Rearrest To Bring Suspension

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WINTER PARK — Fireman Orville Anderson has completed his probationary period and is a permanent member of the Winter Park fire department as a result of Civil Service Board action.

Meanwhile, Anderson, 29, has been rearrested by a uthorities and charged with extortion. His arraignment date is set for Monday at the Seminole County courthouse.

when Approving his permanent status in the department Tuesday, the board was not aware of the rearrest and apparently was under the impression Anderson had no charges against him.

Anderson, however, said he was rearrested last Tuesday after charges had been refiled against him the previous week. The fireman's arraignment had been set for last Monday but was delayed because he had not been rearrested.

Finlayson said he would resuspend Anderson as soon as he was officially notified of any charges. The Fire Chief had said before he would probably suspend Anderson on the day of his arraignment.

ACTING CHAIRMAN of the board Don Tillery first said he did not want to certify Anderson under the circumstances.

"With a cloud hanging over," Tillery said, "it would be prudent for us to wait an extra month before approval."

ANDERSON WAS on probation for one year along with three other firemen who were also certified by the board.

The final board vote, however, was unanimous following a declaration by Finlayson of Anderson's value.

"He is an excellent worker who caused no problems," Finlayson said, adding he thought Anderson was being harassed by an ambulance company he was in competition with.

ALSO APPLAUDING Anderson was board member Tom Fumea, a city policeman, who said Anderson

"has proven himself to be a good fireman."

If Anderson were a police officer, Fumea said, it would be a different case, but he is a fireman.

Anderson was initially suspended by Finlayson Oct. 24, but was reinstated three weeks ago after charges were dropped due to lack of evidence. He was paid for the time of suspension.

CHARGES WERE refiled against Anderson, and Scott Kenneth, a former Winter Springs policeman, Nov. 13, accusing them of conspiracy to commit extortion against Physicians and Surgeons Ambulance Service in Seminole County.

Anderson and Kenneth were first arrested Sept. 28 and accused of verbally threatening the life and property of Robert Turney, owner of the ambulance service. They pleaded innocent.

The new charges accuse the two of threatening Turney and Charles Cave, manager, in an attempt to force the service out of business.

DURING ANDERSON'S first suspension he did not appeal to the board, stating he did not want to cause the city any embarrassment.

Finlayson told the board he was against the suspension but did so to "keep peace in the city."

"There is no doubt in my mind he will be cleared," Finlayson said. "But I believe it is in the best interest of the city to suspend him if he is charged."

Before his first suspension, Anderson had remained in the department almost a month because of a dispute between Finlayson and City Manager Frank Wooten.