



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
FIRE & POLICE LOCAL BOARDS OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS)
JOINT MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 12, 2026

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

PRESENT: Hugo Meraz, Chairperson/Mayoral Designee
Bob Bessen, Citizen Member
Monica Boyd, Citizen Member/Merit Head (MS Teams)
Matt Heeren, Elected Member
Steve Springborn, Elected Member (MS Teams)
Sasha Weller, Elected Member (MS Teams)

ABSENT: Rodger Paliwoda, Elected Member

STAFF: Millie Carlson, PSPRS Local Board Secretary
Darlene Ganger, Sr. HR Benefits Analyst

Call to Order

Chair Meraz called the meeting to order at 9:01 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. Review and approval of regular session meeting minutes – September 11, 2025

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, PSPRS FIRE AND POLICE JOINT LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER HEEREN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, BOYD, SPRINGBORN, HEEREN, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Review and approval of executive session meeting minutes – September 11, 2025

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, PSPRS FIRE AND POLICE JOINT LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER BOYD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, BOYD, SPRINGBORN, HEEREN, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. Discussion, review, and possible action for Local Board approval of member service purchases made while in DROP status

Board Members reviewed the document outlining Cindy Kelley's responses to the questions that were brought up during the February meeting regarding PSPRS members purchasing service during the time they were enrolled in the DROP. They implied that Ms. Kelley's response did not completely answer the questions that they had, and that they are interested in additional information regarding times that service members were allowed to purchase time. Board Member Weller opined that offering members the ability to purchase extra service time would offer them the opportunity to extend their DROP time, which could help with retention.

Board Member Springborn noted that the PSPRS language is intended to clarify that once a member enters the DROP, they do not continue to earn credited service or anything toward their pension. As he recalls, the case being referenced was related to a lawsuit that had been won by the members of the system. Discussion continued regarding PSPRS language regarding service purchases and how PSPRS refers questions to local boards and employers to place the responsibility for those decisions on the Local Board and the City. Board Members expressed interest in getting more information regarding the previous cases and in having Ms. Kelley present during meetings for the discussions.

BOARD MEMBER HEEREN MOVED TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, BOYD, SPRINGBORN, HEEREN, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD FROM 9:22 A.M. TO 9:36 A.M.

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION AND AGENDIZE FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE ADVICE PROVIDED BY MS. KELLEY FOR A JOINT LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER WELLER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN,

BOYD, SPRINGBORN, HEEREN, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Discussion and review of PSPRS member rehire and reinstatement guidelines

BOARD MEMBER WELLER MOVED TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD'S PURVIEW ON THIS TOPIC. BOARD MEMBER BESSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, BOYD, SPRINGBORN, HEEREN, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Discussion and review of citizen inquiry made during non-agendized public comment period of the City Council meeting held on January 13, 2026

Board Member Boyd mentioned that during a recent City Council meeting, a citizen commented with a general concern regarding Local Board members participating while on expired terms, resulting in lack of a quorum, and whether any decisions made during those meetings were official. It was clarified that actions taken during the period of time before the Board Member elections were certified to have met legal requirements for a quorum, because state law allows individuals to continue in their roles until there are new appointees or an election.

6. Mayoral Appointment of Local Board Chairperson and Merit Head

Board Member Boyd congratulated Chair Meraz on being reappointed to the position of Chair and Mayoral Designee. She noted that his new term will be from February 24, 2026, to February 24, 2030. She introduced new Board Member Bob Bessen.

7. Suggestions for upcoming agenda items

There were no suggestions for future meetings.

Adjournment

CHAIR MERAZ MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, BOYD, SPRINGBORN, HEEREN, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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