

Chapter 20
FIRE DEPARTMENT

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Dormont 5-7-1956 by Ord. No. 935 as Ch. 9 of the 1956 Code. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Borough Manager — See Ch. 35.
Police Department — See Ch. 48.

Fire Prevention — See Ch. 110.
Conduct at fires — See Ch. 112.

§ 20-1. Volunteer association recognized.

The Dormont Volunteer Firemen's Association, a corporation of the first class organized and existing under the laws of the commonwealth, is hereby recognized as the volunteer fire company of the borough, having within its organization a Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Captain.

§ 20-2. Rules and regulations to be enacted.

The Volunteer Fire Department is hereby given the authority to enact such rules and regulations for the management and government of individual members thereof as shall be necessary for the maintenance of the Volunteer Fire Department. Before any such rules shall be operative, they shall be submitted to and approved by the Council.

§ 20-3. Election of officers; Council approval required.

The Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Captain of the Dormont Volunteer Firemen's Association shall be elected annually in the month of December by the volunteer association in the manner provided by the bylaws of such association and as authorized by law; provided, however, that such election of Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Captain, respectively, shall be subject to the approval and ratification of the Council. If the Council refuses to approve and ratify the election of any person as Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief or Fire Captain, respectively, then it shall be the duty of the volunteer association, within fifteen (15) days thereafter, to elect some other member fireman of the association satisfactory to the Council to the position to which the person failing of ratification was elected.

§ 20-4. Membership; Council approval required.

Any person applying for membership as a fireman in the Dormont Volunteer Firemen's Association shall not be entitled to membership nor to act as a fireman in the borough until the name submitted for membership shall have been submitted to and approved by the Council. Any person elected to membership and approved to act as a fireman by the Council shall not be discharged from membership in the volunteer association without such discharge being approved by the Council.

§ 20-5. Borough Manager to have supervision of fire equipment; exception.

The Borough Manager or his or her duly authorized assistant shall have full supervision of all fire-fighting apparatus and equipment belonging to the borough, except only when such apparatus and equipment is at a fire and actively engaged in fire fighting when the supervision of such fire-fighting apparatus and equipment shall be under and subject to the orders of the Fire Chief and his or her subordinates, the Assistant Fire Chief and the Fire Captain.

§ 20-6. Manager to keep equipment prepared.

It shall be the duty of the Borough Manager or his or her assistant, at all times, to see that the fire-fighting apparatus and equipment are kept in the highest state of efficiency ready to respond instantly to fire alarm calls.

§ 20-7. Manager to keep drivers ready.

The Borough Manager or his or her assistant shall have full supervision and control of the fire truck drivers, and it shall be his or her duty to see that the drivers are in constant actual attendance at the Fire Department during their respective hours of employment ready to answer without delay fire alarm calls as and when received; provided, however, that the fire truck drivers while driving to, attending or returning from any fire shall be under the direction and control and subject to the orders of the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Captain in the order of their rank.

§ 20-8. Duties of Manager during fires.

It shall be the duty of the Borough Manager or his or her assistant to assist and cooperate with the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Captain of the Volunteer Firemen's Association while such volunteer fire company is engaged in fighting fires. The Borough Manager or his or her assistant shall not, however, have authority to direct the manner of the actual fighting of fires but the same shall be under the direction and control and subject to the orders of the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Captain in order of their rank.

§ 20-9. Suspension of firemen.

The Borough Manager or his or her assistant is hereby authorized to suspend for cause any member of the Volunteer Fire Department from further service as a fireman until the next regular meeting of the Council, at which meeting action will be taken upon such suspension.

§ 20-10. Police powers of Manager during fires.

The Borough Manager or his or her assistant is hereby empowered to exclude and, if necessary, to arrest or cause the arrest of any person interfering with the functions of the Volunteer Fire Department while fighting fire, upon complaint of the Fire Chief or his or her subordinate officers then in charge.

§ 20-11. Equipment to remain within borough; exception.¹

The fire-fighting equipment belonging to the borough shall not be taken beyond the borough limits for fire-fighting purposes, or otherwise, except with the consent of the Borough Manager or his or her assistant and the authorization of the Council; provided, however, that where a fire occurs outside the borough limits and so adjacent to the borough limits as to endanger property within the borough, it shall then be lawful for the fire-fighting equipment of the borough to be used and to perform all its functions in fighting the fire without the consent and authorization as hereinbefore stated; provided further, that the fire truck drivers and the Volunteer Fire Department are hereby authorized and directed and the borough fire-fighting equipment may be used to respond to calls for emergencies requiring the services of the firemen and fire equipment of the borough beyond the borough limits upon calls received from those communities which enjoy an executed mutual cooperative agreement with the borough. While driving to, attending or returning from any fire outside the borough limits as aforesaid, the fire truck drivers and fire-fighting equipment shall be under the direction and control and subject to the orders of the duly authorized central agency as is now or hereafter may be set up, it being the intention of this section to have the firemen and fire equipment of the borough ready for emergencies to help the adjacent communities which have signed a mutual aid agreement with the borough and which communities in turn respond to fire calls for and on behalf of the borough when additional help may be needed.

¹ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code; see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I.

§ 20-12. Duties of drivers.²

The fire truck drivers of the borough shall be required to perform such police duties as may be required in answering telephone calls at the Municipal Building in connection with the Police Department of the borough. While so engaged, they shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the Police Department; provided, however, that no duty required of such fire truck drivers in the service of the Police Department shall be permitted to interfere with or delay such drivers from answering a fire call. When such drivers are in the service of the Police Department, they shall be designated as deskmen. They shall also perform such other service as may be required of them by the Public Safety Committee.

§ 20-13. Appropriations to remain borough property; repairs to inure to borough.

All appropriations made by the borough to the Fire Department, whether of money or other property, shall be and it is hereby declared to be the property of the borough. Any expenditures voluntarily made by the Fire Department in the repair or ornamentation of any fire apparatus belonging to the borough shall inure to the borough.

§ 20-14. Fire insurance premium tax.³

All moneys received by the Treasurer of the borough from the State Treasurer of the tax paid upon premiums by foreign fire insurance companies, payable under and computed in accordance with the provisions of 53 P.S. § 895.703, are hereby appropriated to the Volunteer Firemen's Association. The Borough Treasurer shall forthwith, upon the receipt of such payments, pay the amount received from the State Treasurer to the Relief Fund Association of the Volunteer Firemen's Association.

§ 20-15. Right of way to and from fire; interfering with Department or equipment.

The Volunteer Fire Department, its officers and members shall have the right-of-way in going to or coming from any fire, and any person refusing to grant the right-of-way to the Fire Department or in anywise hindering or obstructing the Fire Department in going to or coming from any fire or in anywise interfering with the hose, engine or fire apparatus while at a fire shall be deemed guilty of disorderly conduct.⁴

² Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code; see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I.

³ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code; see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I.

⁴ Editor's Note: Original Sec. 9.16, Uniforms, which immediately followed this section, was deleted at time of adoption of Code; see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I.