

City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers
100 N. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 2, 2026

1:00 PM

Main Library - Council Chambers

Pension Trustees

Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Bruce Rector, Trustee Ryan Cotton, Trustee Michael Mannino, Trustee David Allbritton, and Trustee Lina Teixeira

Also Present: Jennifer Poirrier – City Manager, Daniel Slaughter – Assistant City Manager, Al Battle – Assistant City Manager, David Margolis – City Attorney, Nicole Sprague – Deputy City Clerk, and Tiffany Makras – Human Resources Director

To provide continuity for research, items are listed in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

Unapproved

1. Call to Order – Chair Rector

The meeting was called to order at 1:01p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025 Pension Trustees meeting as submitted in written summation by the City Clerk.

Trustee Teixeira moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025 Pension Trustees meeting as submitted in written summation by the City Clerk. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda – None.

4. New Business Items

4.1 Approve the new hires for acceptance into the Pension Plan as listed.

Name/ Job Classification/ Department	Pension Eligibility Date
Keaton Anderson, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities	11/03/2025
Dennis Burnham, Solid Waste Equip. Oper., Solid Waste & Recycling	11/03/2025
Drew Corazza, Building Inspector I, Planning & Development	11/03/2025
Brandon Witt, Solid Waste Equip. Operator, Solid Waste & Recycling	11/03/2025
Gary Bisner, Skilled Tradesworker I, General Services	11/17/2025
Marilyn Browne, CRA Specialist, Community Redevelopment Agency	11/17/2025

Leah Cowan, Police Property Clerk, Police Department	11/17/2025
Michael Defelice, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities	11/17/2025
Jasmin Fernandez, Library Assistant I, Library	11/17/2025
Ti'son McGee, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste & Recycling	11/17/2025
Kyree Sellman, Neighborhoods Coordinator, Public Communications	11/17/2025
Gage Wilson, Parks Service Technician I, Public Utilities	11/17/2025
Joyelan Hmielewski, Public Info Coordinator I, Public Communications	12/01/2025
Andrew Hobbs, Code Inspector I, Planning & Development	12/01/2025
Miyah McClaney, Emergency Management Specialist, Fire Department	12/01/2025
Nikolai Lotov, Licensed Electrician, General Services	12/15/2025
Jacob Marra, Customer Service Rep I, Planning & Development	12/15/2025
LaDavion Martinez, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works	12/15/2025
Leila Reardon, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation	12/15/2025
Raul Rivera, Solid Waste Serv. Supervisor II, Solid Waste & Recycling	12/15/2025
Christian Sutton, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste & Recycling	12/15/2025

Trustee Allbritton moved to approve the new hires for acceptance into the Pension Plan as listed. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

- 4.2** Approve the following request of employees Reynold Choo-Chew, Parks and Recreation Department, Brian Dort, General Services Department, Keith McReynolds, Parks and Recreation Department, and Sean Witherspoon, Police Department to vest their pension as provided by Section 2.419 of the Employees' Pension Plan.

Reynold Choo-Chew, Division Controller, Parks & Recreation Department, was employed by the City on March 10, 2014, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. Mr. Choo-Chew terminated from city employment on November 21, 2025.

Brian Dort, Licensed Electrician, General Services Department, was employed by the City on November 13, 2007, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. Mr. Dort terminated from city employment on July 30, 2025.

Keith McReynolds, Rec Facilities Supp. Custodian, Parks & Recreation Department, was employed by the City on May 15, 2017, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. Mr. McReynolds terminated from city employment on November 12, 2025.

Sean Witherspoon, Police Service Technician, Police Department, was employed by the City on July 19, 2010, and his pension service credit is

effective on that date. Mr. Witherspoon terminated from city employment on November 19, 2025.

The Employees' Pension Plan provides that should an employee cease to be an employee of the City of Clearwater or change status from full-time to part-time after completing five or more years (non-hazardous duty) and ten or more years (hazardous duty) of creditable service (pension participation), such employee shall acquire a vested interest in the retirement benefits. Vested pension payments commence on the first of the month following the month in which the employee normally would have been eligible for retirement.

Section 2.416 provides for normal retirement eligibility for non-hazardous duty employees hired prior to the effective date of this reinstatement (1/1/13), a member shall be eligible for retirement following the earlier of the date on which a participant has reached the age of 55 years and completed 20 years of credited service; the date on which a participant has reached age 65 years and completed five years of credited service; or the date on which a member has completed 30 years of service regardless of age. For non-hazardous duty employees hired on or after the effective date of this restatement, a member shall be eligible for retirement following the earlier of the date on which a participant has reached the age of 60 years and completed 25 years of credited service; or the date on which a participant has reached the age of 65 years and completed five years of credited service. Mr. Choo-Chew will meet the non-hazardous duty criteria and begin collecting a pension in May of 2029. Mr. Dort will meet the non-hazardous duty criteria and begin collecting a pension in March of 2033. Mr. McReynolds will meet the non-hazardous duty criteria and begin collecting a pension in May of 2027. Mr. Witherspoon will meet the non-hazardous duty criteria and begin collecting a pension in August of 2030. Section 2.416 provides for normal retirement eligibility for hazardous duty employees, a member shall be eligible for retirement following the earlier of the date on which the participant has completed 20 years of credited service regardless of age, or the date on which the participant has reached 55 years and completed ten years of credited service.

