

**AGENDA**  
**FIRE MERIT COMMISSION**  
**Monday, October 9, 2023**  
**3:30 P.M.**

**Council Chambers**

**Municipal Building, 229 S. Second Street, Elkhart, IN 46516**

<https://coei.webex.com/coei/j.php?MTID=m3509a8f3103128e4e8e842e990536e84>

MEETING NUMBER (Access Code): 2300 560 0192

MEETING PASSWORD: Fire23

JOIN BY PHONE: 1-415-655-0001

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes- Regular Meeting September 25, 2023**
- 5. Fire Department**
  - Change of Status- Fire Fighter Ryan Chris**
- 6. IAFF Local 338**
- 7. Public Participation**
- 8. Adjournment**

FIRE MERIT COMMISSION  
Monday, September 25, 2023

Vice-President Jim Rodino called a regular meeting of the Fire Merit Commission (FMC) to order at 3:30 p.m., Monday, September 25, 2023. Nancy Wilson called the role. Commissioners Doug Bowlby, Bunita Fields-Buggs and Jim Rodino were present. Mandy Leazenby was absent. There is one vacancy on the FMC.

1. AGENDA

On motion by Bunita Fields-Buggs, seconded by Doug Bowlby and carried 3-0, the agenda was approved.

2. Approve Minutes Regular Meeting September 11, 2023

On motion by Doug Bowlby, seconded by Bunita Fields-Buggs and carried 3-0, the minutes from September 11, 2023 were approved.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Administrative Leave without Pay for Fire Fighter Jakyah Qaiyim

On motion by Doug Bowlby, seconded by Bunita Fields-Buggs and carried 3-0, the FMC placed Fire Fighter Jakyah Qaiyim on unpaid Administrative Leave effective September 26, 2023.

Paid Administrative Leave for Lt. Jason Lantz

On motion by Bunita Fields-Buggs, seconded by Doug Bowlby and carried 3-0, the FMC placed Lt. Jason Lantz on paid Administrative Leave effective September 26, 2023.

4. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Doug Bowlby, seconded by Bunita Fields-Buggs and carried 3-0, the City of Elkhart, Indiana Fire Merit Commission was adjourned 3:35 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jim Rodino, Vice-President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Doug Bowlby, Secretary



October 4, 2023

Fire Merit Commission  
City of Elkhart  
229 S. Second Street  
Elkhart, IN 46516

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

Shaun Edgerton  
Fire Chief

Rodney Dale  
Assistant Fire Chief

Kristi Sommer  
Assistant Fire Chief

Fire Department  
500 East Street  
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

Phone: (574) 293-8931  
Fax: (574) 522-1023

Email:  
fire@elkhartfire.org

RE: Status Change to Active Duty

Members:

I am requesting the Fire Merit Commission place Fire Fighter Ryan Chris on active duty, effective Tuesday, October 10, 2023. This request is based on the following: on 6/23/2023, FF Chris was arrested in Cass County, Michigan for preliminary charges of "Operating while impaired causing serious impairment" and "Operating while impaired", felonies. Subsequent to this incident and investigation, the prosecutor has decided to reduce these charges to misdemeanors. FF Chris has been on administrative leave w/o pay since August 16<sup>th</sup> 2023. I hereby request that FF Chris' punishment be levied at time served and that he be returned to active duty.

Respectfully,

Shaun Edgerton  
Chief, Elkhart Fire Department

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Chief, Elkhart Fire Department