

CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE DECEMBER 16, 2021

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in the City Clerk's Conference Room, Suite 150, 20 E. Main Street, December 16, 2021 at 10:01 a.m. **The meeting was conducted via a virtual format.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Bryan Raines, Chairman*
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)*
Stephen Lentz (Police)*
Ryan A. Russell (Police)*
Jenny Sheppard (Citizen Member)*

David Silides (Fire)*

Chris Brady, City Manager*

Dee Ann Mickelsen, City Clerk* Holly Moseley, Deputy City Clerk* Vanessa Wisneski, Sr. Program Asst.*

OTHERS PRESENT

Will Biascoechea* Nicole Fazzio*

Courtenay Harris* (Applicant) Brandon Herron* (Applicant)

Natalie Kurdoghlian*

Giovanni Mustaca* (Applicant)

David Niederdeppe*
Teri Overbey*
Erin Pierce*
Tina Rogers*
Christy Trevino*

(* Participated in the meeting via a virtual format.)

(Items on the agenda were discussed out of order, but for the purposes of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.)

Chairman Raines excused Boardmember Brady from the meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of November 17, 2021.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of November 17, 2021 be approved.

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Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Castaneda-Raines-Russell-Silides NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady ABSTAIN – Sheppard

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present and voting.

Discuss updates and process changes to PSPRS.

Local Board Secretary Dee Ann Mickelsen gave an update regarding process changes beginning January 1, 2022. She stated that the only items that will come before the Local Board are disabilities, line of duty death survivors, returns to work, and new hire certifications. She added that the first quarter of next year begins the transition of all normal retirement applications, DROP participation applications, and DROP retirement applications going directly to PSPRS. She verified that staff will still assist with this type of paperwork in the beginning of the year, but by March or April all these types of applicants will be directed to PSPRS to process their applications. She advised that information will be posted on our SharePoint site and InsideMesa to let members know about the changes and added that PSPRS is offering their annual training in February of 2022 for all who would like to attend.

In response to questions posed by Human Resources Director Teri Overbey, Ms. Mickelsen stated that it is uncertain how PSPRS will be notifying us of approved applications and effective dates.

Local Board Attorney David Niederdeppe advised that the Local Board will also be required to adopt the model procedures that are currently under construction.

Chairman Raines thanked Ms. Mickelsen for the update.

Boardmember Silides advised the Local Board that PSPRS is having an issue with incorrect leaves without pay appearing on the retirement estimator since recent changes were made to the site. He stated the following details regarding this issue:

- The incorrect leaves without pay dates are 11/30/2008, 5/31/2009, and 5/31/2011
- The dates correspond with stability pay payments
- The issue affects all tier one members who have never received stability pay, equaling about 250 or so members employed by the City of Mesa
- The dates are not actual pay periods and should not be considered as missing contributions for anyone not receiving stability pay

Boardmember Silides asked for someone to be assigned to find out if PSPRS has identified a cause and a fix, and how long it will be before there is a resolution. He advised that he needs an update to report to the Fire Union at their next meeting on January 11, 2022.

Ms. Mickelsen volunteered to investigate this issue and report back to the Local Board.

FIRE PENSION BOARD

3. Acknowledge receipt of PSPRS plan elections made by new hires.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Silides that PSPRS plan elections made by new hires (**See Attachment 1**) be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES –Castaneda-Raines-Sheppard-Silides NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire Pension Board meeting of November 29, 2021.

It was moved by Boardmember Silides, seconded by Boardmember Sheppard that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire Pension Board meeting of November 29, 2021 be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES –Raines-Sheppard-Silides NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady ABSTAIN – Castaneda

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present and voting.

Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement re-evaluation of retired Firefighter Giovanni Mustaca.

Chairman Raines welcomed retired Firefighter Giovanni Mustaca to the meeting. He stated that the members of the Local Board have reviewed the Independent Medical Evaluation (IME) completed by Dr. William Stevens on December 3, 2021. He encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have.

