



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE
OCTOBER 21, 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, October 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was conducted via a virtual format.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bryan Raines, Chairman*
Chris Brady, City Manager*
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)*
Stephen Lentz (Police)*
Ryan A. Russell (Police)*
Jenny Sheppard (Citizen Member)*
David Silides (Fire)*

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen, City Clerk*
Agnes Goodwine, Deputy City Clerk*
Vanessa Wisneski, Sr. Program Asst.*

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Buquo*
Da'Shira Craig*
Nicole Fazzio*
Nitra Hawkins*
Cynthia Kelley*
Kyle Kinnaman*
Natalie Kurdoghlian*
Teri Overbey*
Erin Pierce*
Tina Rogers*
Sean Stoddard* (Applicant)
John Wilcken* (Applicant)
Randy Wilson*

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of September 16, 2021.

It was moved by Boardmember Sheppard, seconded by Boardmember Russell that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of September 16, 2021 be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Brady-Lentz-Russell-Sheppard-Silides

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

ABSTAIN – Castaneda-Raines

Chairman Raines declared the motion carried by those voting.

FIRE PENSION BOARD

2. Discuss and take action on the DROP application of Fire Captain Paul Liddell.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Silides that the DROP application of Fire Captain Paul Liddell be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Brady-Castaneda-Raines-Sheppard-Silides

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

3. Approve the elections to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for the Normal Retirements of Fire Captains Kevin Cassavaugh, Michael Talty, and George Temes.

It was moved by Boardmember Silides, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda that the elections to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for the Normal Retirements of Fire Captains Kevin Cassavaugh, Michael Talty, and George Temes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Brady-Castaneda-Raines-Sheppard-Silides

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Firefighter John Wilcken.

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

Discussion ensued relative to Mr. Wilcken's injury and subsequent treatments.

Boardmember Brady expressed concern regarding Mr. Wilcken's claim of unfair treatment by a supervisor causing him to lose trust in the Fire Department and contributing to his injury.

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

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Silides that Accidental Disability Retirement applicant Firefighter John Wilcken be sent for Independent Medical Evaluations with notation regarding unfair treatment by a supervisor causing loss of trust in the Fire Department and contributing to the injury.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Brady-Castaneda-Raines-Sheppard-Silides

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

5. Approve the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for the Normal Retirement of Police Sergeant Kevin Baggs.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz that the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for the Normal Retirement of Police Sergeant Kevin Baggs be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Brady-Lentz-Raines-Russell-Sheppard

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

6. Discuss and take action on the Normal Retirement application for Police Officer Donald Williams.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Russell that the Normal Retirement application for Police Officer Donald Williams be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Brady-Lentz-Raines-Russell-Sheppard

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

7. Discuss the Civilian Police Helicopter Pilot position.

Local Board Attorney Cynthia Kelley stated that the Local Board needs to make a determination as to whether or not this new position is dissimilar enough from the previous pilot position which was assigned to a sworn Police Officer and whether or not the City will have to pay an Alternate Contribution Rate. She asked for verification that this position is not an AZPOST position.

Human Resources Director Teri Overbey explained that this is a new position for the Police Department and is not the same or similar to any other position within the department. She stated that it is distinguished by having no tactical duties and no AZPOST certification, and that any tactical duties would be performed by a sworn Police Officer assigned as a Tactical Flight Officer. She added that this position would only be operating the helicopter and not doing any police functions.

In response to Boardmember Russell's questions, Police Aviation Administrator Randy Wilson verified that this position is strictly piloting the vehicle and not performing any tactical maneuvers, therefore they would not be able to land and assist, whereas a sworn officer acting as pilot could if needed.

Boardmember Brady commented that this position may be filled by a retiree who was previously a Police Officer piloting a helicopter, so the Local Board must ensure that being rehired into this new position would not put their pension in jeopardy.

Boardmember Russell advised that when the Aviation Unit was created many years ago, all of the pilots were sworn, but now the Department has come to the realization that not all of the pilots need to be sworn.

Mr. Wilson added that having both civilian pilots and sworn pilots creates a hybrid team that compliments each other.

Boardmember Lentz stated that pilots and Police Officers are two very different positions and in the past Police Officers were being taught to fly. He added that this can be a difficult position to fill and opening it up to civilians provides a bigger employment pool to choose from in order to provide these services to the community.

8. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Sean Stoddard.

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

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

Chairman Raines stated that in view of the absence of further 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 Sean Stoddard be sent for an Independent Medical Evaluation.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Brady-Lentz-Raines-Russell-Sheppard

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 11:41 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 21st day of October 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

VW