

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TOWNSHIP OF PALMER
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-481

AN ORDINANCE OF THE PALMER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AMENDING CHAPTER 24, SECTION 24-4 OF THE CODE OF PALMER TOWNSHIP TO REMOVE THE MAXIMUM AGE FOR NEW POLICE OFFICERS; REMOVING THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR POLICE OFFICERS; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 6 TO PROVIDE FOR THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER AND AMEND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE FIRE COMMISSIONER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Palmer Township is a Second Class Township organized and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Palmer Township desires to amend the duties of the Fire Commissioner to better reflect the administrative tasks which fall to the Fire Commissioner;

WHEREAS, Palmer Township wishes to remove existing age restrictions related to police service.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE Board of Supervisors of Palmer Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, and the same is hereby ordained and enacted as follows to wit:

SECTION I: FIRE COMMISSIONER

A. Chapter 6, §5 of the Palmer Township Code is revised so that the Fire Commissioner is recognized as the chief executive officer of the Palmer Municipal Fire Company, rather than chief operating officer. The revised Chapter 6, §5 shall read as follows:

§6-5. Chief Executive Officer of Fire Department. The Fire Commissioner shall be the chief executive officer of the Palmer Municipal Fire Department.

B. Chapter 6, §7.B of the Palmer Township Code is revised so that a non-exhaustive list of rights, powers, and duties is set forth as vested in the Fire Commissioner. The revised Chapter 6, §7.B shall read as follows:

§6-7.B. The Fire Commissioner shall possess all rights, powers, and duties vested in a Fire Chief in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to include, without limitation:

1. Full administrative and operational control
2. Development and administration of annual budget
3. Approval of membership, supervision, and discipline of firefighters and officers of the Palmer Municipal Fire Department, and
4. Development and enforcement of Standard Operating Guidelines, rules, regulations, procedures and practices.

C. Chapter 6, §8 of the Palmer Township Code is revised to revise the residency requirement for the Fire Commissioner, allowing the position to be filled by any person living within five miles of Palmer Township. The revised Chapter 6, §8 shall read as follows:

§6-8. Residency Requirement. The Fire Commissioner shall reside within five driving miles of Palmer Township boundaries. Immediately upon his appointment, the Fire Commissioner may appointment a Fire Marshal, Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief for each station, and Captain(s) for each division.

SECTION II: POLICE

Chapter 24, Section 4 relating to Hiring and Mandatory Retirement Age, is hereby repealed in its entirety. This amendment shall not have any impact on the existing Pension Plan.

SECTION III: SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, clause, phrase or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or held unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part or provisions hereof, other than the part determined to be invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION IV: CONFLICTS

Any ordinance, resolution and/or other regulation of the Township, or any parts of ordinances, resolutions and/or other regulations of the Township, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. All other provisions of the ordinances, resolutions and/or other regulations of Palmer Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION V: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after enactment.

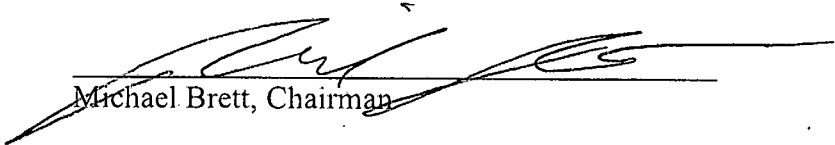
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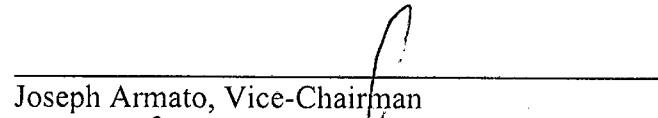
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SIGNATURE PAGE

ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PALMER, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, THIS 6th DAY OF November, 2023



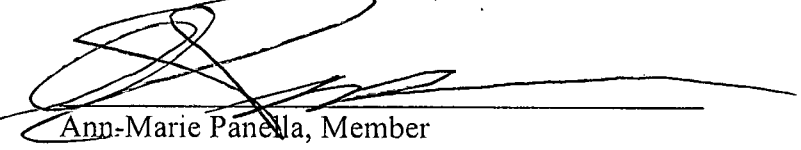
Michael Brett, Chairman



Joseph Armato, Vice-Chairman




K. Michael Mitchell, Member



Ann-Marie Panella, Member

Jeffrey Young, Member

Attest:



Robert Williams
Township Manager
(Seal)