

*MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING FOR THE COLUMBUS GEORGIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
RETIREMENT SYSTEMS PENSION AND BENEFIT TRUST FUND*

February 14, 2024

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Mayor, Skip Henderson, Chairman; City Manager, Isaiah Hugley, Vice Chairman; Finance Director, Angelica Alexander, Secretary; Ricky Boren, Trustee; Roderick Graham, Trustee; Lisa Goodwin, Trustee; Fray McCormick, Trustee; and Dusty Wilson, Trustee

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Jack Warden, Trustee; and Elizabeth Cook, Trustee

TRUSTEES ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: None

OTHERS ATTENDING IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY:

Pamela Hodge, DCM Finance, Planning & Development; Lucy Sheftall, Assistant City Attorney; Denise Brown, Investment Officer; Reather Hollowell, Human Resources Director; Cynthia Holliman, Senior Pension Plans Administrator; Gwen Ruff, Columbus Water Works Representative; Carl Robertson, Columbus Water Works Representative; and Glen Arrington, Recording Secretary

ADVISORS:

Richard Swift, Raymond James

GUESTS:

Chuck Carr, Southern Actuarial Services

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor, Skip Henderson, called the February 14, 2024, meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Georgia Public Employee Retirement Systems Pension and Benefit Trust Fund to order.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the January, 2024, regular Pension Board Meeting were submitted for approval. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lisa Goodwin. Fray McCormick seconded the motion. The board voted, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT PRESENTATION

Finance Director, Angelica Alexander, introduced Chuck Carr to present the actuarial reports for the plan as of July 1, 2022. Mr. Carr is the Consulting Actuary of Southern Actuarial Services Company, Inc. He provides us with what our annual contributions are for the various pension plans that the city has. The city has four pension plans that it funds with employer and employee contributions. At the last pension board meeting, it was decided not to receive

Minutes other than summary minutes will be released on a delayed schedule to protect the release of information made confidential by Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 47-1-14(c) and (d).

the binders, but copies were made available to members on request. A copy of the page that talks about the employer contributions for the next year in terms of the funding was presented and explained by Mr. Carr.

Mr. Carr presented the actuarial valuations and gave a general overview of the actuarial reports for all four of the plans (General Government, Public Safety, Death Benefit and Disability.) All four of the valuations were used data effective July 1, 2023. They were used to determine his recommended required contribution from the city for the 24-25 fiscal year.

Mr. Carr stated that he did not make, nor did he recommend any assumption changes for this year. When he feels that it is warranted, he does recommend changes in assumptions. In the recent past, he has recommended changes to the mortality tables which have been implemented. The most important assumption aside from the mortality table is the assumed rate of return. The plan is still using a 7% rate, which Mr. Carr explained his option that this is still a pretty reasonable expectation for returns over the long term.

The only plan change that affected the year studied was the COLA that was effective January 1, 2023. A detailed discussion of the conclusions reached by the study for each of the four plans followed.

After the presentation of the report for each plan was complete and a further discussion, Fray McCormick made a motion to accept all four actuarial reports (General Government, Public Safety, Death, and Disability Plans) which will be the basis of the recommendation for council. Lisa Goodwin seconded the motion. The board voted and it was unanimously approved.

INVESTMENT UPDATE

a. Performance Review

Richard Swift presented the performance report for the month of January 2024. The report was good. The total fund over the past year is up at 10.68%. Plan assets were at \$605 Million at the end of the month and about \$608 Million on the date of the meeting. With returns for the fiscal year to date column at 6.5%, Mr. Swift stated he is hoping to finish the fiscal year at 7% or more.

Reporting the performance of various managers followed. Funds that are performing well are Parnassus Equity LLC, William Blair LCG, Blackrock LCV, Boston Partners / Robeco, John Hancock Small Cap, Causeway Capital Intl, Allianz Short Duration Hi Yield ASHPX, Prudential Total Return Bond Fund, and AEW Real Estate. Funds that are slightly behind or underperforming are Madison Investment Advisors LLC, Janus Henderson LCG, Capital Group Intl Equity, International Equity ETF, Westend Global Balanced, and Global Inc FI. All other funds are in line.

Mr. Swift gave more information regarding the managers and gave a comparison of their performance in relation to others in that area. He also discussed some managers that he has been monitoring for a few months due to underperformance. He then opened for discussion.

b. Asset Allocation

Mr. Swift then reviewed the asset allocation of the Pension fund. We are in line with the investment policy in all categories. He did not recommend any changes at this time. The

current asset allocation 63.5% in equities and 36.5% in fixed income, which Mr. Swift feels is a good spot to be in. He then opened for discussion.

Mr. Swift told the board that next month we will have Larry Adams, a strategist with Raymond James, present a continuing education on capital markets.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Roderick Graham brought questions to the board regarding the DROP program. Currently, the DROP plan has a three-year program with a three-year extension. His question was what the effect would be if the DROP plan had an option to be four years with no extension. After some discussion, it was decided that a subcommittee would be formed to discuss this in more detail.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for this meeting.

ADJOURN

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson declared the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2024, at 2:00 PM in the Information Technology Classroom.

Glendora Arrington
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Recording Secretary