



**PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CITY OF SURPRISE LOCAL BOARD – POLICE**
Minutes, Wednesday, September 9, 2020
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374

The following are the minutes from the PSPRS City of Surprise Police Board Meeting held at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 9, 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 9:30 a.m.

B. Roll Call:

Skip Hall, Chairperson – Present
Chandler Brown, Citizen Board Member – Present
James Conner, Citizen Board Member - Present
Severin Hall, Police Department – Present
Ian Murton, Police Department – Present

In attendance:

Connie Welsch, Human Resources Manager
Cynthia Kelley, Board Attorney
Lesli Sorensen, Board Attorney
Ariana Reyna, PSPRS Board Secretary

C. Pledge of Allegiance – Completed

D. Current Events Reports - None

E. Staff Reports – None

F. Call to the Public – None

Consent Agenda:

- 1. Considerations and possible action pertaining to the review and approval of the August 12, 2020 PSPRS Local Police Board Executive Session Meeting Minutes - APPROVED**

Motion to Approve: Ian Murton

Second: Chandler Brown

Opposed: None

- 2. Considerations and possible action pertaining to the review and approval of the August 12, 2020 PSPRS Local Police Board Meeting Minutes - APPROVED**



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Motion to Approve: James Conner
Second: Ian Murton
Opposed: None

Regular Agenda:

- 3. Consideration and possible action pertaining to the review of medical examination and the acceptance of two (2) new police officers (recruits): George Sharmar and Ariel Tejada into the PSPRS system pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-859 – APPROVED (correction: first name Sharmar and last name George)**

The Board Secretary provided the following background information: Police Officer recruits Sharmar George and Ariel Tejada have been hired with the Surprise Police Department effective 08/24/2020. During new hire orientation with Human Resources, they were informed of their Tier 3 status and 90-day waiting period before contributing into the PSPRS system. Police Officer recruits have been notified of the Board's review of medical records today.

Motion to Approve: Ian Murton
- Sharmar George **WITH** pre-existing condition(s) as discussed and agreed by the Board.
Second: Chandler Brown
Opposed: None

Motion to Approve: Chandler Brown
- Ariel Tejada **WITHOUT** pre-existing condition(s) as discussed and agreed by the Board.
Second: Severin Hall
Opposed: None

- 4. Consideration and possible action pertaining to the enrollment of Police Lieutenant Norman E. Owens into the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) effective 09/20/2020 – APPROVED**

The Board Secretary provided the following background information: Police Lieutenant Norman E. Owens filled out a DROP application and submitted all documentation as required by PSPRS. As of 09/20/2020, Lt. Owens is eligible to enter the DROP with an accumulated 25.179 years of service; 19.253 years with the City of Surprise, 2 years with the US Army, and 3.926 with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Lt. Owens has designated a 60-month period to participate in DROP, which establishes his separation date from employment on or before 09/30/2025.



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Motion: Ian Murton
Second: Severin Hall
Opposed: None

5. Possible action to enter Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding the reevaluation process for accidental disability recipients pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-844(E) – APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT

Motion: James Conner
Second: Ian Murton
Opposed: None

The Board Secretary stated that the Board received a call to the public inquiry during the 8/12/2020 meeting to change verbiage from “accidental disability retirement” to show “accidental disability pension” instead. The Board tabled the decision to approve process and criteria. The Board contemplated going into Executive Session but decided to receive legal advice during public meeting to which Lesli Sorensen reminded the Board that by doing so, attorney-client privileges would be broken and waived.

Chandler Brown asked if there was any legal differential between “retirement” and “pension” as it relates to PSPRS. Lesli Sorensen stated that statutes refer to pension throughout Title 38. In her opinion, it seems appropriate to refer to it as pension instead of retirement even though colloquially we are used to referring to it as retirement but under statute, this is referred to as a disability pension.

G. Other Business and Future Agenda Items – Consideration of implementing a form similar to what the Fire Department is using for the Board to be able and clearly evaluate pre-existing condition(s) for Police Recruit(s). Severin Hall stated that there was a previous inquiry sent to the department a few months back asking to consider such form but the department did not like it. However, if it comes as a direct request from the Board, the department could implement this in the recruitment process.

H. Executive Session

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:40 a.m. – APPROVED

Motion: Severin Hall
Second: Ian Murton
Opposed: None



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Meeting Minutes Approval:

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

Skip Hall, Chair

CERTIFICATION:

I, Ariana Reyna, Sr. Human Resources Analyst – ADA & Leaves and PSPRS Board Secretary for the City of Surprise, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are true and correct minutes of the PSPRS Local Police Board Meeting of **Wednesday, September 9, 2020.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Reyna", is written over a horizontal line.

Ariana Reyna, PSPRS Board Secretary