

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND

A regular meeting of the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund (HFRRF) Board of Trustees convened at the Fund offices at 4225 Interwood North Parkway on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 10:20 a.m.

Trustees present were David L. Keller, Jr., (Chair), Stephen R. Whitehead (Vice Chair), Juliet N. Higgins, Earnest W. Wotring, Arif Rasheed, Albertino Mays and Carroll G. Robinson, . Board members absent were Francis "Frank" X. Maher (Secretary), Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., and Brett R. Besselman. Others present were staff members Ralph D. Marsh (Executive Director) Jonathan W. Needle (Chief Legal Officer) and Ajit Singh (Chief Investment Officer).

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence.

There was a motion by Arif Rasheed, seconded by Albertino Mays, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 as presented. The motion carried.

There was a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Albertino Mays, to approve the minutes of the special Board meeting held on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 as amended. The motion carried.

There was a motion by Juliet N. Higgins, seconded by Albertino Mays, to resolve that Thursday, July 20, 2017 be designated as the date of the regular Board meeting for the month of July 2017. The motion carried.

There was a motion by Albertino Mays, seconded by Stephen R. Whitehead, to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- a) Report of the Pension Benefits Committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.
- b) Minutes of the Investment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, Tuesday, May 16, 2017.
- c) Report of the Budget and Audit Committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017
- d) Minutes of the Legislative Committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.
- e) Approval of recommendation of the Budget and Audit Committee regarding use of Fund credit card.

The motion carried.

The Report of the Pension Benefits Committee held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 noted the following: Approval of 21 application(s) for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) to be effective June 1, 2017; approval of 4 application(s) for the Post Retirement Option Plan (PROP) to be effective June 1, 2017; Denial of an application for disability benefits under Section 6(c) of the statute based on the medical information in the applicant's file, including, but not limited to the Fund physician's report and the documents presented by the applicant's attorney; and, advisement by certified mail to 11 members and 3 beneficiaries of non-compliance in submission of previous year tax reports and of 45 days from receipt of certified letter of suspended payments beginning with July 2017 disbursement.

Claudia McInnis (Director of Finance and Administration) reviewed the March 31, 2017 Quarterly Financial Statements noting Fund plan net assets of US\$3.957B.

There was a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Juliet N. Higgins, for approval of the Fund's FY 18 Administration budget, as presented. The motion carried.

The Chair noted the presence of Ms. Barbara Hilburn, an attorney representing an applicant for a disability retirement in the applicant's appeal to the Board.

The Chair announced that the Board was going into closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071 to receive legal advice concerning an appeal of a Pension Benefits Committee determination

The Board went into closed session at 10:35 a.m.

The Board resumed open session at 11:01 a.m.

The Chair announced that the Board was going into closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.078 to review medical records of an applicant for a disability retirement in the applicant's appeal.

The Board went into closed session at 11:05 a.m.

The Board resumed open session at 12:23 p.m.

There was a motion by Juliet N. Higgins, seconded by Albertino Mays, to affirm the Pension Benefits Committee's denial of the application for disability benefits that had been appealed to the Board. The motion carried, with Carroll G. Robinson opposed.

There was a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Albertino Mays to take agenda item #11 "*Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems review*" out of order to discuss agenda item #12 "*Fund litigation against city relating to Senate Bill 2190 in the latest Texas legislature*". The motion carried.

The Chief Legal Officer discussed the Fund's litigation against the City of Houston relating to Senate Bill 2190 in the latest Texas legislature noting an upcoming hearing currently set in the District court of Harris County, Texas.

The Chief Legal Officer provided an update on the City's litigation against the Fund's former actuarial firm.

The Chair discussed the Fund's relationship with the Texas Association of Public Employees Retirement Systems ("TEXPERS") during the last Texas legislature. There was a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Juliet N. Higgins, authorizing the Board Chair and the Executive Director to engage the leadership of TEXPERS in discussion of the latest Texas legislative session. The motion carried, with Earnest W. Wotring and Carroll G. Robinson opposed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m., on a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Juliet N. Higgins. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Keller, Jr.
Chair