



*On March 13, 1899 the Flagstaff Fire Department was created by the
“Common Council” of the Town of Flagstaff.*

TOWN OF FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

Ordinance 29

An ordinance establishing a Fire Department.

The Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Flagstaff do ordain as follows:

ARTICLE I. Organization.

Section 1. The Flagstaff Fire Department is hereby created.

Section 2. The Department shall be divided into Companies, as follows:

J. AUBINEAU HOSE COMPANY, NO. 2, to consist of 30 officers and men;

ED. E. AYER PIONEER HOSE COMPANY, NO. 1, to consist of 30 officers and men;

W. G. NEVIN HOSE COMPANY, NO. 3, to consist of 30 officers and men; and
DAVID BABBITT HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY, NO. 1, to consist of 30 officers and men;

ARTICLE II. Department Officers.

Section 1. The members of said Companies shall, at their first regular meeting in April, in each year, elect three delegates from each Company, to be known as "Fire Delegates", who shall meet in convention on the first Monday in May for the purpose of electing a Chief, an Assistant Chief, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board of Trustees consisting of four members, to be elected one from each of the Companies; the Chief to be ex-officio Chairman of said Board.

Section 2. The Chief, or in his absence, the Assistant Chief, shall be chairman of the meeting, and in case of a tie shall have the casting vote; but in case of their absence the meeting may elect a chairman.

Section 3. The Chairman shall appoint two of the Delegates to act as tellers, whose duty it shall be to receive and count the votes, reporting the same to the Chairman, who shall announce the results.

Section 4. The Delegates shall proceed to ballot for the officers, above mentioned, and in the order given. A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice. Each Delegate will deposit his vote as his name is called by the Secretary.

Section 5. In the event of no election on the fourth ballot, the Chairman shall order the name having the least number of votes, to be dropped. At the next ballot if no election results, the lowest name of those remaining shall likewise be dropped, and so on until a majority is reached.

Section 6. The Chief of the Fire Department shall [announce] the names of the officers elect to the Common Council [at the] first regular meeting thereafter, and no Department [official] elected shall take his office until after being confirmed by Council. The Common Council may declare vacant any Department office for incompetency, neglect of duty, or conduct unbecoming of a gentleman prejudicial to the discipline and good order of the Department. Any vacancies occurring [ainy] of the Department offices may be filled at a special election, to be called and held in the manner and form as at the regular election. All Department officers shall hold office for one year, and until their successors have been elected and confirmed by the common Council.

ARTICLE III. Duties.

Section 1. CHIEF. The Chief shall preside at the annual and special meetings of the Department or Board of Trustees; shall control and have general authority over the Department when on duty, parade or inspection. He shall settle all disputes between Companies when on duty; his decision to be final.

Section 2. During the progress of a fire, the authority of the Chief in all matters connected with the management or direction thereof or the disposition of property endangered by it shall be absolute. All reasonable orders issued by him on such occasion must be respected, and any Fireman

or citizen refusing to obey the same shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished accordingly.

Section 3. The Chief shall call the Department together for parade and inspection at least three times in each year, at which times the Companies shall appear in uniform, with all the apparatus under their control, and shall be under the command of the Chief.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Chief to examine the apparatus and buildings of the Department as often as necessary to convince him that they are properly kept and cared for, and are in good order and serviceable condition, and if any supplies, repairs or additions are required, to report the same to the Common Council.

Section 5. It shall also be his duty to report at the end of each year to the Common Council the number of fires during the year, with the amount of loss, with a detailed report of the condition of the Department, and any recommendation he may deem proper.

Section 6. ASSISTANT CHIEF. The Assistant Chief shall assist the Chief in the discharge of his duties, and in his absence shall have and exercise all the powers of the Chief.

Section 7. SECRETARY. The Department Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all Department meetings, keep a correct account of all fires, with the loss, name of owner of buildings destroyed or damaged and amount of insurance on the same, if any. He shall keep a correct list of all the members of the Department, their residence and occupation, and a record of dismissals, resignations, etc. He shall transcribe a correct copy of the proceedings of the annual meeting for the selection of officers, which shall be signed by the chairman and secretary, and delivered to the Town Clerk, together with an inventory of all the property held by the Fire Department, stating the condition thereof in detail; said inventory to be a recapitulation of detailed inventory to be rendered to him by each of the Company Secretaries prior to the 31st of December in each year.

