

THE CITY OF DALTON
EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN – BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the City of Dalton Employees' Pension Plan was held this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. Present for the meeting were Chairman Mike Sloan, Trustees Gary Hill, Vernon Ray, Jerome Key, Mayor Annalee Sams, Council member Dennis Mock, Water, Light & Sinking Fund Commission Chairman Joe Yarbrough and City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion of Trustee Mock, second Trustee Sams, the Board approved the agenda. The vote was unanimous in favor.

MINUTES

The Trustees were presented written copies of the meeting minutes of July 22, 2025. On the motion of Trustee Mock, second Trustee Sams, the minutes were approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

SEAS MERGER WITH MARINER

Hilda Thompson from SEAS announced that Mariner Corporation, a large firm based in Kansas City with \$420 billion under advisement, has acquired Southeastern Advisory Services, effective October 1st. Thompson stated the entire Southeastern team, including Thompson and analysts, will transition to Mariner, ensuring no disruption in service. Thompson further stated the reporting format will remain the same, with only the cover sheet changing to reflect the Mariner name. And Thompson stated Mariner has agreed to honor all existing contracts, including the one recently signed with the City.

ANNUAL ACTUARY VALUATION FEE INCREASE

SOUTHERN ACTUARIAL SERVICES

Chairman Sloan informed the Board the City has not received a fee increase from its actuary since 2013, when the annual valuation fee was set at \$15,000. Sloan reported a proposed increase to \$20,000, effective January 1, 2026, should be considered. Sloan further stated this represents a \$5,000 increase over 12 years, which equates to less than 2% annual inflation.

Ms. Thompson agreed the increase is reasonable, especially given the actuary's consistent performance and responsiveness. Further noting the plan is now valued at \$167 million and is closed, which adds complexity. On the motion of Trustee Mock, second Trustee Sams, the increase was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – August 31, 2025

Hilda Thompson from SEAS reviewed the Monthly Performance Report as of August 31, 2025. Thompson provided an update on the investment portfolio, referencing the June quarter-end report and focusing on updated figures through August 31st. Thompson stated the Plan began the year at \$157 million and has grown to \$166 million, reflecting a \$9 million increase despite approximately \$8 million in benefit payments—indicating a strong year-to-date performance.

Thompson further discussed the Asset allocation stating it remains in compliance with the investment policy. Thompson reviewed the Total fund performance reading the Quarter-to-date is +3.37% the Fiscal year-to-date is +8.01% which exceeds the actuarial assumption of 6.75%.

Thompson went over the Manager Performance stating most investments are indexed; however, Thompson highlighted Goldman Sachs, managing approximately \$10 million (6% of assets) for a strong performance. On the motion of Trustee Ray, second Trustee Yarbrough, the report was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

INVOICES

On the motion of Trustee Sams, second Trustee Ray, the Board approved the following:

- Southeastern Advisory Services, Inc. - July 2025 Monthly Services
Invoice #261 | \$2,150.00
- Southeastern Advisory Services, Inc. - August 2025 Monthly Services
Invoice #262 | \$2,150.00
- Southeastern Advisory Services, Inc. – September 2025 Monthly Services
Invoice #263 | \$2,150.00

The vote was unanimous in favor.

On the motion of Trustee Ray, second Trustee Yarbrough, the Board approved the following:

- The Minor Firm, LLC- Pension Board Attendance
Invoice #191869 | \$125.00

The vote was unanimous in favor.

REPORTS

Pension Financial Report – July 31, 2025

Pension Financial Reports - August 31, 2025

MBR – June 2025

COLA DISCUSSION

Mayor Sams raised the importance of considering a COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) for retirees, noting that past delays in addressing it led to significant financial impacts. Sams emphasized the Board should act proactively to avoid falling behind again.

The Chairman agreed to contact Chuck Carr at Southern Actuarial Services to run the necessary actuarial numbers related to a COLA for retirees.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting will be held on December 2nd instead of the usual November date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Mike Sloan, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jerome Key, Secretary

RECORDED

APPROVED