CITY OF FORT PIERCE RETIREMENT AND BENEFIT SYSTEM
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD

April 15, 2021

Summarized Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Fort Pierce Retirement and Benefit System April 15, 2021 2:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers at City Hall.

Present:

Caleta Scott, Chairperson	General Member
Brian Avilla, Vice-Chairperson	Police Officer Member
Keith Stephens	U.A. General Member
Javier Cisneros	U.A. General Member
Johnna Morris	Director of Finance
Comm. Tom Perona	City Commission Member
Christina Paz	Retirement Clerk

Guest by Conference Call:

Attorney Jim Walker	Attorney for the Retirement Board, Advisory

Recording:

Queen Thompkins	Executive Assistant to the Director of Finance

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ITEM NO. 1 & 2 ~ ROLL CALL

Ms. Scott called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., the first item on the agenda being the "*Roll Call*".

ITEM NO. 3 ~ COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Scott said the next item on the agenda was comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.

ITEM NO. 4 ~ APPROVAL OF SUMMARIZED MARCH OF 18, 2021

Ms. Scott said the next item was the approval of the summarized minutes of March 15, 2021, and the Board asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. **A motion was made by Comm. Tom Perona and seconded by Comm. Jeremiah Johnson to approve the summarized minutes of March 18, 2021. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. A poll was done of each Board member. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM NO. 5 ~ ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Walker said I anticipate being there at the May meeting. Our new rule governing collection of overpayments will probably be getting a workout maybe as we present for Board consideration a number of accounts. Beyond that I have no other developments to report for Board consideration and will entertain any questions or comments.

Mr. Stephens said are you telling me even with our new rule, we're going to have several to discuss; collection issues.

Mr. Walker said none of them have heretofore, come before the Board of this rule and they're being given a form that conforms to that and will be given an opportunity to explain themselves before the Board in the framework of the issues that the Board will be look at under the new rule.

Mr. Stephens said thank you.

Mr. Walker said we'll get their attention in a big way.

ITEM NO. 6 ~ PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BENEFIT APPLICATIONS

Ms. Scott opened the public hearing for comments on the request for Retirement (DROP Program) from Thomas M. McDermott, Jr. with 20 years and 2 months of service with the City of Fort Pierce Police Department. She asked if there was anyone here who would like to publicly comment on this request. Seeing none, Ms. Scott closed the public hearing. She opened the matter for the Board. **A motion was made by Mr. Javier Cisneros and seconded by Comm. Tom Perona to approve the request for retirement (DROP Program) from Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.** Ms. Scott 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. A poll was done of each Board member. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Scott opened the public hearing for comments on the request for Retirement (DROP Program) from Christopher Guadagno with 25 years of service with the City of Fort Pierce Police Department. She asked if there was anyone here who would like to publicly comment on this request. Seeing none, Ms. Scott closed the public hearing. She opened the matter for the Board. **A motion was made by Comm. Jeremiah Johnson and seconded by Mr. Javier Cisneros to approve the request for retirement (DROP Program) from Christopher Guadagno.** Ms. Scott 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. A poll was done of each Board member. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Scott opened the public hearing for comments on the request for Retirement (DROP Program) from Graham P. Kelley with 25 years of service with the City of Fort Pierce Police Department. She asked if there was anyone here who would like to publicly comment on this request. Seeing none, Ms. Scott closed the public hearing. She opened the matter for the Board. **A motion was made by Mr. Brian Avilla and seconded by Ms. Johnna Morris to approve the request for retirement (DROP Program) from Graham P. Kelley.** Ms. Scott 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. A poll was done of each Board member. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Scott opened the public hearing for comments on the request for Disability Retirement from Jesse J. Streeter with 19 years and 3 months of service with the City of Fort Pierce Police Department. She asked if there was anyone here who would like to publicly comment on this request. Seeing none, Ms. Scott closed the public hearing. Ms. Scott asked for any questions or comments on this request before the motion was called.

Ms. Morris said the Disability Retirement Committee did meet. We reviewed the documents and made the recommendation he does meet the requirement for disability retirement.

Mr. Avilla asked if this was non-duty.

Ms. Morris said yes, it is.

She opened the matter for the Board. **A motion was made by Comm. Tom Perona and seconded by Mr. Javier Cisneros to approve the request for disability retirement from Jesse J. Streeter. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. A poll was done of each Board member. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM NO. 7 ~ OLD BUSINESS

a. REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE RETIREMENT AND BENEFIT SYSTEM FROM COMMISSIONER CURTIS JOHNSON

Ms. Scott said we have a request for membership to the City of Fort Pierce Retirement and Benefit System with from Comm. Curtis Johnson.

Mr. Stephens said we're talking four years, right? That's the normal term when you get voted in. If for some reason they don't get voted back in, what happens then?

Comm. Perona said they end upon the Consent Agenda. Am I right Johnna? They get their money back.

Ms. Morris said right.

Mr. Stephens said I just wanted to make sure we're clear with that. I thought that's what it was.

Mr. Cisneros asked can you keep it in there in the event you run again or do you have to forego it?

Ms. Morris said it has to vest.

Mr. Stephens said he could actually do that if it were 8 years then was a 4 year break then came back but, he would have to vest in order to be able to do that, correct?

Ms. Morris said he has to vest at least 5 years.

She opened the matter for the Board. **A motion was made by Comm. Tom Perona and seconded by Mr. Javier Cisneros to approve the request for membership to the City of Fort Pierce Retirement and Benefit System from Comm. Curtis Johnson.** Ms. Scott 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. A poll was done of each Board member. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM NO. 8 ~ NEW BUSINESS

None.

ITEM NO. 9 ~ CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Scott said the next item is the Consent Agenda. **A motion was made by Ms. Johnna Morris and seconded by Comm. Tom Perona to approve the refund of member contributions. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There were no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM NO. 10 ~ CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

None.

ITEM NO. 11 ~ BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Comm. Perona said I think it's a record; 14 minutes. I think after the last couple of meetings, it's good to get business done and get out of here.

Mr. Cisneros said I want to applaud Madam Chairman for the proper use of the gavel. I don't think I've ever seen anybody shut up Keith Stephens before.

Mr. Stephens said I actually did a presentation to the FPUA Board that Johnna helped me with some information, and it went over very well. Do you guys do that every year to the Board too?

Ms. Morris said yes.

Mr. Stephens said I didn't know if you did or not. I was going to say it way a very good idea because I didn't have any idea that it would but, it went over very well. I got a lot of feed back on it and they really enjoyed the information they got.

Comm. Perona said I just want to reach out to Attorney Walker and commend him for his ability to multi-task, and that is to attend this meeting and watch his grandkids at the same time.

Comm. Johnson said I'm sorry I missed the last meeting. I'm glad to be back.

Ms. Morris said I think everybody have gotten an email from Christine for those that want to attend. The conference will be a virtual conference.

Comm. Perona said what are the dates for the school and the CEU's? CEU's are in May, right?

Ms. Morris said right.

Ms. Paz said 13th and 14th, I think. You will be receiving an email with instructions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF FORT PIERCE RETIREMENT AND BENEFIT SYSTEM
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_____ _____

Secretary/Treasurer Chairperson

Note: These minutes are not verbatim, only important issues and 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.