

ORDINANCE 20-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JACKSON ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 34 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO PROVIDE A VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN VOLUNTEERS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Jackson, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Purpose.

§34-1 **INCENTIVES FOR SERVICE VOLUNTEERS.**

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish an incentive program in an effort to increase enrollment with respect to volunteer firefighters and first aid squad members within the Township of Jackson, and to reward such volunteers who are residents of Jackson Township, for their volunteer efforts and many hours spent to preserve and protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township. The provisions of this Chapter shall be limited solely to residents of Jackson Township who are volunteers in any volunteer fire company, or volunteer first aid squad, located within the territorial or jurisdiction of Jackson Township and who are certified as members in good standing, life members or survivors, by the Chief Executive Officer of their respective volunteer fire company, or first aid squad, as well as immediate family members. Such a Certification shall be filed annually, no later than January 15, with the Township Clerk, by the Chief Executive Officer of each volunteer fire company and volunteer first aid squad. It is not the intention of this Ordinance to provide such incentives to paid EMS or firefighters and this program is strictly limited to those who volunteer their services without compensation. The Township recognizes that if the municipality was required to utilize fully paid emergency services, such as paid fire and paid EMS, the cost to the taxpayers would far exceed any potential incentives it could provide to encourage greater voluntary participation in these first responders. Statistics indicate that the number of volunteers within the State of New Jersey, particularly for EMS services, has decreased nearly 40% over prior years. It is the intention of this Ordinance to provide such an additional incentive to hopefully increase the number of volunteers in the municipality.

**DASTI, MURPHY
McGUCKIN, ULAKY,
KOUTSOURIS & CONNORS**

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

620 WEST LACEY ROAD
FORKED RIVER, N.J. 08731

SECTION 2. Definitions.

§34-2 **DEFINITIONS** - As used in this Section, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

- a. **MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING** – Shall mean any person who shall have served at least one year of continuous volunteer service in a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid squad within the Township and who has been certified as such in writing by the Chief Executive Officer of such volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid squad.
- b. **VOLUNTEER** – Shall mean any individual contributing services to a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid squad located within the territorial jurisdiction of the Township of Jackson who performs such services without remuneration or without a formal agreement or contract for hire and who is a bona fide resident of Jackson Township.
- c. **VOLUNTEER SERVICE** – Shall mean the required percentage of activity or participation to qualify as a bona fide member of a volunteer fire department or volunteer first aid squad.
- d. **LIFE MEMBER** – Shall mean an individual who has participated and given volunteer service in a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid squad within the Township for the required number of years of faithful service to the volunteer organization as established by the bylaws or constitution of said organization which excuses the individual member from payment of dues and/or maintaining a certain percentage of attendance at required meetings, drills, etc., as the term life member may be individually defined by each individual service organization.
- e. **SURVIVOR** – Shall mean the surviving spouse of any individual who dies while a volunteer in any volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid squad while a member in good standing or life member as defined in this section while said survivor remains a resident of the Township.
- f. **IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER** – Shall mean a spouse, son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter who is less than 21 years of age and whose legal residence is the same as the legal residence for the volunteer.

§34-3 **Benefits.**

Every member in good standing and his/her immediate family members, or a life member and his/her immediate family members, or survivor of a member of a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid squad shall be entitled to the following benefits from the Township:

Exemption from the payment of any Township fees for Township recreation activities, Township training programs, Township licenses and permit fees, fees for the use of Township buildings and facilities and Township programs provided the fee or charge is for the personal and nonprofit use of such members and his/her immediate family members. As to any and all fees which include monies payable to the State and/or County, only the municipal portion of said fees are to be waived.

§34-4 **Chief Executive Officer Certification.**

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, no person shall be qualified for benefits hereunder unless the Chief Executive Office of the Volunteer Fire Company or First Aid Squad shall annually submit the certification set forth below which certifies such person is entitled to the benefits of this section:

CERTIFICATION

I, _____, being of full age, upon my oath, certifies and says:

1. I hold the office of _____, of the _____ located in the Township of Jackson. Such office is the Chief Executive Officer of the Organization.

2. I have read Jackson Township's "Incentives for Service Volunteers" ordinance, Section 34-1, et seq. ("Ordinance"), understand it and the terms used in it.

3. I certify that the list of persons attached hereto as Exhibit "A" are:

- a. Bona fide residents of the Township of Jackson as of the time of this Certification;
- b. Bona fide members in good standing of the Organization; or
- c. A Life member of the Organization; or
- d. The surviving spouse of a person who, at the time of his/her death was a member in good standing or life member of the Organization.

4. I understand that by certifying the persons set forth on Exhibit "A", it will entitle each to receive the equivalent of a monetary benefit at public expense.

5. I certify that I have diligently undertaken to verify that each of the persons set forth in Exhibit "A" meet each requirement of the Ordinance and certify as to his/her entitlement to the Ordinance benefits.

I hereby certify the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated: _____

**DASTI, MURPHY
McGUCKIN, ULAKY,
KOUTSOURIS & CONNORS**

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§34-5 This Ordinance shall be construed as an additional incentive and shall have no impact upon any other incentives provided to volunteers of these organizations, such as the length of service award program.

SECTION 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect after second reading and publication as required by law.

DATE: _____

MAYOR MICHAEL REINA

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed by the Township Council on first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Jackson held on the **14th day of June, 2022**, and will be considered for second reading and final passage at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on the **28th day of June, 2022**, at 7:30 p.m., at the Township Municipal Building, located at 95 West Veterans Highway, Jackson, New Jersey, at which time and place any persons desiring to be heard upon the same will be given the opportunity to be so heard.

DIANE C. FESTINO, RMC
Jackson Township Clerk

**DASTI, MURPHY
McGUCKIN, ULAKY,
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