



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
POLICE LOCAL BOARD OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS)**

REGULAR 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, departed at 9:55 a.m.)
Matt Heeren, Elected Member

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 9:51 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 – February 12, 2026

BOARD MEMBER HEEREN MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2026, PSPRS POLICE LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER BESSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, BOYD, AND HEEREN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Discussion and vote on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Mark S. Ashton

BOARD MEMBER HEEREN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION OF POLICE OFFICER MARK S. ASHTON. BOARD MEMBER BESSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, BOYD, AND HEEREN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Board Member Heeren commented that the independent medical examiner in this case did a better job of articulating the information that was needed for review of this application than they had seen with other examiners.

Board Members reviewed and agreed upon answers to questions on the P5-PBA form.

3. Discussion and acknowledgement of new employment of retired Police Officer Jason J. Ponder in an ASRS position with City of Scottsdale

BOARD MEMBER HEEREN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICER JASON J. PONDER WITH THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE IN AN ASRS POSITION AND THAT HIS PENSION BENEFIT SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED. BOARD MEMBER BESSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED THREE (3) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN AND HEEREN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. BOARD MEMBER BOYD WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Induction of new City of Scottsdale Police Officers into PSPRS

BOARD MEMBER HEEREN MOVED TO APPROVE THE INDUCTION OF NEW SCOTTSDALE POLICE OFFICERS INTO PSPRS: RAYMOND SYLVESTER, ON FEBRUARY 22, 2026, AND BRANDON SCHULZ, ON MARCH 9, 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 BESSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED THREE (3) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN AND HEEREN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. BOARD MEMBER BOYD WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Board suggestions for upcoming agenda items

Darlene Ganger, Sr. HR Benefits Analyst, noted that the Police Local Board will not need to meet in April.

There were no future agenda items suggested.

Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER HEEREN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER BESSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED THREE (3) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN AND HEEREN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. BOARD MEMBER BOYD WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.