Section 8. TREASURER. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a true account of all money or property received by him for the Department; the source whence derived and date, together with all expenditures made [...] Department.

ARTICLE IV. Companies.

Section 1. The Companies comprising this Department shall be subject to the following regulations:

It shall be the duty of the foreman to command his Company at all fires, under the direction of the Chief and Assistant Chief, and to assist those officers with his men and apparatus in the discharge of their duties, and to do all things as set forth in this Ordinance and the bylaws of his Company. To see that the Secretary of his Company renders to the Department Secretary at least two weeks before the end of the year, a full

and correct inventory of all property held by the Company belonging to the Department, with the condition in which it may be said return also to account for any property assigned to the Company which may have been damaged or destroyed.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Foreman to assist the Foreman in the discharge of his duties as directed by the bylaws of his Company, and in the absence of the Foreman to take command of the Company.

Section 3. No Company shall leave a fire without the permission of the Chief or Assistant Chief, but may take up all unnecessary hose and otherwise prepare to return to house.

Section 4. Each Company shall test its apparatus and drill its men at least once in every month.

Section 5. In case two or more Companies are compelled to unite their hose in order to reach a fire, the Company first attaching to the hydrant shall control the line or lines from that hydrant.

Section 6. At its regular June meeting in each year, the Common Council shall appropriate the sum of fifty dollars to the hose Company whose record shall show that it has been first in turning on water at more fires for the year ending on June 1st than any other Company in the Department, said record to be verified by the Chief and Department Secretary. Provided, that the money so appropriated must be expended for the benefit and advancement of the Company receiving it, and not for distribution among the individual members thereof.

ARTICLE V. Hose.

Section 1. The driver of any vehicle or the rider of any horse or mule who shall ride or drive over or across any hose in use or about to be used, or while lying in the streets after being used by any portion of the Fire Department, either for extinguishing any fire, while preparing to extinguish a fire, when returning from a fire or while practicing, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

ARTICLE VI. Fire Patrol.

Section 1. The Fireman of each Company shall appoint from his respective Company the following number of competent men to act, and who shall constitute and be known as, the Fire Patrol, to wit:

- J. Aubineau Hose Company No. 1, 3 men.
- Ed. E. Ayer Pioneer Hose Company, 3 men.
- W. G. Nevin Hose Company, No 3, 3 men.
- David Babbitt Hook & Ladder Co., No 1, 5 men.

Section 2. The Fire Patrol shall be under the control and direction of the Chief of the Fire Department. It shall be the duty of the Fire Patrol to use their post [...] to protect all property from damage, destruction or theft at all fires.

Section 3. Whenever commanded by the Chief, the Fire Patrol shall form fire lines by driving stakes and stretching ropes across all approaches to the fire, and shall prevent any person from passing through such line except in [sic] be a member of the Fire Department.

The Fire Patrol shall remove all goods or property to a place of safety and guard the same, or shall take such measures as will protect it from damage by water should they see that the burning building is not likely to be entirely destroyed.

ARTICLE VII.

Section 1. For convenience, and in order to concentrate the membership of each Company, the Town is hereby divided into Fire Wards, as follows:

Ward No. 1. This ward shall include all that portion of the corporate limits lying west of the creek known as "River de Flag", and the Headquarters of the J. Aubineau Hose Co. No. 1 shall be located in said ward.

Ward No. 2. This ward shall include all that portion of the corporate limits, except Block 32, lying east of the western boundary of San Francisco Street and south of the southern boundary of Aspen Avenue from the western boundary of San Francisco Street as far west as River de Flag, and the Headquarters of Ed. E. Ayer Pioneer Hose Company shall be located at the City Hall within said ward.

Ward No. 3. This ward shall include Block No. 32, and all that portion of the corporate limits lying north of the southern boundary of Aspen Avenue between River de Flag and the western boundary of San Francisco Street, and the Headquarters of W.G. Nevin Hose Co. No. 3 shall be located therein.

ARTICLE VIII.

