

**CITY OF ATLANTA FIRE FIGHTERS’
DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 15, 2023
Atlanta City Hall, Committee Room 2
11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

Committee Members

Derek “Brent” Hullender (open)	Chairman	Present
Russell Sykes	Retiree Representative	
Mohamed Balla	Active Representative	Present
Tarlesha Smith	CFO Designee, City of Atlanta	Present
	HR Commissioner, City of Atlanta	Present

Others Present

Mary Shah	Strategic Benefits Advisors
Lori Pocock	Strategic Benefits Advisors
Ed Emerson	Morris, Manning & Martin
Eric Dec	Legal Department, City of Atlanta
Youlanda Carr	Deputy CFO, City of Atlanta
Marlo Crossley	Finance Department, City of Atlanta
Fumnanya Johnson	Finance Department, City of Atlanta
Pamela Goins	Finance Department, City of Atlanta
Beryl Taylor	Finance Department, City of Atlanta
Agatha Hector	Pension Department, City of Atlanta
Amanda Rouser	Pension Department, City of Atlanta
Michael Naftaniel	Employee Benefits Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Derek ‘Brent’ Hullender called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. Chairman Hullender indicated that a quorum was present for the meeting. It was noted the meeting was being held both in-person and via Webex Teleconference.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Sykes to approve the Agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Ms. Carr. The motion carried unanimously and the Agenda was approved.

III. MINUTES

The Committee members reviewed the Minutes of the April 11, 2023 Fire Fighters’ Defined Benefit Administrative Committee Meeting, which were distributed in advance and reviewed by Counsel.

With there being no changes or modifications, a motion was made by Mr. Sykes to adopt the Minutes of the April 11, 2023 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Ms. Carr. The motion carried unanimously and the April Meeting Minutes were adopted.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGERS' REPORT

Service Pension Applications

There was one (1) May Service Pension Application to approve. Ms. Shah noted that Robert McLane had been set up provisionally. He was actually left on payroll too long after he left and the incorrect pay will be taken from his vacation payout. He should be trued up next month.

A motion was made by Mr. Sykes and seconded by Mr. Naftaniel to approve the one (1) Service Pension Application on the attached spreadsheet for the month of May 2023. The motion carried unanimously and the May Service Pension Application was approved.

There was one (1) May Service Pension Application True-up to approve. Ms. Shah noted that Michael Lewis's benefit was re-calculated after his final vacation payout was received and his benefit changed from \$4,758.74 to \$4,760.07.

A motion was made by Mr. Sykes and seconded by Mr. Naftaniel to approve the one (1) Service Pension Application True-up on the attached spreadsheet for the month of May 2023. The motion carried unanimously and the May Service Pension True-up was approved.

Mr. Balla joined the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Ms. Shah presented one (1) Service Pension Application for June to the Committee for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Sykes and seconded by Mr. Naftaniel to approve the one (1) June Service Pension Application on the attached spreadsheet for the meeting date of June 15, 2023. The motion carried unanimously and the June Service Pension Application was approved.

There was one (1) June Service Pension Application True-up to approve. Ms. Shah noted that James McLemore changed from hourly 53 to hourly 40 in 2021, but his unused sick time was not converted. Mr. Hullender added it was thought this was an automatic process, but recent discussions have revealed this is a manual process.

A motion was made by Mr. Sykes and seconded by Mr. Balla to approve the one (1) Service Pension Application True-up on the attached spreadsheet for the meeting date of June 15, 2023. The motion carried unanimously and the June Service Pension True-up was approved.

Disability Converting to Normal Retirement Applications

There was one (1) June Disability Converting to Normal Retirement Application to approve.

A motion was made by Mr. Sykes and seconded by Mr. Naftaniel to approve the Disability Converting to Normal Retirement Pension Application on the attached spreadsheet for the

meeting date of June 15, 2023. The motion carried unanimously and the June Disability Converting to Normal Retirement Pension Application was approved.

Beneficiary Pension Application

Ms. Shah presented one (1) Beneficiary Pension Application to the Committee for approval from the May package.

A motion was made by Mr. Sykes and seconded by Mr. Naftaniel to approve the one (1) Beneficiary Pension Application on the attached spreadsheet for the month of May 2023. The motion carried unanimously and the May Beneficiary Pension Application was approved

Lump Sum Applications

Ms. Shah presented three (3) Lump Sum Applications to be paid in May 2023 and two (2) Lump Sum Applications to be paid in June 2023 to the Committee for informational purposes.

Financial Statements

Ms. Shah presented the April 2023 unaudited financial statements prepared by SBA. Ms. Carr stated that contributions were consistent March to April. She also noted the variance in Investment Activity due to market volatility. Ms. Carr added that the last Deloitte payment was made in March so it is no longer showing under Administrative Expenses in April.

Invoices for Approval

Ms. Carr reviewed the invoices for May and June and noted there was nothing out of the ordinary for either month.

A motion was made by Mr. Sykes and seconded by Mr. Balla to approve the May 2023 invoices and the June 2023 invoices in the packet for the meeting date of June 15, 2023. The motion carried unanimously and the May and June invoices were approved.

With no further questions or discussion, the Administrative Managers' Report was concluded and accepted as informational.

V. ATTORNEYS' REPORT

Mr. Emerson provided an update on Senate Bill 26. The Bill had originally passed the State Senate, which then sent the Bill to the House of Representatives for approval. The House of Representatives amended the Bill and sent it back to the Senate for approval. However, the revised Bill did not get approved before the end of the legislative session and was therefore not sent to the Governor for signature. Accordingly, the Bill will not go into effect.

Mr. Dec did not have anything to report from the City Law Department.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Special Election for Retiree Representative

Ms. Shah stated that Larry Mahle has resigned his position as Retiree Representative on the Committee and therefore a special election will be held to replace his position. The election will take place in September so the new Committee member will be in place for the October meeting.

On-line Calculator Usage Report

Ms. Shah presented usage statistics for the on-line pension calculator for the Fire Fighters Plan. She noted that of the 888 employees in the active population, 303 have signed up to use the calculator. If the population with greater than 10 years of service is reviewed, 53% of that group has signed up to use the service. Chairman Hullender requested that SBA send out another email blast on how to access the calculator.

Plan Design Study Results

Ms. Shah stated that the results of the Plan Design Study have been given out in hard copy to Committee members.

Trustee School in September

Ms. Shah noted that the GAPPT Trustee School will be held in Athens, GA September 18 – 20. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ms. Pocock to be registered.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Plan Corrections / Buybacks

Ms. Shah presented a list of plan corrections that are in progress and gave details for each situation.

Deloitte Data Project – Open Questions (Mullins and Gresham)

Ms. Shah discussed two open questions from employees related to prior time in the 1990's. She also noted that SBA has about 20 – 30 other questions not resolved by the Deloitte project. Chairman Hullender stated that he believed the Deloitte project was going either fix all issues or give a list of assumptions that could be used for calculations going forward. Mr. Balla noted that the City may have to develop policies that can be used for cases where the data doesn't exist due to gaps in data. Chairman Hullender asked that Finance and HR sign off on any such policies.

VIII. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

There were no comments or questions from the audience at this time.

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IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on August 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall in Committee Room 2.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee at this time, the Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Derek "Brent" Hullender, Chairman

These Minutes were adopted on August 17, 2023.