

**CITY OF FORT PIERCE RETIREMENT AND BENEFIT SYSTEM  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
January 19, 2023**

Summarized Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Fort Pierce Retirement and Benefit System January 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers at City Hall

Present:

Barbara Mika	U.A. Board Appointed Member, Chair
Comm. Arnold Gaines	City Commission Member
Comm. Michael Broderick	City Commission Member
Wendy Rydzewski	City of Fort Pierce General Member, Vice-Chair
Keith Stephens	U.A. General Member
Johnna Morris	Secretary/Treasurer
Kyle McCarthy	Police Officer Member

Guest by Conference Call:

Attorney Jim Walker	Attorney for the Retirement Board, Advisory
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Recording:

Junelly Sebastiano	Executive Assistant to Director of Finance
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**ITEM NO. 1 & 2~ ROLL CALL**

**Mrs. Barbara Mika** called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm on Thursday January 19, 2023, the first item on the agenda being the “Roll Call”.

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

**Mrs. Mika** said next, we will move on to comments from the public? Seeing no public, we will move on to the consideration of minutes.

**ITEM NO. 4 ~ CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**Mrs. Mika** said consideration of minutes, any discussion?

**A motion was made by Mrs. Johnna Morris and seconded by Comm. Arnold Gaines. 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**

**Mrs. Mika** said Next, we move on to a report from board attorney. Mr. Walker?

**Mr. Jim Walker** said ma’am I am pleased to report that we have neither sued, been sued nor have there been any threats of suing. Nevertheless, I am pleased to take any questions or suggestions.

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

**Mrs. Mika** said we'll move on to public hearings on benefit applications. We will open the public hearing for the request for retirement from Anne Bowen with 10 years and 10 months of service with the City of Fort Pierce entering DROP. Seeing no public, we will close the public hearing and open it for discussion.

**A motion was made by Comm. Gaines and seconded by Mrs. Morris. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mrs. Mika** said we will open the public hearing for the request for retirement from Michael Leon Frazier with 10 years of service with the City of Fort Pierce Police Department entering DROP. Seeing no public, we will close the public hearing. Any discussion?

**A motion was made by Comm. Gaines and seconded by Mr. Keith Stephens. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mrs. Mika** said we will open the public hearing for the Request for Retirement from James P. Gagliano with 25 years of service with the City of Fort Pierce Police Department entering DROP. Seeing no public, we will close the public hearing, any discussion?

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris and seconded by Mr. Stephens. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mrs. Mika** said we will open the public hearing for the Request for Retirement from Thomas K. Perona with 12 years and 10 months of service with the City of Fort Pierce. Seeing no public, we will close the public hearing, any discussion?

**A motion was made by Mrs. Wendy Rydzewski and seconded by Comm. Gaines. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mrs. Mika** said we will open the public hearing for the Request for Retirement from Robert M. Reals with 25 years of service with the City of Fort Pierce entering DROP. Seeing no public, we will close the public hearing, any discussion?

**A motion was made by Mrs. Rydzewski and seconded by Mr. Stephens. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

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**Mrs. Mika** said we will open the public hearing for the Request for Retirement from Paul Laguerre with 26 years and 11 months of service with the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Seeing no public, we will close the public hearing, any discussion?

**A motion was made by Mrs. Stephens and seconded by Comm. Gaines. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mrs. Mika** said we will open the public hearing for the Request for Retirement from Edward Roseberry with 5 years of service with the City of Fort Pierce. Seeing no public, we will close the public hearing, any discussion?

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris and seconded by Mr. Stephens. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition and the motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM NO. 7 ~ OLD BUSINESS**

None

**ITEM NO. 8 ~ NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ITEM NO. 9 ~ CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mrs. Mika** said next, we will move on to the consent agenda.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris and seconded by Mr. Stephens. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

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

None

**ITEM NO. 11 ~ BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Mrs. Mika** said are there any board members comments?

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**Mr. Stephens** said I like that you added this up to date of where we were in the fund a year ago and I see its coming back up. Are the funds still going up from where it was? Because we lost a lot.

**Mrs. Morris** said it is increasing slightly.

**Mr. Stephens** said we were at 252 million and as of last November we were at 200. We were lower than that, we were as far as 185. As you know, with the way that we do all our investment, we are diversified, and we were lucky that we probably did not take as bigger hit as most people. Hopefully we keep trending up, it was always my goal to be at a 300-million-dollar plan, but I think we will get there one day.

**Mrs. Mika** said I would like to recognize and welcome our newest member, Commissioner Broderick.

**Comm. Michael Broderick** said thank you. I look forward to listening and learning from the folks that have been involved with this and to assist in educating me.

**Mr. Stephens** said the Certified Pension Trustee Training is going to be available. It is a 3-day thing, it really gives you a bigger picture and it takes the learning curve, and it shortens it.

**Comm. Gaines** said I told him about the class. I think he is being modest; I think that by the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting he is going to be asking as many questions as us. Keith was talking about the drop, this meeting went by quick but when they must come in and explain why it dropped, those are the interesting meetings.

**Comm. Broderick** said I follow finance and markets very closely. It is all the same thing, it is all commodities, it is all finance at the end of the day.

**Mr. Stephens** said the people before us set this board up very well. We have been able to follow some of their first decisions. It seems to have worked; it all comes back.

**Comm. Broderick** said its decades of seasoning to not react, that is why you have a board to make those decisions.

**Mr. Stephens** said, and I am happy that we have two commissioners on this board because ultimately if there are policy changes, it is good for two members to hear this discussion.

**Comm. Broderick** said I have sat on city boards and committees cumulatively for about 15 years. When you have a person that is in those boards and committees that is at commission level, it is a huge help.

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**Mrs. Morris** said Comm. Broderick, Anna is our Pension Analyst and Junelly is my secretary. As secretary-treasurer, if there is something that needs to go into the agenda, you just contact me or Junelly and we will go from there.

**ITEM NO. 13 ~ ADJOURMENT**

Seeing that there were no further questions or comments. Mrs. Mika adjourned the meeting at 2.21 pm.

ATTEST:

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Secretary/Treasurer

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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.