

City of Gulfport Firefighters' Retirement Pension Fund
Minutes: Meeting of October 19, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Rene Fernandez called a meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Gulfport Firefighters' Retirement Pension Fund to order at 1:03 PM.

Those persons present included:

TRUSTEES

David Kanter, Secretary
Mitchell Carney
Rene Fernandez
Don Howard

OTHERS

Scott Christiansen, Christiansen & Dehner (Attorney)
Dale Everhart, Resource Centers (Administrator)
Jennifer Gainfort, AndCo Consulting (Consultant)

2. APPROVAL MINUTES: August 31, 2023

The Trustees reviewed the minutes of the August 31, 2023 meeting.

Rene Fernandez made a motion to approve the August 31, 2023 minutes. Don Howard seconded the motion, approved by the Trustees 3-0.

David Kanter joined the meeting at 2:38pm.

3. REPORTS

A. Investment Report

1) Dana Investment Advisors Presentation (Gregory Peters, Vice President)

Gregory Peters stated that the Fed has indicated that there may be the need for one additional rate hike. There is an expectation that the Fed may return to a neutral policy in late 2025. Inflation is improving steadily. Market breadth should continue to improve as recession fears decline and earnings improve.

Mr. Peters indicated that equity markets were lower for the quarter ending 9-30-23. Value stocks lagged growth. The S&P 500 returned -3.1% for the quarter, and 21.6% for the last year. In the S&P 500 Index for the previous quarter, energy and communications were the best performing sectors, while materials, consumer discretionary, industrials, information technology, consumer staples, real estate, and utilities trailed the Index.

Mr. Peters indicated that Dana focuses on Price/Cash Flow which allows management to invest in R&D, buyback shares, and pay dividends. Dana seeks to pay lower multiples for growth, and positions to invest when valuations become rational.

2) Quarterly Report (Jennifer Gainfort, AndCo. Consulting)

Jennifer Gainfort indicated that investment performance was good for the just concluded fiscal year, although there was a pullback in the quarter ending September 30, 2023.

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The market value of the Fund was \$6,301,033 as of September 30, 2023. The Fund's income and depreciation for the quarter totaled \$-240,125. Total fund gross return for the quarter ending June 30, 2023 was -3.66% vs the total fund gross policy return of -2.97%. Fiscal year to date, the fund gross return was 12.02%, and the fund policy return was 12.09%. For the quarter, total equities returned -4.52% vs the policy return of 3.35%. Fiscal year to date, total equities returned 18.40% compared to the policy return of 12.09%. A Large Cap Equity Manager Review will be presented and discussed at the January, 2024 Board meeting. The gross fixed income return for the quarter was -2.50% compared to the policy return of -3.29%. The fiscal year return for fixed income was 3.69%, with the policy return being 0.83%. The real estate return for the quarter was -2.22% compared to the policy return of approximately -2.00%.

B. Attorney Report (Scott Christiansen, Christiansen & Dehner)

Mr. Christiansen inquired as to the status of the FY 2022-23 administrative expense report, and Dale Everhart stated that it would be presented at the January, 2024 Board meeting.

Mr. Christiansen directed that a letter and report be sent to the City of Gulfport detailing investment activity as of September 30, 2023.

Mr. Christiansen informed the Board of a meeting of several public pension plan attorneys and an official of the State with the purpose of creating a reporting document to comply with legislation enacted earlier this year prohibiting consideration of environmental, social, and governance factors in investing. There is a reporting requirement which the proposed document addresses. Mr. Christiansen will continue to monitor the matter and ensure plan compliance.

Mr. Christiansen presented an addendum and assignment document concerning the Board's existing agreement with Salem Trust.

Don Howard made a motion to approve the Salem addendum and assignment document, and to authorize the Board Chair and Secretary to sign this document. Mitchell Carney seconded the motion, approved by the Board 4-0.

Mr. Christiansen informed the Board that Ordinance 2023-13 was adopted by City Council on October 17, 2023.

Mr. Christiansen discussed the amended Summary Plan Description.

Mitchell Carney made a motion to approve the new Summary Plan Description as presented. The motion was seconded by David Kanter, approved by the Trustees 4-0.

Mr. Christiansen directed Plan Administrator Dale Everhart to ensure distribution of the document to active plan members.

Mr. Christiansen informed the Board that there was now an established form for use by active members wanting to exercise their right to purchase prior military or qualifying governmental service via payroll deductions.

Mr. Christiansen requested consideration by the Board of an updating of the Board's Operating Rules and Procedures.

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Don Howard made a motion to authorize plan counsel to update the Operating Rules and Procedures for the Gulfport Firefighters' Retirement Pension Fund. David Kanter seconded the motion, approved by the Trustees 4-0.

C. Administrator Report (Dale Everhart, Resource Centers)

Mr. Everhart informed the Board members of the option to renew their membership in the Florida Pension Plan Trustees Association for 2024. Membership is necessary to attend educational seminars.

David Kanter made a motion to approve renewal of membership in the FPPTA. Don Howard seconded the motion, approved by the Trustees 4-0.

Mr. Everhart also directed the Board's attention to a 2024 schedule of pension conferences. He reminded the Board of the requirement to attend an educational investment event at least once in each term.

Dale Everhart noted that the receipt of the 2022 Premium Tax supplemental distribution amount, totaling \$48,760.72.

4. Plan Financials

A. Warrant Dated October 19, 2023

The Trustees reviewed the disbursements for payment of invoices contained in the Warrant dated October 19, 2023.

Rene Fernandez made a motion to approve the Warrant dated October 19, 2023 for payment of invoices. David Kanter seconded the motion, approved by the Trustees 4-0.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

David Kanter discussed the allowable options for retiring members of the plan. He requested that he be provided with redacted estimate forms. Dale Everhart stated that he would provide the requested documents.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. SCHEDULED NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Trustees scheduled their next regular quarterly meeting for Thursday January 18, 2024 at 2:30 pm.

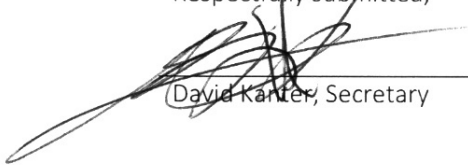
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8. ADJOURNMENT

Mitchell Carney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Howard seconded the motion, approved by the Trustees 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Kanter, Secretary