



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

Thursday, May 14, 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
Matt Heeren, Elected Member (MS Teams; departed at 10:23 a.m.)
Rodger Paliwoda, Elected Member (MS Teams)
Steve Springborn, Elected Member (departed at 10:03 a.m.)
Sasha Weller, Elected Member (MS Teams)

ABSENT: Monica Boyd, Citizen Member/Merit Head

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

GUESTS: Cindy Kelley, PSPRS Local Board Attorney

Call to Order

Chair Meraz called the meeting to order at 9:21 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 - March 12, 2026

BOARD MEMBER BESSEN MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 12 2026 PSPRS FIRE AND POLICE JOINT LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, HEEREN, PALIWODA, SPRINGBORN, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Review and approval of executive session meeting minutes - March 12, 2026

BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 12 2026 PSPRS FIRE AND POLICE JOINT LOCAL BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBER SPRINGBORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, HEEREN, PALIWODA, SPRINGBORN, 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 MEMBER SPRINGBORN MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. BOARD MEMBER BESSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, HEEREN, PALIWODA, SPRINGBORN, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD FROM 9:27 A.M. TO 10:15 A.M.

Chair Meraz suggested tabling the discussion in order to give Board Counsel time to reach out to PSPRS with some clarifying questions.

THE ITEM WAS TABLED.

4. Discussion, review, and possible action regarding extension of DROP for members who entered DROP upon legislative change

THE ITEM WAS TABLED.

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

THE ITEM WAS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION.

6. Discussion, review, and vote on possible action related to updating the Independent Medical Exam (IME) services cover letter

Chair Meraz explained that Board Member Springborn's letter is in response to his concern that some of the doctors are conducting exams more like a compensation exam than a fire examination where the line-of-duty requirements are a lot more stringent. Millie Carlson, PSPRS

Local Board Secretary, clarified that the documents in the Board packet include the standard letter used by the City, one that has been updated through Human Resources to include the firefighters' job description, and Board Member Springborn's letter. Darlene Ganger, Sr. HR Benefits Analyst, said that the updated letter includes the National Fire Protection Association essential tasks.

Board Members agreed that the discussion should be agendaized for the Fire Local Board meeting, because it is specific to their members.

7. New PSPRS STARS administration system launch update

Millie Carlson, PSPRS Local Board Secretary, provided an update on the launch of the new PSPRS STARS administration system. She mentioned that information from the previous system was directly transferred and still includes previous users and administrators that are no longer with the City. Staff is working to update the system with end dates for those employees. She said that an update was run on May 8th, which she hopes has fixed system issues. Once functioning properly, PSPRS members will be able to submit applications for retirement, disability requests, and service purchases through the portal.

8. Suggestions for upcoming agenda items

There were no suggestions for future meetings.

Adjournment

CHAIR MERAZ MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER BESSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MERAZ, BOARD MEMBERS BESSEN, PALIWODA, AND WELLER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. BOARD MEMBERS HEEREN AND SPRINGBORN WERE NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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