

**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 General Statutes §7-148(c)(5)(A), adopted a Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund Plan 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 as amendments to the rules and regulations of the Relief Fund Plan for volunteer firefighters of the City of Norwich:

Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VIII, IX, X and XII are amended as set out herein:

Article I, Sections 1.11

Article II, Section 2.2

Article III, Sections 3.1, 3.3

Article IV, Sections 4.1, 4.3

Article VI, Sections 6.4, 6.5

Article VIII, Sections 8.1, 8.1.2

Article IX, Sections 9.3

SECTION 1.11 "Normal Retirement Date"

For Members joining the Plan prior to January 1, 2015, the Normal Retirement Date means the date on which a Member shall have both attained his 55th birthday and have been credited with at least 20 Years of Credited Service.

For Members joining the Plan on or after January 1, 2015, the Normal Retirement Date means the date on which a Member shall have both attained his 55th birthday and have been credited with at least 25 Years of Credited Service.

SECTION 2.2 Becoming a Member – A Volunteer eligible to participate in the Plan shall become a Member of the Plan by contributing ~~\$216~~ \$264 for each calendar year of Credited Service. The timing and manner of the contribution shall be prescribed by the Committee. Forms agreeing to such contribution will be provided by the Committee.

SECTION 3.1 Benefit Date

For Members joining the Plan prior to January 1, 2015, the Benefit Date of Members in the Plan is the later of:

- i. Attainment of age 55
- ii. Completion of at least 20 years of Credited Service

For Members joining the Plan on or after January 1, 2015, the Benefit Date of Members in the Plan is the later of:

- i. Attainment of age 55
- ii. Completion of at least 25 years of Credited Service

SECTION 3.3 Deferred Benefit Date

[Second 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 joining the Plan prior to January 1, 2015 who qualify for benefits and continue to provide Volunteer Service after that date may continue to earn credit up to a maximum of 40 years. Members joining the Plan on or after January 1, 2015 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.

SECTION 4.1 At Benefit Date

[Third Paragraph]

Effective ~~January 1, 2011~~ January 1, 2015, for retirements on or after that date, the monthly benefit shall be increased to ~~\$18~~ \$22. For Members joining the Plan on or after January 1, 2015, the maximum years of Credited Service shall be ~~increased~~ decreased to ~~(40)~~ 30 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, 2011~~ January 1, 2015 shall remain at the \$7/ \$8 /\$10/ \$15/\$18 level.

SECTION 4.3 At Disability Benefit Date - For Members joining the Plan prior to January 1, 2015, 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 40 years of Credited Service. For Members joining the Plan on or after January 1, 2015, 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 of Credited Service.

SECTION 6.4 Death Benefits After Retirement

[Second Paragraph]

In the event of death of any Member of the Fund, subsequent to the effective date of his/her retirement in accordance with the provisions of this Fund, payment shall be made to the spouse of such Member until death or remarriage, whichever shall come first. This widow/widower pension shall equal ninety (90%) percent of the pension which the deceased Member was receiving at the time of his/her death. To receive such pension benefits, the spouse must have been married to the deceased Member for at least two (2) years before his/her death. If the deceased Member leaves no spouse, or the spouse dies or remarries, payments totaling ninety (90%) percent of the deceased Member's pension shall be paid to the then living children of the deceased Member, if any, share and share alike, provided no payment shall be made to any child after the attainment of his/her ~~twenty fourth (24th)~~ eighteenth (18th) birthday.

SECTION 6.5 Pre-Retirement Spouse's Death Benefit

[Second Paragraph]

If there is no eligible spouse, this death benefit shall be paid to dependent children under age ~~24~~ 18. The payment of the current maximum amount available per month shall continue until the youngest dependent child reaches his/her ~~twenty fourth~~ eighteenth birthday. In the event there is more than one eligible child, the benefit shall be distributed equally among all eligible children.

SECTION 8.1 Member's Contributions - Commencing ~~January 1, 2011~~ January 1, 2015, the Member contributions shall increase to ~~\$216~~ \$264 per year, payable annually upon completion of the qualifying year. Effective also at that date, contributions may be paid for a maximum of 40 years for Members joining the Plan prior to January 1, 2015 and 30 years for Members joining the Plan on or after January 1, 2015.

SECTION 8.1.2 Military Service Buy Back Option - A Member with at least 16 years of credited Plan service may purchase up to four years of military service time. Buy back may be purchased at a rate of ~~\$216~~ \$264 per year. This time may be directly applied toward Plan credited years of service.

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 40 years of Credited Service for Members joining the Plan prior to January 1, 2015 and 30 years for Members joining the Plan on or after January 1, 2015.

City Manager Alan H. Bergren