

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CITY OF LANSING EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Regular Meeting
City Council Conference Room
10th Floor, City Hall
Lansing, MI

August 22, 2019
Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

The Board met in regular session and was called to order at 8:39 a.m.

Present: Bahr (8:54), Kraus, D Parker, M. Parker, Sanchez-Gazella, Washington – 6
Absent: Trustee Dedic, Kehler, Schor

Others: Karen E. Williams, Finance Department; Attorney Ken Lane, Clark Hill (representing the City Attorney's Office).

It was moved by Trustee Kraus and supported by Trustee Sanchez-Gazella to approve the Official Minutes of the Employees' Retirement System Board Regular Meeting of July 18, 2019.

Adopted by the following vote: 5 - 0

There were no public comments.

Secretary's Report. 7 new member(s), 0 reinstatement(s), 1 refund(s), 0 transfers, 2 retired. Total active membership: 461. Total deferred: 76. 1 death(s), Steven Hoard (retired 6/16/2012 – UAW), died 7/21/2019, age 63, no beneficiary. Refunds made since the last regular meeting amounted to \$0.00. Retirement allowances paid for the month of July 2019, amounted to \$1,907,657.89. Total retirement checks printed for the ERS System: 931. Total Retirement checks printed for both systems: 1687. Eligible domestic relations orders received: 0. Domestic relations orders pending: 0. Eligible domestic relations orders certified: 0.

It was moved by Trustee Mark Parker and supported by Trustee Sanchez-Gazella to approve the following requests for regular age & service retirements:

Michelle Cannon (District Court – Teamster 243), 31 years, 10 months of service credits, age 60, effective 9/9/2019.

Donald D. Johnson (Public Service – NonBargaining Supervisory), 25 years, 2 months of service credits, age 60, effective 8/17/2019.

Ronald Pierle (Finance – T243), 16 years, 1 month of service credits, age 58, effective 10/1/2019 (From Deferred)

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It was moved by Trustee Mark Parker and supported by Trustee Sanchez-Gazella to approve the following requests for regular age & service retirements:

Janice Wildermuth (Public Service – UAW), 25 years of service credits, age 57, effective 9/15/2019 with the purchase of 4 months of universal service credits.

Adopted by the following vote: 5 - 0

There were no requests for duty disability retirements.

There were request for non-duty disability retirements.

Karen Williams reported that Mr. Richard Wernecke, Police (Detention), not vested, had requested his accumulated contributions of \$7,140.37.

It was moved Trustee Mark Parker and supported by Trustee Kraus to approve the following Request for Refund of Accumulated Contribution:

Richard C. Wernecke, Police (Detention), not vested, \$7,140.37

Adopted by the following vote: 5 -0.

Karen Williams explained the Trustee Kehler and Trustee Schor were ex-officio and did not need to be excused from the meeting. Trustee Dennis Parker stated that he was contacted by Trustee Dedic requested to be excused from the August meeting. Trustee Dennis Parker noted that Trustee Bahr was on his way to the meeting.

It was moved by Trustee Washington and supported by Trustee Mark Parker to excuse Trustee Dedic and Trustee Bahr from the August meeting.

Adopted by the following vote: 5 – 0.

Karen Williams reminded members of the upcoming MAPERS Fall Conference, the International Federation of Education, Benefit Plans (I.F.E.B.P.) Annual Conference.

It was moved by Trustee Mark Parker and supported by Trustee Kraus to allow any member who wished to attend the IFEBP Annual Conference.

Adopted by the following vote: 5-0

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda..

Attorney Ken Lane provided an update of the Employees Retirement System Ordinance. He stated that he would have a draft of the Ordinance next month for review.

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Attorney Lane distributed copies of the updated Frequent Asked Question Document.

Attorney Lane distributed an opinion regarding the ability for Michael Grys to use the Reciprocal Retirement Act. Attorney Lane discussed that Mr. Grys had worked for the City for over 20 years and was age 52. Attorney Lane verified with Ionia County that he was in the county's pension system when he worked there for seven years. Attorney Lane discussed Section 5 of the Reciprocal Retirement Act that would allow Mr. Grys to use the seven years accrued at Ionia County to retire from the City of Lansing.

The Employees Retirement System Board requested that Mr. Grys be provided a copy of the legal opinion.

It was moved by Trustee Mark Parker and supported by Trustee Kraus to approve the Legal Counsel opinion regarding the Reciprocal Retirement Act.

Adopted by the following vote: 6 - 0

Attorney Lane stated that the legal opinion regarding the reciprocal retirement act did not change anything for Mr. Mooney. Attorney Lane opined that Mr. Mooney cannot use Grand Rapids time to get a pension from the City of Lansing. Attorney Lane explained that Mr. Mooney was told by the City that if he ever wanted to use the Reciprocal Retirement Act, he was required to repay his contributions. Attorney Lane stated that information was not accurate.

Trustee Mark Parker recommended the Employees Retirement System return Mr. Mooney's accumulated contributions because he was given bad advice by the City.

Trustee Kraus expressed concern regarding the length of time before Mr. Mooney made his request for a return of contributions from the City of Lansing.

Trustee Washington inquired if there were documents that the City told Mr. Mooney that he needed to repay contributions to the City.

Attorney Lane verified that there was a letter provided to Mr. Mooney that told him to repay his contributions if he wished to use the Reciprocal Retirement Act.

It was moved by Trustee Mark Parker and supported by Trustee Bahr Attorney Lane stated the opinion has to approve the return of Mr. Mooney's accumulated contributions, upon receipt of his requests on the appropriate Board form.

Adopted by the following vote: 6 - 0

Ms. Williams presented Quarterly Cash Flow Report and the Securities Lending Report for the month of July 2019.

It was moved by Trustee Mark Parker and supported by Trustee Kraus to adjourn the Employees Retirement System Board August meeting.

Adopted by the following vote: 6 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Minutes approved on _____

Angela Bennett, Secretary
Employees Retirement System

Dennis R. Parker, Chairperson
Employees' Retirement System