Section 1. The Common Council shall furnish, equip, and keep in repair the several buildings or Headquarters required by the several Companies, and no fire apparatus of any kind shall be kept at any place other than the Headquarters of the Companies. Provided, that the Headquarters of the David Babbitt Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, shall be at City Hall.

Section 2. The members of the several Companies shall provide themselves with uniforms of such style as may be adopted by each Company.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force at its passage and posting.

Section 2. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Passed by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Flagstaff the 13th day of March 1899. Presented to the Mayor for his signature and approval, and by him signed and approved the 13th day of March 1899.



History of the Flagstaff Fire Department

Julius Aubineau, Mayor

Taken from the "Common Council minutes dated April 1, 1895,

Submitted by the Acting Mayor of Flagstaff

In January 1895, the City Council ordered from the L.M. Rumsey Mfg. Co., of St. Louis, a fire engine, hose carriage, hook and ladder truck, hose, etc., the cost of which in St. Louis, was \$721.00. The shipment was delayed owing to the fact that most of it had to be made to order. In addition to this, two (2) eight-barrel tanks have been ordered, to be placed on running gear, with which it is intended to supply water for the engine by filling one while the other is being exhausted. This may be a primitive fire apparatus, but it is better adapted to the present "dry" condition of Flagstaff than anything else thus far suggested. It will put out a fire - if it is not too big; and it has the merit of being the first and only machinery worthy of the name that has ever been brought to Flagstaff for fighting fire.

A Fire Department should be immediately organized. With her score of active young men, Flagstaff can and should maintain the banner Fire Department of the southwest. In this most important matter, immediate action is urged.

Finally, I note with pleasure that during the past year our people have been preserved from disastrous conflagrations, with the exception of a fire in which one of our worthy citizens came to his death; no epidemic or contagious disease has left its withering mark upon us; the general average of health has been excellent; the moral tone of the community has perceptibly improved; no instances of abject poverty have come to the notice of the Council. On the contrary, all appear to be enjoying a moderate degree of prosperity. The stability of our business interests is shown in the prompt reaction from the recent business crises, and in the further fact that not a business failure has been recorded in Flagstaff during the year ending today (April 1, 1895). A better and more helpful spirit prevails; business is being pushed with renewed confidence. The stock interests surrounding us have suffered most severely, yet even they are stubbornly holding their own, with brightening prospects. The recent organization here of the Rio Verde Irrigation Co., and the Durango, Flagstaff and San Diego Railroad Co., indicate the strengthening of business faith, and the enthusiasm with which these new enterprises is greeted, not only at home but in the cities with which we aspire to early connection by rail, stimulates hope for the future of Flagstaff.

To our citizens generally, I say, let us join hands for the common welfare, let us unite for the general good. Cooperation means progress; selfish obstruction means retrogression.

"United We Stand; Divided We Fall."



***Taken from the 1929 Arizona State Fireman's Association
Convention and Historical Handbook"***

The first Fire Department in Flagstaff was a five hundred gallon tank belonging to the Arizona Lumber and Timber Company. This tank was rushed to any fire that occurred and furnished water for a bucket line. A twelve-man hand pump purchased in 1895 replaced the bucket line and is quite an improvement.

In 1899, when the water system was completed, D.M. Riordan, Ed Ayer and W.G. Nevin donated three Hose Carts and three volunteer Companies were organized. John Marshall was Fire Chief and served until 1917 when J.M. Wilson succeeded him. Members of these Companies receive no pay and little praise, as is the case with most volunteer Firemen.

In 1914, a Brockway~LaFrance combination truck was purchased by the Town of Flagstaff and a man hired to drive it. In 1915, the three Hose Companies were consolidated into one Company of 23 men. This number was later cut to 12 and at a still later date, to eight. The number of men is regulated by the City Council. Council also agreed to pay each member three dollars for each fire he attended, and the Chief was to receive five dollars. The Firemen still receive this amount. In 1921, the Brockway was traded in on an American~LaFrance Type 75 Triple Combination Pumper.

