

City of Clearwater

City Hall
112 S. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2017

9:00 AM

Council Chambers - City Hall

Pension Advisory Committee

Roll Call

Present 6 - Vice Chair Tom Jensen, Committee Member Bill Jonson, Committee Member Hoyt Hamilton, Committee Member Greg Newland, Committee Member Bob Cundiff, and Committee Member Diane Devol

Absent 1 - Chair Nathan Hightower

Also Present - Joe Roseto – Human Resources Director, Patricia O. Sullivan - Board Reporter

Awaiting approval

1. Call To Order

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve minutes of December 8, 2016 Pension Advisory Committee meeting as submitted in written summation.

Member Hamilton moved to approve minutes of December 8, 2016 Pension Advisory Committee meeting as submitted in written summation. 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 Recommend approval of the new hires for acceptance into the Pension Plan as listed.

Name, Job Classification, Department	Pension Eligibility Date
Joshua Maxey, Parking Assistant, Engineering	11/28/2016
Rino Landa, Librarian II, Library	11/28/2016
Tammy Winkler, Librarian II, Library	12/12/2016
Logan Davis, Parks Service Technician I, Parks and Recreation	12/12/2016
Zaeinulabddin Adam, Senior Planner, Planning and Development	12/12/2016
Daniel Rowland, Electro-Mechanical Tech, Public Utilities	12/12/2016
Ila Petrov, Utilities Chemist, Public Utilities	12/12/2016

Member Jonson moved to recommend approval of the new hires for acceptance into the Pension Plan as listed. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

- 4.2** Recommend approval of the following request of employees Michael Blake, Public Utilities Department, Donald Melone, Engineering Department, Kevin O'Connor, Fire Department and Mary Weaver, Planning and Development Department, for a regular pension as provided by Sections 2.416 and 2.424 of the Employees' Pension Plan.

Michael Blake, Public Utilities Technician II, Public Utilities Department, was employed by the City on January 19, 1987, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective February 1, 2017. Based on an average salary of approximately \$51,065.73 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Blake's selection of the 50% Joint and Survivor Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$39,705.60 annually.

Donald Melone, Engineering Specialist I, Engineering Department, was employed by the City on February 17, 1981, and his pension service credit is effective on that date. His pension will be effective February 1, 2017. Based on an average salary of approximately \$66,493.76 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. Malone's selection of the 75% Joint and Survivor Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$65,530.68 annually.

Kevin O'Connor, Firefighter/Driver Operator, Fire 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 February 1, 2017. Based on an average salary of approximately \$68,940.67 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Mr. O'Connor's selection of the 10 Year Certain and Life Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$39,197.04 annually.

Mary Weaver, Sign Inspector, Planning and Development Department, was employed by the City on June 27, 1994, and her pension service credit is effective December 9, 1996. Her pension will be effective February 1, 2017. Based on an average salary of approximately \$47,467.32 over the past five years, the formula for computing regular pensions and Ms. Weaver's selection of the Life Annuity, this pension benefit will be approximately \$26,259.36 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 fifty-five (55) years and completed twenty (20) years of credited service; the date on which a participant has reached age sixty-five (65) years and completed ten (10) years of credited service; or the date on which a member has completed thirty (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 sixty (60) years and completed twenty-five (25) years of credited service; or the date on which a participant has reached the age of sixty-five (65) years and completed ten (10) years of credited service. Mr. Blake, Mr. Melone and Ms. Weaver 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 twenty (20) years of credited

service regardless of age, or the date on which the participant has reached fifty-five (55) years and completed ten (10) years of credited service. Mr. O'Connor has met the hazardous duty criteria.

Member Newland moved to recommend approval of the following request of employees Michael Blake, Public Utilities Department, Donald Melone, Engineering Department, Kevin O'Connor, Fire Department and Mary Weaver, Planning and Development 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.

4.3 Informal hearing for Jonathan Walser for job-connected disability pension

Member Hamilton moved to accept into evidence the entire file, inclusive of the application, personnel file, interrogatories, medical records, and the IME (Independent Medical Exam). The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Police Officer Jonathan Walser said it was his great honor to serve Clearwater. He said he did all he could to stay but always would walk with a limp. He expressed gratitude to the community and City staff who were a great family.

Human Resources Director Joe Roseto reviewed requirements of the Code for a job-connected disability pension. None of the listed exclusions applied.

It was stated the IME doctor had determined Officer Walser was totally and permanently disabled from performing hazardous duties, the disability was service-connected and not treatable, and there was no expectation that Officer Walser would return to work.

Discussion ensued with comments that the Committee appreciated Officer Walser's words and service, regretted he had to retire in spite of his best intentions to stay, that the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) would continue to receive his support, and he would continue to make Clearwater a great place.

Officer Walser complimented Police Chief Slaughter's efforts to help the less fortunate and underserved community in Clearwater, and regretted he could not participate in the Chief's efforts to build a better, safer community.

Member Jonson moved that Jonathan Walser met the requirements for a job-related disability pension as he was disabled by reason of a injury suffered or an illness contracted in the line of duty, such disability is likely to be continuous and permanent from a cause other than those listed as general disability exclusions, and he is unable, by reason of a medically determinable physical or mental impairment, to render useful and efficient service as a police officer or firefighter. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

5. Old Business Item: None.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Roseto said he had known Officer Walser throughout his career at the City and complimented Officer Walser's collegial manner when they sat at opposite ends of the bargaining table. Officer Walser's dedication to the City will be missed but he will continue to be an asset to the City, community, and Police Officers.

7. Board Members to be Heard

Members wished all a Happy New Year.

Members complimented Officer Walser's commitment to the City, thanked him for his service, and wished him well.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Attest:

Chair
Pension Advisory Committee

Board Reporter