



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE
September 29, 2016**

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in Conference Room 170 W., 20 E. Main Street, 1st Floor, on September 29, 2016 at 11:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bryan Raines, Chairman
Chris Brady, City Manager
Barbara Jones, Citizen Member
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)
Rick Jaime (Fire)
Ryan A. Russell (Police)
Stephen Lentz (Police)

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen, City Clerk
Vanessa Wisneski, Sr. Program Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Edward Castillo (Applicant)
Billy Cooper
Nitra Hawkins
Gary Manning
John Meza
Holly Nelson
David Niederdeppe
Erin Ouano
Teri Overbey
Ricardo Perine (Applicant)
Danielle Peterson
Nathan Peterson (Applicant)
Tina Rogers
John Rolfe (Applicant)
Nathan Schlitz
Stephen Shannon (Applicant)
Christine Zielonka

(Chairman Raines excused Boardmember Brady from the beginning of the meeting; he arrived at 11:08 a.m.)

(The Board recessed at 11:05 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting at 11:34 a.m.)

Chairman Raines announced the passing of former City Clerk and Local Board Secretary Linda Crocker. He stated that she was an instrumental part of the Board, a great friend and co-worker, and she will be greatly missed.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of August 18, 2016.

It was moved by Boardmember Jones, seconded by Boardmember Russell, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of August 18, 2016 be approved.

Carried unanimously.

2. Discuss and consider information related to Proposition 124.

Information related to Proposition 124 was discussed in executive session and is acknowledged by the Board.

FIRE PENSION BOARD

3. Discuss and consider the DROP application of Fire Engineer Daniel O'Brien.

It was moved by Boardmember Jaime, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the DROP application of Fire Engineer Daniel O'Brien be approved.

Carried unanimously.

4. Approve the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for the Normal Retirement of Fire Engineer Joseph Meier.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Jaime, that the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for the Normal Retirement of Fire Engineer Joseph Meier be approved.

Carried unanimously.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

5. Certification of full-time Law Enforcement Officers pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-842.24(A), 38-842.27, 38-842.31 and 38-847(D)1.

Subsequent to a review of all medical reports, Local Boardmembers requested the record reflect that the applicants Cody Crance, Andrew Gaifus, Jon Gunnell, Bryson Jones, and Spencer Wilson have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Russell, that Law Enforcement applicants Cody Crance, Andrew Gaifus, Jon Gunnell, Bryson Jones, and Spencer Wilson be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Carried unanimously.

6. Discuss and consider PSPRS coverage of Police Liaison position.

Chairman Raines invited Human Resources Director Gary Manning, Development Services Director Christine Zielonka, and Police Chief John Meza to speak before the Local Board regarding the Police Liaison position.

Mr. Manning explained that Police Officer Eloy Garza has been on loan from the Police Department to Development Services as acting Code Compliance Administrator. He stated that this was a test case to see if this type of unique experience and position would benefit the City and its Community Policing goals. He added that after determining that this combination worked well for both departments and the City, staff worked to create a job description to meet this need.

Ms. Zielonka stated that the position of Police Liaison will officially report to the Police Department, so the Chief will have the authority to utilize the Police Liaison for special assignments and emergency situations as needed. She explained that the position requires all of the same requirements as a sworn officer, such as POST certification, continuing education, and training. She added that the primary advantage of this position is that a sworn officer can write tickets and issue citations related to the building code and the nuisance code, which takes months off the criminal prosecution process.

Chief Meza remarked that this position has increased the cooperative efforts between the Police Department and Code Compliance, resulting in never before seen efficiency in working with our Street Crime Units to close down drug houses. He said that the ability to have the position assigned to both departments has improved community policing efforts.

Chairman Raines commented that he believes this is a hazardous duty position that will be functioning within the Police Department and as result, it is a covered position under PSPRS and he is in support.

Chairman Raines stated that in view of the absence of additional questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Russell, that the Police Liaison position be classified as a PSPRS covered position.

Carried unanimously.

7. Discuss and consider the DROP application of Police Officer Steven Despain.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the DROP application of Police Officer Steven Despain be approved.

Carried unanimously.

8. Approve the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for the Normal Retirement of Police Officer Lyle Burton.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Jones, that the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for the Normal Retirement of Police Officer Lyle Burton be approved.

Carried unanimously.

