

CITY OF FORT PIERCE RETIREMENT AND BENEFIT SYSYTEM MINUTES OF
MEETING HELD JANUARY 21, 2026

Summarized Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Fort Pierce Retirement and Benefit System January 21, 2026, 2:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers at City Hall

Present:

Kyle MacCarthy	Police Officer Member, Chair
Wendy Rydzewski	City of Fort Pierce General Member, Vice-Chair
Comm. Arnold Gaines	City Commission Member
Johnna Morris	Secretary/Treasurer
Keith Stephens	U.A. General Member
Michele Harris	U.A. Board Appointed Member

Staff:

Attorney Bonni Jensen	Attorney for the Retirement Board, Advisory
Anna Ward	City of Fort Pierce Pension Analyst

Recording:

Megan LeGrand	Executive Assistant to Director of Finance
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Absent:

Comm. Michael Broderick	City Commission Member
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ITEM NO. 1 & 2 - ROLL CALL

Mr. Kyle MacCarthy called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, the first item on the agenda being the “Roll Call”.

ITEM NO. 3 ~ COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. MacCarthy opened for comments from the public. Seeing as there was no public, Mr. MacCarthy closed the comments.

ITEM NO. 4 ~ CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Wendy Rydzewski and seconded by Commissioner Arnold Gaines to approve the minutes. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 5 ~ REPORT FROM THE BOARD ATTORNEY

Attorney Bonni Jensen shared that the IRS mileage for travel changed from \$0.70 to \$0.72 per mile but had nothing else to report.

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ITEM NO. 6 ~ PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BENEFIT APPLICATIONS

Mr. MacCarthy opened the public hearing for the request for retirement from Steve Herdeman with 20 years and 9 months of service with the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority entering DROP. Seeing no public, the hearing was closed and the request was opened for Board discussion. **A motion was made by Comm. Gaines and seconded by Mr. Keith Stephens to approve the request. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mr. MacCarthy opened the public hearing for the request for retirement from Barbara Mika with 19 years of service with the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Seeing no public, the hearing was closed and the request was opened for Board discussion. **A motion was made by Ms. Michele Harris and seconded by Mr. Stephens to approve the request. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mr. MacCarthy opened the public hearing for the request for retirement from Joseph Tietz with 10 years and 4 months of service with the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Seeing no public, the hearing was closed and the request was opened for Board discussion. **A motion was made by Mr. Stephens and seconded by Ms. Rydzewski to approve the request. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mr. MacCarthy opened the public hearing for the request for deferred retirement from Laurie Pepple with 6 years and 6 months of service with the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Seeing no public, the hearing was closed and the request was opened for Board discussion. **A motion was made by Ms. Johnna Morris and seconded by Comm. Gaines to approve the request. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mr. MacCarthy opened the public hearing for the request for deferred retirement from Cuong Tran with 5 years and 7 months of service with the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Seeing no public, the hearing was closed and the request was opened for Board discussion. **A motion was made by Comm. Gaines and seconded by Ms. Rydzewski to approve the request. 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

None.

ITEM NO. 8 ~ NEW BUSINESS

None.

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ITEM NO. 9 ~ CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Morris and seconded by Ms. Rydzewski to approve the refunds from November and December 2025. 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

Ms. Morris confirmed that Comm. Broderick had reached out about not being able to attend the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Stephens and seconded by Ms. Harris to approve Comm. Broderick's absence. All those in favor of the motion signified by saying aye. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 11 ~ BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Morris confirmed that everyone had been reached out to regarding the FPPTA conference in February.

Comm. Gaines confirmed that he would be going, continuing the leadership courses. He thinks these classes will offer a lot of insight to the Board.

ITEM NO. 12 ~ NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 2pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall.

ITEM NO. 13 ~ ADJOURMENT

Seeing that there were no further questions or comments. Mr. MacCarthy adjourned the meeting at 2:07 pm.

ATTEST:

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.