



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA  
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
LOCAL FIRE AND POLICE PENSION BOARDS MEETING  
ACTION MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in Conference Room 170 West, 20 E. Main Street on November 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Scott Butler, City Manager  
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)  
Chris Fifield (Fire)  
Marc Heirshberg (Citizen Member)  
Nick Lien (Police)  
Ryan A. Russell (Police)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dee Ann Mickelsen, Chair

**STAFF PRESENT**

Holly Moseley, City Clerk  
Steven Aguilar, Deputy City Clerk  
Vera Warhurst, Sr. Program Asst.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Rob Alkire  
Maggie Alkire  
Morya Alkire  
Ashtan Candle  
Casey Christensen  
Trevyn Crosser  
George Dennison  
Bryan Dukes  
Scott Figgins  
Ken Forrey  
Yolanda Furro  
Nitra Hawkins  
Dave Hicks  
Megan Johnson  
Cade Keller  
Cynthia Kelley  
Paul Liddell  
H.R. Montemorra  
Corey Nichols  
Rae Lynn Nielsen  
Crystal Parks  
Jason Riordan  
Tina Rogers  
Gary Smith MD  
Vel Sneezy  
Kael Sorrells  
Stacie Tidwell (Survivor, Mark Keller)  
Howard Turley  
Declan Wall  
Jacob Williams  
Nic Woolstenhulme

Boardmember Butler conducted a roll call.

Boardmember Butler excused Chairperson Mickelsen from the entire meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of October 14, 2025.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of October 14, 2025, be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Lien- Russell

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

**FIRE PENSION BOARD**

Boardmember Butler called to order the Local Fire Pension Board at 2:01 p.m.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on Firefighter Mark Keller and Fire Engineer Paul Shupe.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

(The Local Fire board recessed at 2:02 p.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 2:33 p.m.)

2. Discuss and consider awarding a Line of Duty Death benefit to Firefighter Mark Keller.

It was moved by Boardmember Fifield, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, to forward all documentation, including Dr. Gary Smith's report, for an Independent Medical Examination review of Firefighter Mark Keller's Line of Duty Death application.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Discuss and consider awarding a Line of Duty Death benefit to Fire Engineer Paul Shupe.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda seconded by Boardmember Fifield, that the Line of Death Duty benefit to Fire Engineer Paul Shupe be awarded based on A.R.S. § 23-901.09, the cancer presumption statute, which states that any disease, infirmity or impairment of a firefighter's or fire investigator's health caused by brain cancer – among other listed cancers - is presumed to arise out of employment.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

**POLICE PENSION BOARD**

Boardmember Butler called to order the Local Police Pension Board at 2:35 p.m.

4. 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.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that the certification of full-time Law Enforcement Officers be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Heirshberg-Lien-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Discuss and take action on the re-hire retired PSPRS member Kelvin Smith to Downtown Engagement Team Member.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that the re-hire of retired PSPRS member Kelvin Smith to Downtown Engagement Team Member be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Heirshberg-Lien-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application for Police Officer Richard Bates.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Police Officer Richard Bates be tabled for 60 days.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Heirshberg-Lien-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire and Police Pension Boards adjourned at 2:47 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 Board meeting of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

VW