



**PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CITY OF SURPRISE LOCAL BOARD – FIRE**
Minutes, Wednesday, July 15, 2020
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374

The following are the minutes from the PSPRS City of Surprise Fire Board Meeting held at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2020. The meeting was held in City Hall, Council Chambers. Due to COVID-19, the public was able to stream meeting live.

A. Call To Order

Chair Hall called meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

B. Roll Call: Skip Hall, Chairperson – Present
Chandler Brown, Citizen Board Member – Present
James Conner, Citizen Board Member - Present
Christopher Preest, Fire Department – Present
Rick Valdez, Fire Department – Present

In attendance: Connie Welsch, Human Resources Manager
Carrie O'Brien, Board Attorney (*conference bridge*)
Eric Boyles, Procurement Manager (*conference bridge*)
Ariana Reyna, Sr. Human Resources Analyst

C. Pledge of Allegiance – Completed

D. Current Events Reports - None

E. Staff Reports – PSPRS Board Secretary stated that there are two reappointments for the PSPRS Fire Local Board: Rick Valdez and James Conner.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-847, a secret ballot election took place to fill the Fire vacancy for the local board. Linda Stevens, City of Surprise Deputy City Clerk, assisted with the tabulation of ballots for vacancy. She certified that the count produced by PSPRS Board Secretary was true and correct. Rick Valdez was re-elected for a 4-year term effective 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2024.

James Conner went through the reappointment process as set forth by the City of Surprise City Clerk's office. He was presented by the Nominations Committee to City Council during the June 16, 2020 meeting and he was approved to be reappointed with the PSPRS Fire Board with a term of 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2024

F. Call to the Public – None



Regular Agenda:

- 1. Considerations and Actions pertaining to the review and approval of the April 8, 2020 PSPRS Local Fire Board Meeting Minutes - APPROVED**

Motion to Approve: Jim Conner

Second: Chandler Brown

Opposed: None

- 2. Consideration and possible action on previously approved DROP application for Fire Engineer George Reitz to adjust credited years of service to reflect 25.001 – APPROVED**

PSPRS Board Secretary provided background information as follows: PSPRS notified the City of Surprise of a missed pay period in the contribution history for Fire Engineer George Reitz. Human Resources corroborated this information by pulling historical payroll records. This resulted in a reduction in his previously approved credited years of service of 25.039, which had been approved during the PSPRS Local Fire Board meeting in 03/11/2020.

With the correction made including one (1) pay period of leave without pay, his credited years of service accurately reflect at 25.001. George Reitz was notified of the correction and new forms were signed and sent to PSPRS for processing.

Motion to Approve: Chandler Brown

Second: Christopher Preest

Opposed: None

- 3. Considerations and possible action pertaining to the enrollment of Fire Battalion Chief Wade L. Rodgers into the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) effective 9/20/2020 – APPROVED**

The PSPRS Board Secretary provided background information as follows: Battalion Chief Wade L. Rodgers filled out a DROP application and submitted all documentation as required by PSPRS. As of 09/20/2020, BC Rodgers is eligible to enter the DROP with an accumulated 25.153 years of service, all with the City of Surprise. BC Rodgers has designated a 60-month period to participate in DROP, which establishes his separation date from employment on or before 09/30/2025.

Motion to Approve: Christopher Preest

Second: Chandler Brown

Opposed: None



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4. Consideration and possible action to approve the selection panel to review responses of RFQ for Independent Legal Counsel – APPROVED

Chair Skip Hall addressed the Board asking if Chandler Brown and Rick Valdez would agree to be the selection panel to review responses for the RFQ; both members agreed.

Motion to Approve: James Conner

Second: Christopher Preest

Opposed: None

The PSPRS Board Secretary asked Eric Boyles to provide an update on the RFQ process for the Board. Eric Boyles stated that he sent out the request for solicitations and these were due the week prior to this meeting. Out of the six solicitations that were sent out, three were received. Two of the firms advised that they had a conflict of interest and one of the firms was based out of Tucson and didn't have an office locally.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items – Carrie O'Brien asked if the Board wanted a summary on the Arizona Supreme Court upholding lower court rulings that prohibit accrued leave vacation payouts to be counted as salary and wages for pension benefits (pension spiking). It was confirmed that the City of Surprise does exclude all Paid Time Off (PTO) Payouts from PSPRS calculations. Christopher Preest requested for this to be presented in the August meeting.

G. Executive Session – None.

H. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 a.m. – APPROVED

Motion: Chandler Brown

Second: Rick Valdez

Opposed: None

Meeting Minutes Approval:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Hall", is written over a horizontal line.

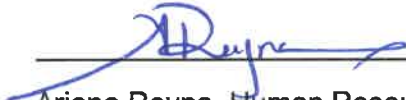
Skip Hall, Chair



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CERTIFICATION:

I, Ariana Reyna, Sr. Human Resources Analyst – ADA & Leaves for the City of Surprise, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are true and correct minutes of the PSPRS Local Fire Board Meeting of **Wednesday, July 15, 2020**.



Ariana Reyna, Human Resources