

CITY OF ATLANTA DEFINED BENEFIT
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
GENERAL EMPLOYEES' PLAN
MEETING
July 8, 2021
Webex Teleconference
11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

ALFRED BERRY JR.	Retiree, City of Atlanta
ANGELA GREEN	Retiree, City of Atlanta
DOUG STRACHAN	Active, City of Atlanta
BRYANT MITCHELL	Retiree, Atlanta Public Schools
JOE HOOD	Active, Atlanta Public Schools
QUENTIN HUTCHINS	Active, Atlanta Public Schools
YOULANDA CARR	Finance Designee, City of Atlanta
JEFFREY NORMAN	HR Commissioner, City of Atlanta

OTHERS PRESENT

MARY SHAH	Strategic Benefits Advisors
STEPHANIE ATLI	Strategic Benefits Advisors
LORI POCOCK	Strategic Benefits Advisors
ED EMERSON	Morris, Manning & Martin
CHELSEA DEPERT	Morris, Manning & Martin
CARL CHRISTIE	City of Atlanta Law Department
PAMELA GOINS	City of Atlanta Finance Department
DELISHA ROBINSON	City of Atlanta Finance Department
BERYL TAYLOR	City of Atlanta Finance Department
KAREN SUTTON	City of Atlanta Finance Department
RAY ADAMS	City of Atlanta Pension Department
AMANDA ROUSER	City of Atlanta Pension Department
ROSIE WOODS	City of Atlanta Pension Department
MOHAMED BALLA	CFO
COLTON DWYER	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Quentin Hutchins called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. It was noted the meeting was being held by Webex Teleconference.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell to approve the Agenda, the motion was seconded by Mr. Strachan. The motion carried unanimously and the Agenda was approved.

III. MINUTES

The Committee Members reviewed the Minutes of the June 10, 2021 General Employees' Defined Benefit Administrative Committee Meeting, which were distributed in

**City of Atlanta General Employees' Defined Benefit Pension
Administrative Committee Meeting
Minutes July 8, 2021**

advance and reviewed by Counsel. Following discussion and review, a **motion was made by Mr. Strachan to adopt the Minutes. This motion was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The motion carried unanimously and the Minutes were adopted.**

Mr. Berry joined the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGERS' REPORT

Pension Applications

Service Pension Applications

The Committee reviewed Service Pensions number 1 through 9 on the attached spreadsheet.

Ms. Shah informed the Committee that Jamilah Watkins' final benefit amount is pending research by the City for her service in 2007. The Committee discussed approving her benefit provisionally in order to allow her to begin payment as soon as possible and then truing up if necessary once the City has completed the research.

Following this review, a motion was made by Mr. Strachan and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve Service Pension Applications Nos. 1-9 as listed on the attached spreadsheet dated July 8, 2021 with the caveat that if City research changes Jamilah Watkins' benefit calculation, her benefit will be adjusted accordingly. The motion carried to approve the Service Pension Applications. Mr. Berry voted no on Jamilah Watkins and yes on all of the others.

Disability Application

The Committee reviewed the Disability Application on the attached spreadsheet.

Following this review, a motion was made by Mr. Strachan and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the Disability Application as listed on the attached spreadsheet dated July 8, 2021. The motion carried unanimously and the Disability Application was approved.

Beneficiary Applications

The Committee reviewed Beneficiary Applications number 1 through 5 on the attached spreadsheet.

Following this review, a motion was made by Mr. Strachan and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve Beneficiary Applications Nos. 1-5 as listed on the attached spreadsheet dated July 8, 2021. The motion carried unanimously and the Beneficiary Applications were approved.

Lump Sum Applications

The Committee reviewed Lump Sum Applications 1-12 as informational only.

Cash Financial Statement and Payables Listing Check Register

Mr. Berry requested that the FedEx invoice for \$26.95 be removed because he did not request for that package to be mailed to him. Mr. Norman informed the Committee that the package had been mailed at the request of the Chairman of the Investment Board and Ms. Shah confirmed

**City of Atlanta General Employees' Defined Benefit Pension
Administrative Committee Meeting
Minutes July 8, 2021**

that information. Mr. Berry and Ms. Green questioned the Northern Trust invoice. Ms. Shah informed the Committee that the City's contract with Northern Trust is between the City and Northern Trust. Ms. Green asked if SBA does check-writing for other clients. Ms. Shah informed the Committee that SBA does not provide check-writing services for any of its clients and that that was discussed and disclosed to the City during the RFI process. Ms. Green stated that she was not aware that SBA would not be the checkwriter or that that service would be provided by a separate vendor. Ms. Green asked how SBA got away with not writing the pension checks and having the City as its largest client.

A motion was made by Mr. Strachan and seconded by Mr. Hood to approve the financials and Payable Listing Check Register based on review and input from the Finance Department with the exception of the \$26.95 FedEx charge. The motion carried and the Financials and Payable Listing were approved. Mr. Berry and Ms. Green abstained.

V. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Emerson informed the Committee that the updated bylaws were approved by the Investment Board and are now in effect. Mr. Berry asked about the status of the new Summary Plan Description (SPD). Mr. Emerson informed the Committee that Counsel is currently awaiting feedback from SBA. Ms. Shah informed the Committee that SBA would provide feedback to Counsel.

Mr. Christie informed the Committee that once City Hall reopens the Committee would be able to begin meeting in person again. Mr. Berry is hopeful to resume in-person Committee meetings in September since City Hall is currently slated to reopen August 9th.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sutton presented to the Committee on behalf of the Finance Department regarding the City charging indirect costs to the pension fund. Mr. Strachan requested the amount of indirect costs charged to each department (such as the airport, the watershed, etc.) so that the Committee can assess the pension fund's proportionate share of indirect costs. Mr. Balla informed the Committee that he would provide that breakdown to the Committee. Ms. Sutton informed the Committee that the pension fund would receive a credit for any indirect costs related to the legal department since it has been confirmed that the City's legal department is to provide its services free of charge to the pension funds pursuant to a City ordinance.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Overpayments Update

Mr. Strachan informed the Committee that he had further researched options for recouping outstanding overpayments and had invited to the meeting the law firm Gaslowitz Frankel LLC which specializes in making recoveries from estates. Craig Frankel presented to the Committee the options it has for legal recourse against the estates that have been overpaid and suggested starting with the largest overpayments first instead of attempting to go after all of the overpayments at once. Mr. Strachan asked if Gaslowitz Frankel LLC would be willing to start work on a contingency basis and only charge the City if amounts were able to be recovered. Mr. Frankel stated that that would be a possibility. Mr. Christie and Mr. Emerson informed the Committee that any hiring would have to be done by the Investment Board. Mr. Frankel thanked the Committee for inviting him to present.

**City of Atlanta General Employees' Defined Benefit Pension
Administrative Committee Meeting
Minutes July 8, 2021**

APS Appeals

Ms. Shah informed the Committee that any appeals that come in related to the APS overpayment/recoupments will be heard by the Investment Board.

VIII. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Mr. Berry commented to Mr. Balla that he has concerns about how the City is and is not utilizing City HR, Finance, and Pension staff as compared to third party administrators. Mr. Balla expressed appreciation for Mr. Berry's commitment to the pension fund and to the City and looks forward to working together for the betterment of both.

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Vice Chairman Hutchins informed the Committee members that the next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2021.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee at this time, Vice Chairman Hutchins called for adjournment at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Quentin Hutchins, Vice Chairman

These Minutes were adopted on _____, 2021.