Trustee Mannino moved to approve the following request of employees Reynold Choo-Chew, Parks and Recreation Department, Brian Dort, General Services Department, Keith McReynolds, Parks and Recreation Department, and Sean Witherspoon, Police Department to vest their pension as provided by Section 2.419 of the Employees' Pension Plan. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

- 4.3** Approve the following request of Nathan Ballouz, Fire Department, Thelma Catio, Parks and Recreation Department, David Derrick, Police Department, Darrell Ford, Public Works Department, Shawn Lawrentz, Fire Department, John Llauget, Parks and Recreation Department, Frank McCormick, Solid Waste and Recycling Department, Jennifer Pauley, Fire Department, Mark Plyler, Gas Department, John Savage, Fire Department, Brian Schonborn, Fire Department, and Chris VanOpdorp, Fire Department for a regular pension as provided by Sections 2.416 and 2.424 of the Employees' Pension Plan.

Nathan Ballouz, Firefighter, Fire Department, was employed by the City on May 16, 1994, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective January 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$111,318.42 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Ballouz's selection of the 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$95,304.36 annually.

Thelma Catio, Recreation Leader II, Parks & Recreation Department, was employed by the City on April 3, 1995, and her pension service credit is effective on December 17, 2001. Her pension will be effective March 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$54,129.24 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Ms. Catio's selection of the Single Life Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$36,018.84 annually.

David Derrick, Police Officer, Police Department, was employed by the City on July 21, 1997, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective February 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$111,356.69 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Derricks's selection of the 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$83,690.88 annually.

Darrell Ford, Streets & Sidewalks Supervisor, Public Works Department, was employed by the City on September 16, 1996, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective February 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$70,195.68 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Ford's selection of the 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$48,768.00 annually.

Shawn Lawrentz, Fire Lieutenant, Fire Department, was employed by the City on October 31, 2005, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective January 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$143,357.53 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Lawrentz's selection of the 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity with the 30% partial lump sum, this pension benefit will be approximately \$54,232.92 annually.

John Llauguet, Recreation Supervisor, Parks & Recreation Department, was employed by the City on December 23, 1985, and his pension service credit is effective on September 14, 1987. His pension will be effective January 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$71,273.59 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Llauguet's selection of the Single Life Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$71,273.64 annually.

Frank McCormick, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & Recycling Department, was employed by the City on December 15, 2003, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective October 1, 2025. Based on an average salary of approximately \$56,025.00 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. McCormick's selection of the Single Life Annuity with the 30% partial lump sum, this pension benefit will be approximately \$23,471.88 annually.

Jennifer Pauley, Fire Medic Lieutenant, Fire Department, was employed by the City on May 7, 2001, and her pension service credit is effective on that date. Her pension will be effective February 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$141,770.18 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Ms. Pauley's selection of the 50% Joint & Survivor Annuity with the 30% partial lump sum, this pension benefit will be approximately \$68,431.68 annually.

Mark Plyler, Gas Systems Specialist, Gas Department, was employed by the City on May 28, 1996, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective June 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$78,540.89 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Plyler's selection of the Single Life Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$64,808.28 annually.

John Savage, Firefighter, Fire Department, was employed by the City on March 10, 2003, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective February 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$98,913.57 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Savage's selection of the 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity with the 30% partial lump sum, this pension benefit will be approximately \$41,054.76 annually.

Brian Schonborn, Fire District Commander, Fire Department, was employed by the City on December 12, 1994, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective February 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$138,637.86 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Schonborn's selection of the 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity with the 30% partial lump sum, this pension benefit will be approximately \$81,687.12 annually.

Chris VanOpdorp, Driver-Operator, Fire Department, was employed by the City on October 31, 2005, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective January 1, 2026. Based on an average salary of approximately \$99,304.46 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. VanOpdorp's selection of the Joint & Survivor Annuity

with the 10% partial lump sum, this pension benefit will be approximately \$49,456.20 annually.

Section 2.416 provides for normal retirement eligibility for non-hazardous duty employees hired prior to the effective date of this reinstatement (1/1/13), a member shall be eligible for retirement following the earlier of the date on which a participant has reached the age of 55 years and completed 20 years of credited service; the date on which a participant has reached age 65 years and completed five years of credited service; or the date on which a member has completed 30 years of service regardless of age. For non-hazardous duty employees hired on or after the effective date of this restatement, a member shall be eligible for retirement following the earlier of the date on which a participant has reached the age of 60 years and completed 25 years of credited service; or the date on which a participant has reached the age of 65 years and completed five years of credited service. Ms. Catio, Mr. Ford, Mr. Llauget, Mr. McCormick, and Mr. Plyler have met the non-hazardous duty criteria.

Section 2.416 provides for normal retirement eligibility for hazardous duty employees, a member shall be eligible for retirement following the earlier of the date on which the participant has completed 20 years of credited service regardless of age, or the date on which the participant has reached 55 years and completed ten years of credited service. Mr. Ballouz, Mr. Derrick, Mr. Lawrentz, Ms. Pauley, Mr. Savage, Mr. Schonborn, and Mr. VanOpdorp have met the hazardous duty criteria.

Trustee Cotton moved to approve the following request of Nathan Ballouz, Fire Department, Thelma Catio, Parks and Recreation Department, David Derrick, Police Department, Darrell Ford, Public Works Department, Shawn Lawrentz, Fire Department, John Llauget, Parks and Recreation Department, Frank McCormick, Solid Waste and Recycling Department, Jennifer Pauley, Fire Department, Mark Plyler, Gas Department, John Savage, Fire Department, Brian Schonborn, Fire Department, and Chris VanOpdorp, Fire Department for a regular pension as provided by Sections 2.416 and 2.424 of the Employees' Pension Plan. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

5. Director's Report – None.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:07p.m.