



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

JANUARY 13, 2025 4:15 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Troy Warner, Sheila Niezgodski, Sharon McBride*

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Present:

Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Karen White, Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Dr. Oliver Davis, Canneth Lee*

Others Present:

Bianca L. Tirado, Elivet Quijada-Navarro, Matthew Neal, Bob Palmer

Presenters:

Adam Taylor

Agenda:

Bill No. 74-24 – Ordinance Establishing a Merit Board System Governing the South Bend Fire Department (*Substitute*)

Members marked with an asterisk (*) are in virtual attendance.

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<http://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=389810>

Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan called to order the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Bill No. 74-24 – Ordinance Establishing a Merit Board System Governing the South Bend Fire Department (Substitute)

Committee Member Sheila Niezgodski moved to accept Substitute Bill No. 74-24, which was seconded by Committee Chair Tomas Morgan and carried by a vote of three (3) ayes with one (1) committee member absent.

Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan - <i>Aye</i>	Committee Vice Chair Troy Warner – <i>Absent</i>
Committee Member Sheila Niezgodski - <i>Aye</i>	Committee Member Sharon McBride - <i>Aye</i>

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Elivet Quijada-Navarro
CHIEF OF STAFF / CHIEF DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Matthew Neal
DEPUTY CITY CLERK / DIRECTOR OF POLICY

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Committee Chair Tomas Morgan requested that the petitioner(s) state their name and address and share key points before the committee.

Adam Taylor, Assistant City Attorney, with offices located on the 12th floor of the County-City Building, presented Substitute Bill No. 74-24. Substitute Bill No. 74-24 adopts the State model merit system for the South Bend Fire Department (SBFD), which has wide support among the Local 362. The State model requires political divergence between the two (2) mayoral board appointments and the two (2) fire department board appointments. Suspensions longer than five (5) days, demotions, and dismissals would be heard by the State model board. Board appointments must be made no later than March 1, 2025.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan asked committee members for comments, and nobody spoke.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan asked councilmembers for comments.

Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis asked why Substitute Bill No. 74-24 was not introduced earlier.

Adam Taylor stated that due to the firefighters' strong support of the State model, the decision to move forward with the State model was viewed as an inevitability.

Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis stated the he believes the decision to not include the Council in the discussions regarding the fire merit board showcases a lack of respect for the Council.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan held the public hearing, and nobody spoke.

Committee Member Niezgodski moved to send Bill No. 74-24 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Member Sharon McBride and carried by a vote of four (4) ayes.

Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan - <i>Aye</i>	Committee Vice Chair Troy Warner – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Sheila Niezgodski - <i>Aye</i>	Committee Member Sharon McBride - <i>Aye</i>

With no further business, Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan adjourned the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Committee Chair

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