9. Discuss and consider the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Sergeant Edward Castillo.

Chairman Raines welcomed Police Sergeant Edward Castillo. He advised Sergeant Castillo that the members of the Local Board have reviewed his application and medical records. He outlined the process that would be followed by the Board and encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Sergeant Castillo's pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

Discussion ensued relative to Sergeant Castillo's disabling injury and subsequent treatments.

Boardmember Russell expressed concern regarding the short length of time Sergeant Castillo has been in treatment prior to applying for Accidental Disability Retirement. He mentioned a meeting regarding performance issues that occurred on July 14th, 2016 with Sergeant Castillo and his chain of command. He asked Sergeant Castillo if he feels the performance issues are related to his injury and if there is a reason he could not be working on modified duty while he is undergoing treatment.

Sergeant Castillo replied that this was a result of the injury. He replied that he had been assigned to modified duty in the basement, doing a non-thinking job, isolated from everybody. He stated that his last review was exemplary and this modified duty assignment feels like a punishment.

In response to a question from Boardmember Jones regarding modified duty positions that could be more comfortable, Sergeant Castillo replied that he could work in a modified duty position, but he could not use a firearm.

Boardmember Brady expressed concern for Sergeant Castillo's situation. He stated that he wants to be sure that the City is providing all of the assistance it can. He stated that he will commit to working with the department, taking into consideration who he is and all that he has contributed to the department, and finding an assignment where he can feel valued. He added that more time is needed to provide adequate treatment and asked Sergeant Castillo to give the City time in order to provide it.

Chairman Raines stated that in view of the absence of additional questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the Accidental Disability application of Police Sergeant Edward Castillo be tabled for a period of 60 days.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Raines advised Sergeant Castillo that Human Resources will make sure the Police Department works with him as soon as possible. He thanked Sergeant Castillo for attending the meeting and for his service.

10. Discuss and consider the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Ricardo Perine.

Chairman Raines welcomed Police Officer Ricardo Perine. He advised Officer Perine that the members of the Local Board have reviewed his application and medical records. He outlined the process that would be followed by the Board and encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Perine's pending Accidental Disability application.

Discussion ensued relative to Officer Perine's disabling injury and subsequent treatments.

Chairman Raines stated that in view of the absence of additional questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that Accidental Disability applicant, Police Officer Ricardo Perine, be referred to a local board physician for an independent medical evaluation.

Carried unanimously.

11. Discuss and consider the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Nathan Peterson.

Chairman Raines welcomed Police Officer Nathan Peterson. He advised Officer Peterson that the members of the Local Board have reviewed his application and medical records. He outlined the process that would be followed by the Board and encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Peterson's pending Accidental Disability application.

Discussion ensued relative to Officer Peterson's disabling injury and subsequent treatments.

Chairman Raines stated that in view of the absence of additional questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Russell, that Accidental Disability applicant, Police Officer Nathan Peterson, be referred to a local board physician for an independent medical evaluation.

Carried unanimously.

12. Discuss and consider the Accidental Disability Retirement application of retired Police Sergeant John Rolfe.

Chairman Raines welcomed retired Police Sergeant John Rolfe to the meeting. He advised Sergeant Rolfe that the members of the Local Board have reviewed his application and medical records. He outlined the process that would be followed by the Board and encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Sergeant Rolfe's pending Accidental Disability application.

Chairman Raines advised Sergeant Rolfe that the Local Board has reviewed the independent medical evaluation of Dr. Michael Seivert, and noted that Dr. Seivert is in agreement with the findings of Sergeant Rolfe's attending physician and that, in view of the absence of questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application of retired Police Sergeant John Rolfe be approved.

Carried unanimously.

13. Discuss and consider the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Stephen Shannon.

Chairman Raines welcomed Police Officer Stephen Shannon. He advised Officer Shannon that the members of the Local Board have reviewed his application and medical records. He outlined the process that would be followed by the Board and encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Shannon's pending Accidental Disability application.

Discussion ensued relative to Officer Shannon's disabling injury and subsequent treatments.

Chairman Raines stated that in view of the absence of additional questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Russell, that Accidental Disability applicant, Police Officer Stephen Shannon, be referred to local board physicians for independent medical evaluations.

Carried unanimously.

14. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 29th day of September, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

VW

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK