, they shall promptly report said violation or neglect to the Deputy Chief and the Fire Chief.

- E. Promptly and officially report to the Fire Chief if they are for any reason unable to perform their duty.
- F. Upon going off duty, make a full report to the Fire Chief of all important events in the Fire Department during their tour of duty.

## **Article VI, Captains**

### **§37-17. Rank; powers and duties.**

A. Captains in the Fire Department shall rank next below the Battalion Chief of the Department, and they shall have command of their stations and be responsible for their condition and the discipline and efficiency of the staff, subject, however, to the supervision of their superior officers.

B. (7) Promptly investigate any incapacity, inefficiency, neglect of duty, disobedience of order or violation of any rule or regulation of the Fire Department by any member of their command and shall report the same, in writing, to the Battalion Chief on duty and the Fire Chief, through channels, stating the name of the offender, the nature of the offense, the time and place of its occurrence and the names of the witnesses.

(19) After any accident involving any apparatus or staff of their command, immediately investigate the circumstances and submit a written report to the Fire Chief and Battalion Chief on duty, giving the time, place and nature of the accident, the names of the persons involved, the names and addresses of witnesses and any necessary comments, and they shall also promptly report such accident to the Police Department and Township Clerk.

(26) In case any apparatus needs repairing or adjustment, immediately notify the Battalion Chief in charge of apparatus and submit a repair request via the computer.

## **Article VII, Firefighters**

### **§ 37-20 Designated acting officer.**

In the absence of any officer for command of a fire company, a designated acting officer will assume command. In an acting officer's absence, the senior firefighter in point of service of that fire company shall assume command and shall immediately report to the Battalion Chief at the time.

## **Article XIV, House Watch**

### **§37-45. Continuous floor watch required.**

Continuous floor watch shall be maintained at each fire station in the Fire Department at all times, unless otherwise directed by the Battalion Chief on duty.

## **Article XV, Shift Duty Routine**

§ 37-60 Reporting for duty; tardiness; covering tardiness or absences.

C. All lateness and absences not authorized by proper authority must be explained, in writing, to the Battalion Chief on duty and forwarded to the Fire Chief, and all such offenders are subject to formal charges.

**Article XVI, Emergency Recall**

§ 37-71 Action upon recall.

B. After recall, each Station Commander shall have entered in the daily log the names of all off-duty firefighters who responded. Then they shall forward a list of the names to the Battalion Chief on duty. The Battalion Chief on duty shall verify the accuracy of the list and thereafter forward it to the Fire Chief.

**Article XIX, General Regulations**

§ 37-90 Official channels of communication.

All communication relating to the official business of the Department to or from any member of the Department shall be transmitted through official channels as follows: from a member through their station commander or officer in charge, through the Battalion Chief and through the Fire Chief to the Township Administrator, if necessary, and the reverse order for communications going the other way.

**Article XXIII, Volunteer Fire/Rescue Company**

§ 37-116 Chain of command.

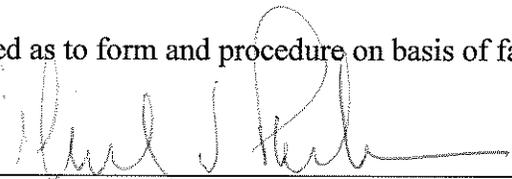
D. The Captain shall be responsible for the operation of the Volunteer Fire Rescue Company (and shall report to the Fire Chief or the Battalion Chief on duty depending on the nature of the situation).

**Section 2.** All ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

**Section 3.** This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

\*...\*...\*...\*

Approved as to form and procedure on basis of facts set forth.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Law-Township Attorney

I hereby certify that the above ordinance was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bloomfield at a meeting of said Township Council held on February 6, 2023.

*Francis M. Galego*  
 Municipal Clerk of the Township of Bloomfield

*Me [Signature]*  
 Mayor of the Township of Bloomfield

✓ Vote Record - Ordinance						
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt						
<input type="checkbox"/> Deny						
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn						
<input type="checkbox"/> Table	Jenny Mundell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Discussed	Nicholas Joanow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> First Reading	Sarah Cruz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Table with no Vote	Wartyna Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	Ted Gamble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veto by Mayor	Richard Rockwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	Michael J. Venezia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated						
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion No Vote						

✓ Vote Record - Ordinance						
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt						
<input type="checkbox"/> Deny						
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn						
<input type="checkbox"/> Table	Jenny Mundell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Discussed	Nicholas Joanow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> First Reading	Sarah Cruz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Table with no Vote	Wartyna Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	Ted Gamble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veto by Mayor	Richard Rockwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	Michael J. Venezia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated						
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion No Vote						