

MINUTES

GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY - JANUARY 6, 2014 - 3:30 PM

PRESENT

Vic Espinal
Larry Gordon
Councilwoman Barbara Kramer
Lori Helton – Chair

ALSO PRESENT

Larry Wilson, GRS
Darcee Siegel – City Attorney
Bob Sugarman – Sugarman & Suskind
Martin Lebowitz – Pension Administrator
Renaldo Gayle – Asst. Pension Administrator

ABSENT

Councilman Frantz Pierre

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Janice Coakley

Lori Helton called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M., followed by a roll call of Trustees by Martin Lebowitz.

1. VOTING RESULTS 2013-19

The results of the voting referendum conducted among the active members of the Plan seeking approval of the changes proposed by ordinance 2013-19 as required by the Plan were disclosed. The ballot had two items; Issue 1: the benefit changes and Issue 2: the deletion of the member approval requirements. Results were as follows:

- Ballot Issue 1: “FAILED” **159 (NO)** to **2 (YES)**
- Ballot Issue 2: “FAILED” **159 (NO)** to **2 (YES)**

2. ACTUARY’S NOTICE

Larry Wilson spoke of the cost of the new GASB accounting requirements as of October 31, 2013 for any pension plan issuing its own financial statements. There was no motion as Lori Helton said that this item is not on the agenda and should be placed on it for the next meeting to have further discussions and action.

3. ORDINANCE 2013-19 PENSION CHANGES

The highlights of Ordinance 2013-19 are as follows:

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1. Normal retirement eligibility is the earlier of (1) attainment of age sixty-six (66) with the six (6) years of service or (2) attainment of age fifty-nine (59) with thirty (30) years of service (future accruals after the effective date).
2. The benefit multiplier shall be 2% for credited service after the effective date.
3. Cost of living adjustment (COLA) will ad hoc to be determined by the City Council from time to time.
4. DROP – closed to new participants and any police dispatcher who has not attained age fifty-five (55) and twenty (20) years of credited service or age sixty-two (62).
5. No longer can purchase credited service for prior military or law enforcement services.

The foregoing provisions shall not apply to any member who is employed on the effective date and has attained age sixty-two (62) or has attained age fifty-five (55) and twenty (20) or more years of service.

Bob Sugarman stated that since the changes were not approved by members as required by the plan, it opens the board up to a lawsuit from members if we apply the changes. Vic Espinal then questioned the existence of a waiver letter that retirees will sign concerning the pending City lawsuit. Marty Lebowitz confirmed that it was drafted by Bob Sugarman and that the letter has been approved and in use.

Darcee Siegel responded that she does not believe the waiver letter should be used and held that it may not be binding.

After discussion, motion by Trustee Vic Espinal, seconded by Trustee Larry Gordon, to continue to administer the terms of the current Plan (disregarding the amending ordinance 2013-19) until such amendments are approved by 66 2/3% of the active members or a court rules that the City Council's amendments are valid and enforceable.

Roll Call:

Trustee Victor Espinal	Yes
Trustee Larry Gordon	Yes
Trustee Lori Helton	Yes
Trustee Barbara Kramer	No

Motion carried

If the hearing with the judge occurs between this meeting and the next, Robert Sugarman is requesting a shade meeting to discuss strategy of the lawsuit afterwards.

The next scheduled meeting is on February 20, 2014. Meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Renaldo Gayle, Asst. Pension Administrator