

**CITY OF FORT PIERCE RETIREMENT AND BENEFIT SYSTEM  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
OCTOBER 16, 2014**

Summarized Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Fort Pierce Retirement and Benefit System, October 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

Present:

Commissioner Tom Perona, Chair	City Commission Member
Stanley Fidge, Vice Chair	General Member
Gloria J. Johnson	Secretary/Treasurer
Nina Hurtubise (2:05 pm)	U.A. Board Appointee
Keith Stephens	U.A. General Member
Rodney Nieves	Police Officer Member

Attorney Jim Walker	Assistant City Attorney, Advisory
Christina Paz	Retirement Clerk

Absent:

Commissioner Reginald Sessions	City Commission Member
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Recording:

Johnna Morris	Chief Accountant
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**ITEM NO. 1 & 2 ~ ROLL CALL**

**Chairperson, Commissioner Tom Perona** called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., the first item on the agenda being the “*Roll Call*”. Absent was Commissioner Reginald Sessions.

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**ITEM NO. 3 ~ COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Comm. Perona** said the next item on the agenda was comments from the public. He asked if there were any comments from the public. Those who commented were:

William Plats, 355 29<sup>th</sup> Ct SW, Vero Beach, FL 32968  
Dodie Spence, 833 SE Streamlet Avenue, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34983  
Ralph Jennings  
Darlene Shore

**Comm. Perona** said there had been quite a bit of discussion on COLAs in the past, but they are triggered by certain financial aspects.

**Mrs. Gloria Johnson** said the code is set up to where we have to be 100% funded to give COLAs and over the last few years we have not met the trigger.

**ITEM NO. 4 ~ APPROVAL OF SUMMARIZED MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2014.**

**Comm. Perona** stated that the next item was the approval of the summarized minutes of September 18, 2014. Comm. Perona asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Stan Fidge to approve the minutes.**

**All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM NO. 5 ~ ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

There were none.

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**ITEM NO. 6 ~ PUBLIC HEARING ON BENEFITS APPLICATIONS**

**Comm. Perona** stated that the next item on the agenda was Public Hearings on Benefit Applications.

**Comm. Perona** opened up the public hearings for anyone to comment on the request for retirement from Robert S. Baldwin with 25 years of service with the Fort Pierce Police Department. He asked if there was any one here who would like to publicly comment on this request. Seeing none, Comm. Perona closed the public hearing. Comm. Perona opened up the matter for the Board. **A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Hurtubise to approve the request for retirement from Robert S. Baldwin.** Comm. Perona asked for any questions or comments on this request before the motion was called. **All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**Comm. Perona** opened up the public hearings for anyone to comment on the request for retirement from Charles A. Hutchinson with 8 years and 9 months of service with the City of Fort Pierce entering into the DROP. He asked if there was any one here who would like to publicly comment on this request. Seeing none, Comm. Perona closed the public hearing. Comm. Perona opened up the matter for the Board. . **A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Hurtubise to approve the request for retirement from Charles A. Hutchinson.** Comm. Perona asked for any questions or comments on this request before the motion was called. **All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**Comm. Perona** opened up the public hearings for anyone to comment on the request for retirement from Sheila M. Simmons with 20 years and 3 months of service with the City of Fort Pierce entering into the DROP. He asked if there was any one here who would like to publicly comment on this request. Seeing none, Comm. Perona closed the public hearing. Comm. Perona opened up the matter for the Board. . **A motion was made by Mr. Stan Fidge and seconded by Mr. Nieves to approve the request for retirement from Sheila M Simmons.** Comm. Perona asked for any questions or comments on this request before the motion was called. **All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**Comm. Perona** opened up the public hearings for anyone to comment on the request for retirement from Donald T.E. Landin with 14 years and 1 month of service with the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority entering into the DROP. He asked if there was any one here who would like to publicly comment on this request. Seeing none, Comm. Perona closed the public hearing. Comm. Perona opened up the matter for the Board. . **A motion was made by Ms. Hurtubise and seconded by Mr. Fidge to approve the request for retirement from Donald T.E. Landin.** Comm. Perona asked for any questions or comments on this request before the motion

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was called. **All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**ITEM NO. 7 ~ OLD BUSINESS**

**Comm. Perona** stated that the next item is Old Business, the review of the Draft Ordinance creating a disability review committee.

**Atty. Walker** said the board has initiated a process by which to make various changes to our disability ordinance, with immediate interest in forming a committee to review the application and materials and make a recommendation to the board. The draft is before you for review to be forwarded to Commission for approval, if the board agrees.

**Comm. Perona** asked if there were any questions for Atty. Walker.

**Mrs. Johnson** said she had a comment on Section B, item #6. Currently, when we have disability applicants we have to send them to doctors; sometimes the doctors we use may be the applicant's doctor and we have to send them to doctors who may not be on the list. We need some flexibility when we cannot send them to a doctor on the list.

**Atty. Walker** said the code is not specific in saying who picks the doctor, that is administered from your department, from a list when followed, and when you cannot, you find a doctor you can send them to.

**Comm. Perona** said the list can be expanded; there is nothing that says the list cannot be added to.

**Mrs. Johnson** asked does she have to bring the list back to the board and have it approved or can she send them to the doctor that is willing to take them, even if they are not on the list.

**Atty. Walker** said the committee would be in charge of keeping the list current and bringing to the board for approval.

**Mrs. Johnson** asked that language be included to give the Secretary/Treasurer the discretion to choose a physician if one on the list is not available.

**Comm. Perona** said if it is not included it has the potential to slow down the process.

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After further discussion of the draft and the changes to made, Comm. Perona asked the pleasure of the board.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Fidge to accept the ordinance, with corrections, establishing a review committee for disability retirement applications; to be forwarded to Commission for approval . Comm. Perona asked for any questions or comments on this request before the motion was called. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**ITEM NO. 8 ~ NEW BUSINESS**

**Comm. Perona** stated that the next item is New Business. There was none.

**ITEM NO. 9 ~ CONSENT AGENDA**

**Comm. Perona**, the next item is the Consent Agenda.

**A motion was made by Ms. Hurtubise and seconded by Sgt. Nieves to approve the refund of member contributions.**

**All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM NO. 10 ~ CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES**

**Comm. Perona** said that the next item is Consideration of Absences.

**A motion was made by Mr. Fidge and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the absence of Comm. Sessions.**

**All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

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**ITEM NO. 11 ~ NEXT MEETING**

**Comm. Perona** said the next meeting was scheduled November 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

**ITEM NO. 12 ~ ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing there were no further questions or comments, Comm. Perona adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m. He thanked everyone for their time and attendance.

ATTEST:

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Secretary/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Note: These minutes are not verbatim, only important issues and motions are reproduced in writing for the benefit of the Fort Pierce Retirement and Benefit System members. The recording itself is the official record for the meeting. The meeting tape/cd is available.