



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
FIRE LOCAL BOARD OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, April 10, 2025

North Corporation Yard
Anasazi Conference Room
9191 E San Salvador Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

- PRESENT:** Hugo Meraz, Chairperson/Mayoral Designee
Monica Boyd, Citizen Member
Steve Springborn, Elected Member
Todd Cavner, Elected Member (MS Teams)
- STAFF:** Autumn Asmus, PSPRS Local Board Secretary
Darlene Ganger, Sr. HR Benefits Analyst
- GUESTS:** Cindy Kelley, PSPRS Local Board Attorney (MS Teams)
James Harris, Firefighter

Call to Order

Chair Meraz called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Possible Executive Session

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire Pension Board
 - a. Regular Meeting: December 12, 2024

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2024, PUBLIC SAFETY LOCAL FIRE PENSION BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Approval of 2024 PSPRS Fire Local Board Annual Report

Autumn Asmus, PSPRS Local Board Secretary, presented the 2024 PSPRS Fire Local Board Annual Report.

Discussion ensued regarding adding information about the lawsuit with the City. It was agreed to add information about the ongoing lawsuit between the City of Scottsdale and the PSPRS Local Boards regarding Board Member term limits, including a notation about the increase in legal costs.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 PSPRS FIRE LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT, WITH THE ADDITION OF A NOTATION ABOUT THE ONGOING LAWSUIT. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. Discussion and possible action on the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Firefighter James Harris

Firefighter James Harris spoke about his accidental disability retirement application. He gave an overview of his prostate-specific antigen levels, noting they are not accurately depicted in the independent medical evaluation (IME) report. In reference to the question asking if the injury or condition totally prevents the employee from performing a reasonable range of duties, he explained that the concern is not about his ability to perform his job; it is about the increased risk he has to being affected by exposure to cancer-causing agents associated with the job.

He explained that the process for handling firefighters diagnosed with one of the presumptive cancers had not been established when he was first diagnosed. He talked about the process he went through, his experience trying to come back to work, and why he made the decision to retire early, noting that he was not given guidance and later realized that he should have applied for disability retirement instead of regular retirement. Board Members asked clarifying questions.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD FROM 9:14 A.M. TO 10:25 A.M.

Chair Meraz said that the Board has determined that the IME doctor did not provide the information that they were looking for and they would like to send Mr. Harris for another IME. They asked him to provide a detailed timeline from the time of his diagnosis, including all of his medical treatments, medical recommendations, his return to light duty, return to full duty, medical leave, basis for his decision to file for regular retirement earlier than anticipated, information on the risks of being re-exposed to carcinogens associated with the job, and basis for his decision to file for accidental disability retirement. The timeline and all medical records will be forwarded to the new IME doctor for review.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO TABLE FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION OF FIREFIGHTER JAMES HARRIS. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Induction of new City of Scottsdale Firefighters into PSPRS

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD FROM 10:32 A.M. TO 10:36 A.M.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE INDUCTION OF NEW CITY OF SCOTTSDALE FIREFIGHTERS TREVOR ALSHON, MARCELLA ANGLIM, MICHAEL ARROWSMITH, TYLER BLACKBURN, ANDREW BLASCOVICH, JOHN BRETSCHEIDER, MATTHEW BROOKS, GUNNAR BROWN, PORTER BRUCE, RYAN CASSANO, KYLE COLBY, LENARD CORNELIUS, ISSAK DURAN, DREW EDWARDS, ETHAN ELES, JASON GREENMAN, NICOLAS HERNANDEZ-FLORES, DOMANIC KEEGAN, DAWSON KILBARGER, ZACHARY LIRA, JOHN MALLEY, ISAIAH MARTIN, KURT MARTINEZ, TYLER MIHALEK, ZACHAREY MORGAN, DANIEL NAVARRO, MICHAEL PATTON, BRADLEY POWERS, NADRECE ROBINSON, JOHN ROMAN, KALEB SISEMORE, JOSHUA TAYRIEN, SEAN TODD, SPENCER VAUGHAN, TAVIAN WESLEY, AND BRANDON WRIGHT INTO PSPRS WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 13, 2025. THEY WILL BE INDUCTED WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS, IF ANY, AS NOTED ON THE LISTING THAT IS INCLUDED WITH THE BOARD PACKET INTO PSPRS. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Suggestions for upcoming agenda items

Future agenda items will include:

- Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Firefighter James Harris
- An update confirming that changes have been made to new hire forms

Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2024, PUBLIC SAFETY LOCAL FIRE PENSION BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. BOARD MEMBER CAVNER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BOYD, CAVNER, AND SPRINGBORN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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