

NEW ORLEANS FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

Martin Gaal
Board President

Thomas F. Meagher, III
Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT:

**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Firefighters' Pension & Relief Fund**

TIME, DATE AND PLACE:

**August 11, 2021
2401 Westbend Parkway
Suite 3001
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

This meeting was held via zoom.

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Thomas Meagher, Martin Gaal, Stephen Roy, Branden Krsak, Norman White, Alcide Tervalon and Roman Nelson.

Also present:

Pam Meyer

Teresa Kehoe

Maria Cangemi, Board Attorney

Louis Robein, Board Attorney

Verick Dyer, active firefighter

Mark Porche, active firefighter

Terrance Morris, active firefighter

Kevin McCorkle, active firefighter

A quorum being present, the Board President called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Meagher noted that NCPERS will host a fall conference in Scottsdale AZ September 26-27, 2021. The Louisiana Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems (LAPERS) is also hosting a pension conference in New Orleans in September. He discussed the opportunity to gain education credits by attending each of these conferences. Members were encouraged to contact Paul Mitchell to reserve a room and conference registration.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to approve the attendance to the NCPERS conference and LAPERS conference for members and staff electing to do so.
Motion Passed. **NO OBJECTIONS**

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the July 2021 Regular Board minutes with corrections.
Motion passed. **NO OBJECTIONS**

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

James Spears, Joseph Thiriot, Dustin Wedge have requested a refund of contributions as they have resigned.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve the refund of contributions.
Motion passed. **NO OBJECTIONS**

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

Staff noted that Anthony Marino and Donald Courtade, Jr. have updated beneficiary forms.

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

None

REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:

None

PLOP APPROVALS

None

REVERSE DROP

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

Peter J. Manale: New Fund Fire Captain, age eligible, with 30 years of service is making an application to enter DROP effective September 1, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a DROP application which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has beyond 30 years of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Members:

Joshua Guidry, active member died on July 10, 2021, no widow and baby on the way.

Leon Cryer: died on July 4, 2021 at the age of 78, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on September 24, 1967 and retired on February 10, 1993 with 25 years of service. He spent 28 years on pension.

Frank J. Palisi, Jr.: died on July 18, 2021 at the age of 80, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on July 25, 1963 and retired on March 17, 1989 after 26 years of service. He spent 32 years on pension.

Widows:

Mrs. Elaine Brown died on July 12, 2021 at the age of 86. Her benefits began on November 1, 2020. She enjoyed pension benefits for 11 months.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to remove the members and widow from the rolls.
Motion passed.** **NO OBJECTIONS**

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Charlotte O. Alexis (Charles) is applying for a Line of Duty Death benefit effective July 1, 2021.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a line of duty death benefit effective July 1, 2021.
Motion passed.** **NO OBJECTIONS**

Mark Porche entered the meeting.

Mrs. Urselle Cryer (Leon) is applying for a Non Duty Death benefit effective August 1, 2021.

**MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve a regular death benefit effective July 1, 2021.
Motion passed.** **NO OBJECTIONS**

APPLICATIONS PENDING

None

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old system for June 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Office Building update: Mr. Meagher noted that the building ground breaking was well attended by City council members. He expects a slab to be poured within two weeks, weather permitting.

Election: Meagher noted that the ballots have been mailed to 827 retired members and 556 active members. Ballots are due in the office on August 25, 2021 before 8 pm. Ballots received in the mail after that time will not be counted. Ballots will be counted on August 26, 2021 by the election committee, but anyone is invited to attend the counting.

Kevin McCorkle entered the meeting.

Mr. Varrick Dyer, active member, inquired about additional financial information on the fund. Mr. Meagher noted that the Fund's website contains a vast amount of data, including audited financial reports, actuarial reports, minutes and agendas of past meetings, among other things. Meagher directed Mr. Dyer to the website and noted that he would be available to answer any additional questions for him following his review of the data on the website.

Mr. Dyer also inquired about the cost of the election, the mailing of the ballots, the election process, and election security. He expressed an interest in moving from a ballot driven election to a voting machine driven election in an effort to drive up participation in the election process. Meagher noted, among other things, that the ballots were mailed on Saturday August 7, 2021, that the election process for the 2021 election was already confirmed and adopted by the Board and he would welcome any changes to the process that would increase participation. Meagher noted that a response to specific questions raised by Mr. Dyer would be responded to in writing.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the election.

NEW BUSINESS

None

LEGAL:

Triche matter is delayed until October.

SEB matter is awaiting a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

TIMELY FILING OF APPLICATIONS:

All Members applying for retirement, DROP or PLOP must do so 45 days in advance of the scheduled retirement date. All medical documentation for disability applications must

be in the administrative office 45 days prior to the scheduled retirement date. Failure to comply with the Fund's rules will cause a delay in the Board taking action and will probably force an extension beyond the member's desired retirement date.

The administrative office will continue to process all paperwork in a friendly, orderly, and timely fashion. We thank all applying members for their continued cooperation. This will enable the Administrative Office and the Board of Trustees to perform their jobs more efficiently.

Members who have recently changed their address or marital status and have not updated their beneficiary form should do so. Please contact the Pension Office during the hours of 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for beneficiary verifications. Your cooperation is appreciated.

APPROVED BY Thomas J. Anagnost Date 10/13/2021