

Former Glasgow Fire Department Sergeant, Roger Hampton, will remain terminated from the department after a hearing held last night during the Glasgow City Council meeting. Circuit Judge, Phil Patton, remanded the case to the council to deliberate counts five and six in which he was found in violation of personnel policies of procedures on June 18th of last year. Patton is hearing Hampton's appeal case against the City of Glasgow.

Hampton's attorney, Tim Gillenwater, was allowed 20 minutes to address the council, but was not allowed to submit any new evidence. His arguments were limited to his opinion that his termination, being the harshest of punishments, was not consistent with punishments handed down to city employees who had, in his opinion, far worse violations and allegations against them, claiming that Hampton was prescribed for the Xanax he tested positive for, and did not take them while on duty. Gillenwater also argued that two of the counts, 5 and 6, were merely the same findings of fact, therefore resulting in double jeopardy and/or conflicting punishment.

The findings of fact issued in Count 5 were for a positive drug test for prescription medication which resulted in a 6 month suspension for Hampton. The findings of fact for Count 6 were identical; however, this violation resulted in his termination of employment with the Glasgow Fire Department.

After closed session deliberation, the Glasgow City Council made the decision to drop Count 5, and uphold Count 6; making the 6 month suspension irrelevant given that the Count 6 punishment was termination.

As for Gillenwater's claim that his punishment was inconsistent, Mayor Rhonda Trautman quickly discontinued his argument because he attempted to submit new evidence in this dialogue between Trautman and Gillenwater...

{audio}<http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0924conversation.mp3>{/audio}

Fire Department Chief, Tony Atwood, was allowed time to make his case that the punishment be upheld. Atwood told the council, his goal as chief is to be fair, but firm.

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0924atwood.mp3{/audio}

And, that was the recommendation of the council, as Jim Marion made the motion on it's behalf.

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0924marion.mp3{/audio}

The decision was unanimous. Roger Hampton will remain terminated from the Glasgow Fire Department.