The Department reorganized to a certain extent in 1924. An Assistant Chief, Captain, and a Secretary were elected and regular meetings were scheduled. Up to this time the Chief was the only officer and the men met only at fires. At the same time, the Council authorized four more men, bringing the strength of the Department to 12 men. In the spring of 1925, the Firemen raised some money and bought an old Studebaker touring car and converted it into a hose truck to supplement the LaFrance. In August 1926, Chief Wilson resigned and L.W. Kelly was elected to succeed him, but in October, Chief Kelly left town and Ernest Hogan, the present Chief, was elected to take his place.

Presently, the Department consists of one paid driver and thirteen volunteers. The thirteenth man was authorized in June 1929 to act as Fire Police. Members of the Department make their own rules and regulations and elect their own officers and men. The election of officers or men must be approved by the City Council. Only three of these men are over thirty years of age.

There are some "fire fans" that report at most fires and help out if the fire is big enough. The Arizona Lumber and Timber Company Fire Department, consisting of sixteen men, may be called, if necessary

The fire station is in the Town Hall at 16 1/2 North Leroux Street and occupies as small a space as is possible to back a big truck into. The Studebaker is kept in the Water Department Shop. Quarters are provided over the Town Hall for the driver and two men. An L. and J. Resuscitator and Inhalator owned jointly by the Fire Department and the City is kept at the firehouse and is available at any time. The number of hydrants in 1899 was 22, now in 1929 there are over 200. The first storage reservoir held three million gallons; the present reservoirs hold one hundred million. Water pressure ranges from 90 to 110 pounds.



FLAGSTAFF FIRE DEPARTMENT - PAST AND PRESENT

Flagstaff's fire fighting capability started in the late 1800s with a portable 500 gallon tank belonging to the Arizona Lumber and Timber Company, which was used to furnish water for a bucket line. The bucket line was replaced in 1895 by a twelve-man hand pump. With the completion of the city water system in 1899, three hose carts were donated by prominent citizens and three volunteer fire-fighting companies were organized. The Fire Department was formally established by Ordinance #29 in March 1899.

In 1914, there were 23 volunteer fire fighters. In 1915, the first paid position at \$100 per month was authorized by the Town Council for a driver-mechanic of the new fire truck. Volunteers were paid three dollars for each fire they attended and the Chief received five dollars.

Today the Flagstaff Fire Department has a Fire Chief, 2 Assistant Fire Chiefs, 2 Fire

Inspectors, 1 Fuel Management Officer, 1 Training Chief, 1 Administrative Specialist and 1 Administrative Technician. 75 paid professional firefighters make up the line along with a Fuel Crew consisting of 1 Assistant Fuel Manager, 1 Leadworker, and 2 Fire Techs.

The first quarters for Flagstaff Fire Department were contained in the Town Hall at 16 1/2 North Leroux Street in 1897. It provided for one truck and three men. In 1951, the fire department moved to the new City Hall at 120 North Beaver Street and was designated as Fire Station #1. The first separate fire station, now designated as Fire Station 2, was established on East Spruce Street in 1958 and is still in operation. Currently there are six fire stations located throughout the City of Flagstaff.

While the original function of the Fire Department was limited to strictly fire fighting, the department's mission has expanded with the growing complexities of our society. Today, the department's professionals are prepared to deal with a broad variety of all-risk emergencies. As a full-service fire department, we offer advanced medical life support, hazardous materials response, cold water and high angle rescue. In addition to emergency scene operations, the Fire Department is proactively engaged in Emergency Management Planning, Wildland Urban Interface involving wildland fire safety and forest health; construction plans review, and on-site code and standard compliance through fire and life safety inspections.

Flagstaff's Fire Chiefs include

C.A. Bush, 1897-1900

E.S. Clark and H.E. Campbell, 1900-1900

J.J. Donahue 1900-1904

John Marshal, 1905-1917

J.M. Wilson, 1917-1926

L.W. Kelly, 1926-1926

E.J. "Pat" Hogan, 1926-1964

J.R. Sansom, 1964-1968

Don E. Vorhies, 1968-1977

Ray Gerkey, 1977-1978 (Interim)

Don Eberle, 1978-1982

Dean Treadway, 1982-1995

John Harmon, 1995-1996 (Interim)

Mike		Bradley,		1996-2001
Doug	Bogard,		2000-2002	(Interim)
Mike Iacona,	2002-present			