

NEW ORLEANS FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

Martin Gaal
Board President

Thomas F. Meagher, III
Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT:

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Firefighters' Pension & Relief Fund

TIME, DATE AND PLACE:

September 18, 2024
5710 General Haig Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124

This meeting was available via Webex.

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Thomas Meagher, Martin Gaal, Stephen Roy, Roman Nelson, and Krsak. Romy Samuel via Webex. Alcide Tervalon absent.

Also present:

Louis Robein, Board Attorney
Paul Mitchell
Pam Meyer

A quorum being present, the Board Secretary Treasurer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

NCPERS Public Safety Conference registration complete for members attending. Housing and travel arrangements are to be made by each member.

All disability recertifications have been received.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES

Meagher noted that the July 2024 minutes require approval. There was no August meeting due to lack of an agenda.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to accept the minutes of the July 2024 meeting.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Anthony J. Tadlock is applying for a refund of contributions. He has 2 years of service.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to approve the refund of contributions.

Motion approved.

NO OBJECTIONS

CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

None

DROP WITHDRAWAL

Armand Pitre, Jr. has elected to end his DROP due to retirement effective August 31, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to approve the DROP withdrawal for Mr. Pitre due to retirement.

Motion Passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

R.S. 11:3376 DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

Armand R. Pitre, Jr. New Fund Fire District Chief, age appropriate, with 32 years of creditable service is seeking a 50% Service-Connected Disability Pension effective September 18, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to approve a Service Connected Disability Pension application for Mr. Pitre effective at September 18, 2024, which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has 30 years or more of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Gordon Case, Jr. New Fund Fire Captain, age appropriate, with 34 years of creditable service is seeking a. 50% Service-Connected Disability Pension effective September 18, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Roy to approve a Service Connected Disability Pension application for Mr. Case effective September 18, 2024, which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for

the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has 30 years or more of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Alfred J. Schloegel, III New Fund Fire Operator, age appropriate, with 33 years of creditable service is seeking a 50% Service-Connected Disability Pension effective September 18, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Nelson and seconded by Meagher to approve a Service Connected Disability Pension application for Mr. Schloegel effective at September 18, 2024, which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has 30 years or more of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

REGULAR PENSION APPLICATIONS:

David S. Castle New Fund Fire Deputy Chief, age appropriate, with 32 years of creditable service is seeking a Regular Service Pension effective October 1, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Nelson and seconded by Meagher to approve a Regular Service Pension application for Mr. Castle effective at October 1, 2024, which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has 30 years or more of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Terry Hardy New Fund Fire Division Chief, age appropriate, with 32 years of creditable service is seeking a Regular Service Pension effective September 16, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Nelson and seconded by Meagher to approve a Regular Service Pension application for Mr. Hardy effective at September 16, 2024, which provides that

benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has 30 years or more of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

PLOP APPROVALS

None

REVERSE DROP

None

DROP APPLICATIONS

Fredrick H. Knecht, New Fund Fire District Chief, age appropriate with 30 years of service is applying to enter DROP effective July 1, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Krsak to approve the DROP application for Mr. Knecht effective July 1, 2024, which provides that benefits are calculated at 2 ½% of the member's average 60 month compensation for the first twelve years of service and all years of service until the member has reached 50 years of age; and 3 1/3% of his average 60 month pensionable compensation for all years of service and any portion of a year beyond 12 years of service and 50 years of age; If the member has 30 years or more of service the retirement benefit for each year or portion of a year shall be 3 1/3% of the average 60 month pensionable compensation up to 100% of pensionable salary.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

WIDOW'S APPLICATIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to the medical records associated with this application.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to come out of executive session.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Mrs. Caroline Perkins is applying for a Line of Duty widows benefit effective September 1, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Nelson to approve the Leine of duty application for Mrs. Perkins effective September 1, 2024.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS PENDING

None

REPORTS OF DEATHS

Members

Donald E. Perkins died on August 2, 2024 at the age of 88, leaving a widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 13, 1960 and retired on August 17, 1989 with 29 years of service. He spent 34 years on pension.

Eddie J. Mistic died on August 11, 2024 at the age of 79, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on July 7, 1967 and retired on December 28, 1988 with 21 years of service. He spent 35 years on pension.

Burnell Stewart died on July 9, 2024 at the age of 81, leaving no widow and no minor children. He entered the department on June 13, 1977 and retired on March 17, 1989 with 12 years of service. He spent 35 years on pension.

Widows:

Jo Ann Cousins died on August 3, 2024 at the age of 85. Her benefits began on February 1, 2018. She spent 6 years on pension.

Jewel K. Bailey died on August 8, 2024 at the age of 85. Her benefits began on May 1, 2013, 11 years ago.

MOTION: Moved by Gaal and seconded by Meagher to remove the deceased from the rolls.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Board members were provided with key financial revenue and disbursement figures for the New and Old Systems for July and August 2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEB payment history request: No update provided

Information for life insurance: No update provided

Louis Carrier – this member is requesting an appeal of the Board’s decision regarding his disability retirement application.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to the Carrier appeal.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to come out of executive session.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

Meagher noted that the Board scheduled the Carrier appeal. Committee members witnessed testimony from Mr. Carrier and received additional medical records from Mr. Carrier during the appeal. Those medical records were submitted to Dr. Lutz. Dr. Lutz reviewed the medical records and noted that his opinion regarding the disability applicate has not changed. The appeals committee agreed with Dr. Lutz’s opinion and the following motion was adopted by the Board.

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to deny the application for a line of duty disability for Mr. Carrier.

Motion passed

NO OBJECTIONS

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Appropriation

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to the 2025 appropriation.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

MOTION: Moved by Meagher and seconded by Gaal to come out of executive session.

Motion passed.

NO OBJECTIONS

LEGAL

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

TIMELY FILING OF APPLICATIONS:

All Members applying for retirement or PLOP must do so 45 days in advance of the scheduled retirement date. All medical documentation for disability applications must be in the administrative office 45 days prior to the scheduled retirement date. Failure to comply with the Fund's rules will cause a delay in the Board taking action and will probably force an extension beyond the member's desired retirement date.

The administrative office will continue to process all paperwork in a friendly, orderly, and timely fashion. We thank all applying members for their continued cooperation. This will enable the Administrative Office and the Board of Trustees to perform their jobs more efficiently.

Members who have recently changed their address or marital status and have not updated their beneficiary form should do so. Please contact the Pension Office during the hours of 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for beneficiary verifications. Your cooperation is appreciated.

APPROVED BY:



Date: 10/9/2024