

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

August 16, 2023

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Mayor, Skip Henderson, Chairman; Finance Director, Angelica Alexander, Secretary; Ricky Boren, Trustee; Jack Warden, Trustee; Elizabeth Cook, Trustee; and Dusty Wilson, Trustee

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

City Manager, Isaiah Hugley, Vice Chairman; Roderick Graham, Trustee; Lisa Goodwin, Trustee; Fray McCormick, Trustee; and Crystal Shahid, Trustee

TRUSTEES ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: None

OTHERS ATTENDING IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY:

Lucy Sheftall, Assistant City Attorney; Reather Hollowell, Human Resources Director; Gwen Ruff, Columbus Water Works Representative; and Glen Arrington, Recording Secretary

ADVISORS:

Richard Swift, Raymond James

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor, Skip Henderson, called the August 16, 2023, 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 June 21, 2023, regular Pension Board Meeting were submitted for approval. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Elizabeth Cook. Ricky Boren seconded the motion. The board voted, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

INVESTMENT UPDATE

a. Performance Review

Richard Swift presented the performance report for the month ending July 2023. Since there was no July meeting, he also reported that the Fund ended the year well ahead of the actuarial assumption and ahead of the index. June was a good month which allowed a strong finish for the fiscal year end. For the 12 months ending July 31, the total fund was up 8.57% versus the index up 7.10%.

Reporting of the performance of various Managers followed. Funds that are performing well are Parnassus Equity LCC, William Blair LCG, Boston Partners / Robeco, John Hancock Small Cap, Causeway Capital Intl, Karpus Investment FI, Federated Investment Core Plans, Madison Investment Advisors FI, Prudential Total Return Bond, and AEW Real Estate. Funds that are

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).

slightly behind or underperforming are International Equity ETF, and Westend Global Balanced Total Return Bond Fund. All other funds are in line.

b. Asset Allocation

Mr. Swift then reviewed the asset allocation of the Pension fund. The fixed income managers are doing well relative to the benchmark, but relative to the other equity managers, they have had a difficult year. The fund is in line with the investment policy in all categories. The fund is also in line with our IPS ranges. Mr. Swift ran asset allocation numbers before the meeting and the fund is at 64.8% in equity and 35.2% in fixed income. The investment policy allows up to 65% percent equity, we are just under that amount. He recommended no changes.

Mr. Swift opened for discussion and the board agreed with no changes.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

OTHER BUSINESS

Reather Hollowell, Human Resources Director, presented an item concerning domestic relations orders and their impact on a retiree's pension which she and Lucy Sheftall had previously shared with the Mayor and City Manager to the board for discussion.

The matter involved a retiree who retired in October of 2022. He began receiving his pension from the city. Some time later, his ex-wife presented court documents to our pension plan administrator. Although the document that the ex-wife presented was not a formal QDRO and was not clear in terms of what the ex-spouse was entitled to. This caused HR to consult with Lucy and our outside pension attorneys about QDROs in general.

Currently, the city is honoring nine QDROs. These nine have come over a period of time and are in effect right now. Although there is an incidental reference to QUADROS's in the current plan, it does not expressly allow for these QDROs, but they have been honored.

Lucy Sheftall inserted that there is a passing mention of QDROs, but not only does it not specifically allow them, there's another provision which is called a non-alienation provision, which basically says you can't give pension benefits to anyone but the member or his eligible spouse who is defined as the spouse in the last 12 months.

The topic opened for discussion among the members of the board. After discussion, it was recommended that a motion should be made to make a plan amendment to clarify and state for certain that QDROs will not be honored going forward. Elizabeth Cook made a motion to prepare an appropriate amendment to appropriately document that this plan is not subject to Qualified Domestic Relation Orders (QDRO) order. It was seconded by Dusty Wilson. The board voted and it was unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

With there being no further business to discuss, Dusty Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jack Warden. With there being no objections, Mayor Henderson declared the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the Ground Floor Conference Room.

Glendora Arrington

Glendora Arrington
Recording Secretary