

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF FUND OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that:

WHEREAS, the Norwich City Council, pursuant to Connecticut Public Act 86-97 Section 2(5)(A) adopted a Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund on 11/9/87; and

WHEREAS, Section 8-71 of the Norwich Code of Ordinances adopts by reference Article I through XIII, inclusive, as contained in the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund Plan as the complete rules and regulations of the Relief Fund for volunteer firefighters in the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to adopt amendments to said Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Norwich, that the following amendments to the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund Plan be adopted by reference as amendments to the rules and regulations of the Relief Fund for volunteer firefighters of the City of Norwich:

Articles II, III, IV, VI, VIII, IX and XII be amended as set out herein:

Article II, Section 2.2

Article III, Section 3.3

Article IV, Section 4.1, 4.3

Article VI, Section 6.4

Article VIII, Section 8.1, 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.2

Article IX, Section 9.3

Article XII, Section 12.1

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP IN THE RELIEF FUND

SECTION 2.2 Becoming a Member – A Volunteer eligible to participate in the Plan shall become a Member of the Plan by contributing ~~\$120~~ **\$180.00** for each calendar year of Credited Service. The timing and manner of the contributions shall be prescribed by the Committee. Forms agreeing to such contribution will be provided by the Committee.

ARTICLE III BENEFIT DATES

Section 3.3 Deferred Benefit Date 2nd Paragraph

A Member who qualifies for benefits under 3.1 may begin to receive benefits at his/her benefits at his/her Benefit Date even though he/she continues Volunteer Service to the City. Members who qualify for benefits and continue to provide Volunteer Service after that date may continue to earn credit up to a ~~maximum of 30 years~~ **maximum of 35 years**. No additional years of credit are earned beyond the 20 years required for benefit eligibility for members who are not Active Firefighters as of ~~January 1, 1995~~ **January 1, 2006**.

ARTICLE IV AMOUNT OF BENEFITS

Section 4.1 At Benefit Date 3rd Paragraph

Effective ~~January 1, 2000~~ **January 1, 2006**, for retirements on or after that date, the benefit shall be increased to ~~\$10.00~~ **\$15.00** from the ~~\$8.00~~ **\$10.00** shown in the prior paragraph. The maximum years of Credited Service shall be increased to ~~thirty (30) years~~ **thirty-five (35) years** also effective at that date. Volunteers who commence benefits prior to that date and do not have Volunteer Firefighter status subsequent to ~~January 1, 2000~~ **January 1, 2006** shall remain at the ~~\$8.00~~ **\$7.00/\$8.00/\$10.00** level.

4th Paragraph

Volunteers who have commenced receiving benefits or have attained 20 years Credited Service, and who continue to earn Credited Service as Volunteer Firefighters as of ~~January 1, 2000~~ **January 1, 2006**, will have their benefits adjusted to reflect this increase. These Firefighters will be eligible to buy back up to ~~10 additional~~ **5 additional** years of Credited Service at the rate of ~~\$120.00~~ **\$180.00** per ~~year for a total maximum of 30 years~~ **year for a maximum of 35 years**. This buy back period will take effect for a ninety- (90) day period following the adoption date of the amendments to the Plan.

Section 4.3

At Disability Benefit Date – The annual benefit of a Member who retires on a Disability Benefit Date shall be computed in accordance with Section 4.1 but shall be based on the ~~maximum 30 years~~ **maximum 35 years** of Credited Service.

Section 4.3.1

Disability related to a Department-Related Injury: A Member who cannot perform his/her duty as a result of a department-related injury shall have their percentage of attendance adjusted according to time lost. Any injury sustained that is not department-related, does not qualify for any time lost adjustment to attendance/participation percentages.

ARTICLE VI DEATH BENEFITS

Section 6.4

Death Benefits After Retirement – In the even the total payments after retirement made to a Member or to a Member and his/her Joint Annuitant prior to his/her or their death does not equal the value of the Member's contribution with Credited Interest thereon, such difference shall be paid to the Member's or Joint Annuitant's Beneficiary.

Spousal Benefit Change

The surviving spouse is eligible to receive 90% of the benefit until death or remarriage.

ARTICLE VIII FUNDING – CITY AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 8.1

Member's Contributions –{In no even shall a Member contribute to the Plan for more than 20 years. Note: This sentence has been included from the original Plan for reference and historical purposes only.} Commencing ~~January 1, 2000~~ **January 1, 2006**, the Member contributions shall increase to ~~\$120 per year~~ **\$180.00 per year**, payable at the rate of ~~\$10 per month~~ **\$15.00 per month**. Effective also at that date, contributions may be paid for a ~~maximum of 30 years~~ **maximum of 35 years**.

Section 8.1.1

A buy back period for new plan participants will take effect for a ninety- (90) day period following the adoption date of the amendments to the Plan. Service prior to ~~January 1, 2000~~ **January 1, 2006** may be added to a Volunteer's Credited Service if he/she elects to buy back service. Period of Volunteer Service may be bought back at the ~~rate of \$10~~ **rate of \$15.00** per month of such service plus interest at 5% compounded annually from the Plan inception plus a fee of \$25.00. Such service will be a maximum of 50% of the prior service with a maximum of ten (10) years.

Section 8.1.2

Military Service Buy Back Option – A Member with at least seventeen (17) years of credited Plan service may purchase up to three (3) years of military service time. Buy back may be purchased at a rate of ~~\$120.00 per year~~ **\$180.00 per year**. This time may be directly applied toward Plan credited years of service.

Section 8.2 City of Norwich Contribution

City's Contributions - The Committee shall, at least once every 3 years, have an actuarial valuation by an Actuary of the Assets and Liabilities of the Plan and the required contributions from the City, which in addition to contributions of the Members, will be adequate to finance the benefits under this Plan. On the basis of such valuation, the City shall pay each year to the Committee an amount which will meet the actuarial cost of the current service and, until it is amortized, the unfounded actuarial accrued liability. Effective ~~July 1, 2004~~ **July 1, 2006** the City shall make a minimum ~~contribution of \$120,000 annually~~ **annual contribution in the amount deemed necessary and appropriate by actuarial evaluation to maintain the Relief Fund Plan's fiscal viability**. Any monies appropriated before the Effective Date shall remain with the Plan.

ARTICLE IX PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY

Section 9.3

Amount of Disability Benefit – The annual amount of Disability Benefit payable to a Member eligible for such benefit shall be determined in the same manner as his/her Benefit based on the ~~maximum of 30 years~~ **maximum of 35 years** of Credited Service.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

Section 12.1

Amendment – last paragraph

No amendment improving the benefits paid hereunder shall be made before ~~January 1, 2000~~ **January 1, 2010**.

Submitted by:

Alderman John Crooks