

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF WHITE OAK, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 30 OF THE WHITE OAK CODE OF ORDINANCES; ESTABLISHING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND ORGANIZTIONAL STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP REGARDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of White Oak, Texas has a Volunteer Fire Department that serves and protects the citizens of White Oak, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Oak employs a Fire Chief and has authorized the Chief with certain supervisory and operational duties and responsibilities concerning fire suppression and emergency response operations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of White Oak, Texas has previously codified certain fire protection and emergency response regulations in Chapter 30 of the White Oak Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of White Oak, Texas now finds it necessary to amend Chapter 30 of the White Oak Code of Ordinances and finds that such amendments will further enhance the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of White Oak, Texas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF WHITE OAK, TEXAS AS FOLLOWS:

I. AMENDMENTS

A. Section 30-36. – Duly Constituted Group – is hereby amended by adding the following:

- The Volunteer Fire Department, and any paid Fire Department of the City, shall have the following responsibilities:
 1. Prevent fires from starting;
 2. Prevent loss of life and property when fire starts;
 3. Confine fire to the place where it started;
 4. Extinguish fires;
 5. Determine the cause of all fires that have started;
 6. Investigate all fires that are suspicious in nature;
 7. Administer emergency medical care for the sick and injured; and
 8. Provide emergency services in disaster situations.

- The City of White Oak shall employ a Fire Chief. The Fire Chief shall be the administrative head of operations, fire prevention, emergency medical services, volunteer services, training, equipment and supporting services. The Fire Chief shall oversee the following:
 1. **Operations.** The basic division includes full paid and volunteer firefighting and rescue service and the non-emergency assistance which a fire department is called upon to perform for the community.
 2. **Fire Prevention.** The prevention of fires is the primary objective of the Fire Department, to include all the activities of prevention, education, investigation, inspection and enforcement.
 3. **Emergency Medical Services.** The Emergency Medical Services provides care and transportation for the sick and injured, as a first responder, with basic and advanced life support until the patient can be turned over to a physician or authorities of a hospital.
 4. **Volunteer Fire Department.** The Volunteer Fire Department will operate as a supporting division to any fully paid Fire Department of the City as the Fire Chief administers their deployment.
- Supervision and Command – The members of the Volunteer Fire Department shall be under the authority, supervision, control and command of the Fire Chief of the City of White Oak, subject to all Ordinances of the City. Members of the Volunteer Fire Department shall be appointed from a list of eligible candidates compiled as provided in this Code.
- **Diminishing the Force.** The Fire Chief may, by order, decrease or increase the membership of the Volunteer Fire Department as exigency may require within the limits established by this Code.
- **Removal from Membership and Resignation.** The membership of any person in the Volunteer Fire Department may be terminated by the Fire Chief of the City of White Oak at any time for any cause deemed sufficient by the Fire Chief. Any member may also resign from the Volunteer Fire Department at any time, but it shall be the duty of such member to notify the Fire Chief of his/her resignation.

II. SEVERABILITY

Should any sentence, clause, section or subsection of this Ordinance be found illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by a court or tribunal having jurisdiction, said finding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.

**III.
REPEALER**

Any ordinance or section(s) of an ordinance in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of said conflict.

**IV.
EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the City Council for the City of White Oak, Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 11th day of
May, 2021 by the City Council for the City of White Oak, Texas.

Kyle Kutch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leah Brooks, City Secretary