

STATE OF LOUISIANA
CITY OF WEST MONROE

ORDINANCE NO. _____

MOTION BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 4-2017 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA, RELATING TO LOCAL ARSON INVESTIGATORS, TO ALLOW THE FIRE CHIEF TO GIVE CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, WITH APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATIONS, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PERFORMING FIRE ORIGIN AND CAUSE INVESTIGATIONS; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO DECLARE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE AS SEVERABLE; AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of West Monroe, Louisiana, in special and legal session convened, that Section 4-2017 of the Code of Ordinances, City of West Monroe, Louisiana, is hereby amended, to provide as follows:

“Sec. 4-2017. – Local arson investigators.

The fire chief shall be authorized to issue a commission to any local arson investigator which allows that local arson investigator to carry and use firearms and to arrest individuals suspected of violating the crimes enumerated in R.S. 40:1563.1; however, the issuance of the commission, the powers granted by those commissions and the use of firearms by the person to whom commissions are issued shall be subject to the following:

- (a) The local arson investigator shall be certified by the council on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) and be qualified by the P.O.S.T. Council, or both; and
- (b) Possession of a P.O.S.T. certification or P.O.S.T. qualification, or both, by a local arson investigator shall not grant to that arson investigator any authority other than the authority granted by a commission issued pursuant to R.S. 40:1563.1D; and
- (c) The authority granted by a commission which is issued under these provisions shall be limited to the powers, functions, duties and responsibilities which are set forth for local arson investigators in R.S. 40:1563.1. A commission which is issued pursuant to this section, and under the provisions of R.S. 40:1563.1D shall not grant any authority other than the powers, functions, duties and responsibilities which are set forth for local arson investigators in R.S. 40:1563.1; and
- (d) The authority to carry and use firearms which is granted by the issuance of any such commission issued pursuant to this section is limited to the power to carry weapons while acting in a course and scope of duties as a local arson investigator.
- (e) Fire origin and cause investigations. The Fire Chief is authorized to designate members of the fire department to perform fire origin and cause investigations. Such personnel shall possess appropriate training and certifications as determined by the Fire Chief, which may include, but are not limited to, certifications consistent with nationally recognized standards. Personnel designated under this subsection shall have the authority to conduct fire origin and cause investigations within the jurisdiction; however, such designation shall not grant powers of arrest or authorize the carrying or use of firearms unless such authority is separately conferred pursuant to R.S. 40:1563.1 and this section.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of West Monroe, Louisiana, in special and legal session convened, that for cause determined to be in the best interests of the City of West Monroe and its citizens, that this ordinance shall be effective on and after the 5th day of May, 2026.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen of the City of West Monroe, Louisiana, in regular and legal session convened, that if any section, paragraph, sentence clause and/or phrase of this Ordinance or the application thereof is declared unconstitutional, unenforceable or invalid by the final Judgment of any Court of competent jurisdiction such unconstitutionality, unenforceability, or invalidity shall not affect the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and/or phrases of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City of West Monroe without the incorporation into this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional, unenforceable or invalid section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase. To that end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

The above Ordinance was read and considered by Sections at a public meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, in special and legal session convened, voted on by yea or nay vote, passed and adopted the 4th day of May, 2026, the final vote being as follows:

YEA: _____

NAY: _____

NOT VOTING: _____

ABSENT: _____

ATTEST:

APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF
MAY, 2026

ANDREA PATE, CITY CLERK
CITY OF WEST MONROE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

STACI ALBRITTON MITCHELL, MAYOR
CITY OF WEST MONROE
STATE OF LOUISIANA