Discussion ensued relative to the IME report which confirms that Mr. Mustaca's condition has not improved and that he is still not able to perform a reasonable range of duties as a Firefighter.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Silides that the Independent Medical Evaluation (IME) completed by Dr. William Stevens on December 3, 2021 be accepted by the Local Board and that retired Firefighter Giovanni Mustaca be sent for an additional IME after one year as allowed by statute.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Castaneda-Raines-Sheppard-Silides NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

6. Acknowledge receipt of PSPRS plan elections made by new hires.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz that PSPRS plan elections made by new hires (**See Attachment 2**) be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES –Lentz-Raines-Russell-Sheppard NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

7. 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 applicants Jake Arcamo, Luke Boehmer, Adam Cain, Vincent Durazo, Daniel Escoto, Erika Estevez, Mark Fletcher, Siera Frederickson, Landon Hemp, Steven Hisey, Alexander Juarez, Joshua Lopez, Blake Moore, Jason Moreno, Michael Peter, Carlin Resendez, Alejandro Sanson, Zachery Schirato, Shaun Shipman, and Donevan Walsh have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Russell that Law Enforcement applicants Jake Arcamo, Luke Boehmer, Adam Cain, Vincent Durazo, Daniel Escoto, Erika Estevez, Mark Fletcher, Siera Frederickson, Landon Hemp, Steven Hisey, Alexander Juarez, Joshua Lopez, Blake Moore, Jason Moreno, Michael Peter, Carlin Resendez, Alejandro Sanson, Zachery Schirato, Shaun Shipman, and Donevan Walsh be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Lentz-Raines-Russell-Sheppard NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

8. Discuss and take action on the rehire of retired PSPRS member Richard Gogoiu to Municipal Security Officer, effective 12/20/2021.

Chairman Raines asked for clarification from Human Resources regarding this rehire.

Human Resources Director Teri Overbey stated that after completing a competitive recruitment process retired Police Officer Richard Gogoiu is being considered for rehire into a non-supervisory, civilian, non-PSPRS covered position, and that he surpasses the one-year wait requirement, because he retired in 2018.

Local Board Attorney David Niederdeppe added that it should be on record that this is not the same or similar position from which Mr. Gogoiu retired and that no Alternate Contribution Rate will need to be paid.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz that the rehire of retired PSPRS member Richard Gogoiu to Municipal Security Officer, effective 12/20/2021, be approved as within the statute requirements and that no alternate contribution will need to be paid.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Lentz-Raines-Russell-Sheppard NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

9. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Courtenay Harris.

Chairman Raines welcomed Police Officer Courtenay Harris to the meeting. He stated that the members of the Local Board have reviewed Officer Harris' application and medical records. He encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Harris' pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

Discussion ensued relative to Officer Harris' injury and subsequent treatments.

Chairman Raines indicated 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 Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Russell that Accidental Disability Retirement applicant Police Officer Courtenay Harris be sent for an Independent Medical Evaluation.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Lentz-Raines-Russell-Sheppard NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

10. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Brandon Herron.

Chairman Raines welcomed Police Officer Brandon Herron to the meeting. He stated that the members of the Local Board have reviewed Officer Herron's application and medical records. He encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Herron's pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

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Boardmember Russell stated that the Local Board has reviewed the independent medical evaluations of Dr. Lisa Jones and Glenn Clouse. He indicated that both agree with the findings of Officer Herron's attending physician, that Officer Herron's condition was incurred in the performance of his duty, and that his condition totally and permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties within his job classification.

Chairman Raines indicated 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 Police Officer Brandon Herron be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Lentz-Raines-Russell-Sheppard NAYS – None ABSENT – Brady

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Chairman Raines thanked Police Officer Brandon Herron for his service to the City.

11. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 10:56 a.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 16th day of December 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



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*Those highlighted elected to participate exclusively in DC Plan. Employer needs to ensure that in their contribution uploads they include the Employer Legacy

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