

Fire Chiefs

## Ballard Resigns; Ballou New WP Fire Chief

The Winter Park City Commission on Tuesday confirmed the appointment of Assistant Fire Chief Sid Ballou as the city's new fire chief.

Ballou replaces Edwin Ballard, who announced his retirement earlier this month after 28 years with the department and two and one-half years as chief.

Ballou, 37, joined the Winter Park Fire Department in March 1970. He was promoted to engineer in 1972, to training officer in 1975, and to assistant chief in 1977.

Ballou said he plans to meet with shift officers in the department to discuss the possibility of certain policy changes, and "how we can make the job as livable as possible" and still provide maximum fire protection to the city.

The change in fire chiefs comes in the middle of City Commission consideration of the restructuring of the fire department and the construction of an addition to the main fire station to house the city's new \$220,000 ladder truck.

Although Ballard's retirement came as a surprise to those outside City Hall, City Manager David T. Harden said Ballard had expressed his intention to retire a year ago and had set the date a month ago.

The restructuring plan would promote three engineers to lieutenants and would allow the captain on duty at the main station to respond to structural fires on the east side of



town. It would put an officer -- a lieutenant -- in charge of the city annex fire station instead of an engineer.

Ballou called the plan "a tremendous asset not only to the department but to the people within the city," because it would place officers with responsibility throughout the city.

City Commissioners tabled the plan last month for review by the city's new assistant manager/personnel manager. Commissioners Jerome J. Donnelly and Harold Roberts said they were concerned the plan was just a way to promote employees.

The commission also postponed consideration of an addition to the main fire station. Commissioners Richard Stevens and Donnelly said they wanted the city to consider an open canopy to protect the new truck instead of an addition to the building.

Ballou said the department needs a structure that will protect the new ladder truck from the weather, but it also needs additional storage space and work areas.