

## **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, May 16, 2017 at 12:03 p.m.

Trustees present were David L. Keller, Jr., (Chair), Stephen R. Whitehead (Vice Chair), Francis "Frank" X. Maher (Secretary), Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., Juliet N. Higgins, Brett R. Besselman, and Earnest W. Wotring. Board members absent were Arif Rasheed, Albertino Mays and Carroll G. Robinson. 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 12:03 p.m.

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

There was a motion by Juliet N. Higgins, seconded by Francis "Frank" X. Maher to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, as presented. The motion carried.

There was a motion by Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., 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, April 18, 2017.
- b) Minutes of the Investment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.
- c) Minutes of the Personnel and Procedures Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.
- d) Report of the Memorial Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.
- e) Minutes of the Legislative Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.
- f) Invitation extended to Tony Pierce to attend the National Pension Education Association (NPEA) Board meeting on May 19-22, 2017 in Denver, CO with expenses for lodging, and for air and ground travel to be paid by NPEA.

The motion carried.

The Report of the Pension Benefits Committee held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 noted the following: Approval of 11 application(s) for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) to be effective May 1, 2017; approval of 4 application(s) for the Post Retirement Option Plan (PROP) to be effective May 1, 2017; Approval of applications for reinstatement into the Fund; Approval of applications for membership into the Fund with a pension entrance date of April 6, 2017 noting members with exceptions concerning statutory provisions on pre-existing conditions;

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The Chair provided an update and discussed the status of bills in the Texas Legislature that seek to make changes to the City of Houston's public pension plans; specifically the status of CSSB 2190 by Senator Joan Huffman.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m., on a motion by Brett R. Besselman, seconded by Francis "Frank" X. Maher. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis "Frank" X. Maher  
Secretary